



SARAWAK COUNCIL NEGRI DEBATES 1963-1966

— Compiled By HO AH CHON —



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PREFACE

In his previous publications, Mr. Ho Ah Chon had compiled photographs mostly taken by himself or reproduced by him from various publications or official sources depicting events and life in Sarawak history. One of his publications entitled "Kuching 1960-1963 — Sir Alexander Waddell Era," the No. 4 book in a series of four books concluded with the departure of the last colonial Governor of Sarawak.

This book, "Sarawak Council Negri Debates 1963-1966" may be regarded as a sequel to the last book of the series just mentioned. The book begins with an account of the meeting of the Council Negri held on March 9, 1963, followed by several other meetings during the transitional period until its first meeting as the legislature of an independent state in the Federation of Malaysia.

The adoption of the Sarawak State Anthem and the old Sarawak flag used by the Brooke regime during Sarawak's existence as an autonomous country under British protection before it became a British colony, as well as the constitutional changes which had to be made before independence are matters of interest to the students of history. These had to be decided by the Council Negri before Sarawak became independent as a state in the Federation of Malaysia on 16th September 1963. The report on the meetings of Council Negri before this event and that which followed are of great interest.

For this book, Mr. Ho Ah Chon had searched through the archives and compiled these reports from old official publications. I commend Mr. Ho Ah Chon for this work. For me who had taken part in the proceedings of the Council as reported in this book, reading it is a pleasant journey down memory lane. Others who are interested in the political development of Sarawak should also find much of interest in this book.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ong Kee Hui', with a decorative flourish underneath.

TAN SRI DATUK ONG KEE HUI
23/7/1993





Acknowledgement

The Sarawak Council Negri Debates 1963-1966, the information of the various events as described in this issue was solely based on the 'Sarawak By The Week' issued by the Sarawak Information Service as from 1963-1966.

Once again, I wish to put on record to thank Tan Sri Datuk Ong Kee Hui for his Preface.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ho Ah Chon".

HO AH CHON
BBS, AMN.
23/7/1993

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COUNCIL NEGRI

STATE FLAG AND ANTHEM APPROVED

Council Negri members roared with delight when Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr A.R. Snelus, hummed the tune of the old Sarawak Anthem at the meeting held on Saturday, March 9, 1963.

He was moving a motion that the Council approve the revival of the old flag and anthem of the Rajahs as the State Flag and Anthem of Sarawak.

Mr Snelus's rendering of the tune drew spontaneous applause — in spite of his remark: "It was in the wrong key".

Four unofficials, including Mr Tra Zehnder, spoke in support of the motion.

Said Mr Snelus: "The question of a State Flag and an Anthem of Sarawak after the Federation of Malaysia has been formed are two matters which have not been mentioned in the course of the Inter-Governmental Committee discussion, for these are strictly matters of concern only to Sarawak.

"Nor is it thought that they are subjects which have hitherto been the cause of much interest or debate among the public generally. However, now that Malaysia comes nearer, questions are being asked about those things and Government agrees that it is time to give serious thought to them. Hence, the motion which I am proposing."

Mr Snelus went on to say that he would like to make it clear that Government had no hard and fast ideas about a State flag and anthem, but many members of the Council had almost taken it for granted that the general wish of the people of Sarawak would be to revive the use of the old flag, which was the State flag, under the rule of the Rajahs, prior to the cession of the country to the British Crown in July, 1946.

Not Harry Roy's 'Sarawaki'

He added that many, including the Council members, knew what the flag looked like. It was in fact still seen flying on festive occasions. It would, of course be necessary for the flag to consist only of the old arms (or badge) of Sarawak — the crown at present to be found in the centre of the flag would have to be omitted.

Mr Snelus continued: "As for a State anthem, here again why not let us revive also the old national anthem in use during the days of the Rajah's rule? The tune is a good and dignified melody — in my view appropriate

for use as an anthem today even though it was composed over eighty years ago.

"Perhaps there are some here present in this House who do not know that there was such an anthem — there will certainly be many who do not recall the tune. Members of the House will no doubt be relieved to hear that I am not referring to Harry Roy's ghastly "Sarawaki!"

"So, Mr President, with your permission I will crave the indulgence of this House and try to give an idea of what it sounds like by humming the first couple of lines. Maybe it will bring a little light relief too in this solemn and august assembly! (Here Mr Snelus hummed the first two lines to the prolonged applause of the House).

"But the words," he then said, "which were written as a personal anthem for the Brookes, are of course quite inappropriate. Hence, the further suggestion in the motion that a competition be held to choose a composition of fresh and suitable words."

Mr G. Lloyd Thomas, Resident, of the First Division, seconded the motion.

Speaking in support Mrs Tra Zehnder said she thought everyone in Sarawak would be happy to know that the old flag was coming back to them.

She added: "It brings back memories of my childhood. When I was a Utile girl I used to go to the Astana to welcome the Rajah coming back from leave and everytime the Rajah stood to attention this same music was played by the Sarawak Rangers Band.

"Yesterday I was talking to some Dayak women and they said to me 'Thank God we are getting the flag and anthem back!'"

Mr Chieng Hie Kwong spoke next and welcomed the motion, saying that all Sarawakians would be happy to see the old flag flying.

Mr Chen Ko Ming said that, the tune "made by the Deputy Chief Secretary sounds very good." Here Mr Snelus jumped to his feet to say — "It was made 80 years ago!" (Laughter).

'It is only fitting...'

Mr Ong Kee Hui said that as a member of a family which had been closely associated with the Brookes for several generations, he welcomed the proposal to resuscitate the old Sarawak flag and anthem.

He added: "Many people tend to forget that although we were a protected state, nevertheless we were an independent state, and it is only fitting that since we are now to

attempt self-government and independence through Malaysia, we should restore what was ours before, and I support this motion wholeheartedly".

QUESTION TIME

Mr Remigius Durin (Kuching Rural) wished to know what further steps the Government would take to help pepper planters and padi farmers whose crops were damaged by the recent disastrous floods.

The Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr Snelus, replying reminded Mr Durin that a National Flood Relief and Rehabilitation Committee had been established by the Governor to administer the Flood Disaster Fund and to co-ordinate the provision of relief measures, and the planning of rehabilitation in the areas devastated by the floods.

Mr Snelus also drew Mr Dunn's attention to the statement on this matter which was published on March 7, and which outlined briefly the steps that had already been taken.

Mr Snelus added: "Further measures by way of rehabilitation and to assist farmers who have suffered severe losses as a result of the floods must await the detailed examination of the assessment of damage done which will emerge from surveys presently being undertaken by the Administration and Department of Agriculture.

"It must, however, be emphasised that the extent of free assistance that can be given will be limited by the amount of money in the National Fund."

Inche Annie bin Dhoby (Sibu Urban), asked the Director of Education, Mr M.G. Dickson what steps were being taken by Government to assist Primary VI and Form n school leavers to continue their studies or, in the case of Form II leavers 'to assist them in obtaining employment in various Government departments.

Steps outlined

Mr Dickson answered that Primary Six leavers take the Common Entrance examination for secondary schools. Those who did well in the examination, approximately the top 30 percent, were enabled to continue their studies by being offered places in Government or aided secondary schools.

Mr Dickson added: "For reasons, which are mainly financial it is not at present possible to offer places in the public system of secondary schools to the remaining 70 percent. In some areas there are unaided secondary schools and evening classes which these young persons can attend.

"As for Form II leavers, these now are a very small number. Pupils who are selected for entry to Form I in Government and aided secondary schools should be able to complete the three-year junior secondary course.

"There are no regular arrangements for finding jobs in the Government service for those who drop out of the junior secondary course at Form n."

Inche Annie next asked why Government had this year raised the salaries of the Principal Matron and Matron; why these increases were not considered by the Watson review of the salary structure; and why the salaries were higher than those for the same posts in Malaya.

The Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr Snelus, expressing surprise that Inche Annie, if he had any queries about the 1963 Estimates, did not bring them up at the time when they were being considered in Committee of Supply at the meeting of the Council in December last, reminded him that those Estimates had now been approved by the Council.

He added: "The question of these regardings was first brought up in 1959 following the visit to this country of Dr Buchanan, Chief Medical Officer in the Colonial Office.

"In May, 1961 Miss Udell, Chief Nursing Officer, made similar recommendations which were accepted in principle here and which were later the subject of agreement at departmental level between this Government and the Government of North Borneo.

"The advice of the Principal Advisers to the Secretary of State in these matters was accepted only after they had been given the most careful consideration.

"The decision to include these new scales in the 1963 Estimates was taken in the light of the considerable delay that had occurred since this advice was first tendered."

Mr Snelus ended by saying that neither at

the time when these proposals were first made nor at the time when they were agreed in principle was there any thought of a commission to enquire into the structure of the Civil Service; nor was there at that time any particular reason for Sarawak to be guided by practice in Malaya.

QUERY ON HOUSE ALLOWANCE

Mr Yeo Cheng Hoe (nominated) also wished to know if Government had accepted the recommendations of the House Allowance Committee and, if so, when would they be given. Mr Yeo said that he understood the North Borneo Government had introduced payment of such allowance to its employees since November 1, last year.

In reply, the Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr A.R. Snelus said that the report of the Committee set up to consider the question of quarters for local Government officers — "loosely but incorrectly referred to as the House Allowance Committee" — was received by Government in mid-December, 1962.

He added that though its recommendations had been studied, no decisions would be taken until the implications of the report of the Commission to Review the Structure of the Service had been fully considered, "for these matters, together with the claims of the local officers and the daily rated employees for increased emoluments, are all inter-related and must be considered together."

Mr Yeo also wanted to know whether the report of the Civil Service Structure Commission had been received and, if so, would it be laid before Council Negri for consideration.

The Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr A.R. Snelus, in reply, said that the report of the Commission to review the Structure of the Service was received towards the end of February and was presently being studied.

He added: "It will be necessary to consider that recommendations in the Report in conjunction with the Government of North Borneo and in the light of other connected Service matters to which I have referred in my reply to the Honourable Members' previous question.

"In due course the report of the Commission together with the Government's proposals for implementing the recommendations therein will be laid before this Council."

Inche Mohammad Su'ut bin Udin (Lundu) asked the Secretary for Local Government, Mr A.R. Meikle, what steps the Government

had taken to introduce legislation to limit the expenses of a candidate incurred during his electioneering campaign, "by requiring him to submit full and detailed accounts in order to safeguard innocent and illiterate voters from such candidates bent on seeking personal glory through bribery and corruption."

Mr Meikle replied that the question of making provision for returns of election expenses was considered when the recent amendments to the Local Government Elections Ordinance were being drafted, and it was decided that it was not practicable to require this at present.

He added: "Some candidates would have genuine difficulties over producing accounts, notwithstanding the fact that they had in no way indulged in illegal practices. Also, it would be a major operation to check all such accounts for accuracy, and unless this was done there would be no point in requiring accounts to be submitted."

Severe penalties

"If a candidate is going to indulge in bribery and corruption, obviously he is not going to show it in his accounts," he pointed out.

Mr Meikle ended by stating that the Local Government Elections Ordinance provided severe penalties for bribery and treating, not only by candidates themselves, but by any other person. He suggested that this gave the necessary protection, "provided the public will co-operate and report any such cases to the authorities."

A question as to whether Government intended to build a police station in Julau was asked by Penghulu Francis Umpau (Kanowit).

In reply, Mr Snelus said that there were no intention of building a police station in Julau at present. Such a station, he said, had been included in the provisional development plan for future police building, but it was unlikely that it would be possible to erect it before 1967.

Mr Snelus added: "I am informed that the incidence of crime in the Julau area is no higher now than it has been in the past, and in the meantime, when occasions arise, special detachments will be sent to cover the area from Sibn, as has been the practice in the past."

Mr Mak Yau Lin (Lawas), who asked when the Fifth Division would have an independent film unit, "particularly as the recent rebellion has clearly indicated the ignorance

of people of the other parts of Sarawak generally," was told that recommendations for the expansion of Information Office work in the Division, which was likely to include a film unit, were now under active consideration.

"It is expected that an application for Supplementary funds to implement such recommendations as are approved in principle will shortly be submitted to the Finance Committee," the Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr Snelus, told him.

Mr Mak followed his request up in an adjournment speech which appealed to Government to give immediate consideration to the importance of establishing a separate film unit for the Division.

He said that Mr Wong had at a previous meeting stressed the need for such a unit — and also for an Information Office for the Fifth Division, such a need had been obviously proved in the recent rebellion.

Mr Mak added: "It is now a proven fact that the people who instigated and joined the rebellion have all been misled and influenced by false propaganda. Had they been well informed of the actual conditions in Sarawak, we might have a different story today."

'Don't depend on Estimates'

Urging that the establishment of the Film Unit should not depend on the Estimates, Mr Mak said that the people in the Fifth Division had very little chance to travel, and being near to Brunei, they were only able to compare conditions between the Fifth Division and Brunei.

Brunei was therefore the only yardstick with which they could measure the progress in the Fifth Division, said Mr Mak adding that the people in the Fifth Division had very little knowledge of other Divisions of Sarawak.

The Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr A.R. Snelus, replying said: "One could discourse for some time on the reasons for the revolt in Brunei which led to the Fifth Division. But I do not really think that it would be appropriate for me to do so at the moment. On the other hand I cannot allow it to go unchallenged that the sole cause of the uprising was due to the lack of an Information Service in Limbang."

Remarking that there was no need to go into a discussion on the many and varied causes of that unhappy situation that arose there, Mr Snelus said: "It is true that the Fifth Division has not been served in the past by an Information Unit of its own. It has been visited from time to time by a film unit from the Fourth Division but it is accepted that it was not done very frequently.

"Furthermore Radio Sarawak, I hope, is listened to. It is a very powerful and very efficient instrument and it can be heard, and understood, by illiterate people unable to read and who would not be able to read propaganda put out by the Information Department.

"I suppose half the population of Limbang are illiterate and so I trust good use is being made of Radio Sarawak."

Continuing Mr Snelus said that he had already replied to Mr Mak's question earlier stating that the matter of a separate Information film unit for the Fifth Division was receiving "very urgent" consideration.

He then assured Mr Mak that the matter had already reached the Finance Committee, but "there were other very urgent and pressing constitutional and security matters which had to receive our attention."

Finally, Mr Snelus reminded Mr Mak that it was not possible for the expenditure of funds by the Government to by-pass the recognised channels for approving expenditure for those funds.

"I am afraid that these things have to go to the standing sub-committee of Supreme Council which is authorised by this House Committee to approve supplementary expenditure. That will be done, I hope, at a very early date," added Mr Snelus.

Call for 'Guide to laws of Sarawak'

Congratulating the Information Department on its production of the booklet entitled 'The Countryman's Guide to Politics,' Mr Dagok anak Randen (Upper Sadong) suggested that a pamphlet on the laws of Sarawak should also be published in plain, understandable English.

Quoting the maxim 'Ignorance of the law is no excuse' Mr Dagok asked: "How are the illiterate and the poorly-educated to know the law?"

He said that if there was any possibility for the Government to produce such a guide, it should be done as soon as possible for distribution, "so that the people can understand their laws better."

The Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike said it was doubtful whether Mr Dagok hilly realised what his request involved.

He added: "There are eight volumes of the Revised Statutes of Sarawak, amounting to some 7,000-odd pages, plus the laws passed since 1959; there are certain statutes of general application which apply in Sarawak and which are, indeed of very uncertain quantity.

"There are those aspects of the Common Law of England and the doctrines of Equity which apply. It is this which the Honourable Member is asking, should be distilled into a book which is to be written in such plain and understandable English that even the illiterate and poorly educated may understand it.

"While I have the greatest sympathy with the Honourable Member's desire to avoid being caught up by the maxim that ignorance of the law is no excuse, I must confess myself quite unequal to the task he sets and must also regretfully say that I doubt whether there exists the man capable of achieving this task."

The President of Council Negri, Mr F.D. Jakeway, remarked that the Information

Officer had in mind the production of a somewhat similar booklet to the Countryman's Guide to Politics which might be called, 'Countryman's Guide to Civics.'

He added: "It is a simple explanation of the duties of a citizen and the opportunities for service. That is not the same thing but it could include a very brief section about the law.

"It could not possibly be a survey of the laws of Sarawak. We will see how far the Information Officer has got with this booklet."

* * * * *

The next meeting of Council Negri will be held in May.

From May 5 to May 11, 1963

Ministers By M-Day

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OUTLINED

Sarawak will have a fully democratic legislature and ministerial system of government set up before Malaysia Day - August 31.

An Order-in-Council amending the Constitution so as to make Sarawak a self-governing State within the new Federation has been signed by the Queen and published.

In a talk given over Radio Sarawak on Wednesday on "Constitutional changes and the new Council Negri", the Information Officer, Mr A.R.G. Morrison, said that the elections would be completed by the end of July and it was planned to hold the first meeting of Council Negri at the beginning of August.

The Governor would then appoint the first Chief Minister who would choose his Cabinet. The Governor would also continue to be the executive authority for the country until Malaysia came into being. After that the Chief Minister would preside at meetings of the Supreme Council.

In his talk Mr Morrison also warned voters and candidates alike of their responsibilities. Here is the text of his talk:

A very big step in the development of democracy in Sarawak was announced at the last meeting of Council Negri. This is the increase of the total number of elected members in the next Council Negri from 24 to 36. Unfortunately the full significance of this has been lost sight of to some extent owing to the border troubles and public preoccupation

with the problems of security.

Obviously people in Sarawak are quite rightly concerned about the need to preserve their own security but it is most important that they should not lose sight of the great significance of this new development.

In the past Council Negri had 43 members but only 24 were elected members. All the others were official or nominated or appointed members. Consequently although the unofficials elected by the people were in a majority, it was a very slender one.

It meant that if the unofficial majority wanted to assert their power at least 22 of them had to be in agreement out of a total of only 24 assuming that the official and nominated members did not agree with them.

I am glad to say that there has never so far been an issue in Council Negri where officials and unofficials have disagreed profoundly. It has always been your Government's aim to act in accordance with the views held by the majority of the public as reflected by their representatives in Council Negri.

This works alright up to a certain level of political development but as you know politics have been growing rapidly in Sarawak and people are less and less in uniform agreement on various subjects.

This is perfectly healthy and sound but clearly if people are to disagree and to reach major decisions on importance and controversial subjects and if the will of the people is to

be accurately reflected in the legislature the former system cannot continue when the new Council Negri meets.

So it has been decided to increase the number of unofficial members from 24 to 36. In future the First Division of Sarawak will have 10 representatives in Council Negri instead of six, the Second Division will have six representatives instead of four, the Third Division 11 instead of seven, the Fourth Division six instead of five and the Fifth Division three instead of two.

Other seven members

The total number of members will remain unaltered at 43. The other seven members will consist of three official members that is the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary. These three members are respectively the Head of the Government Civil Service, the Legal Adviser to Government and the Officer charged with responsibilities for financial affairs.

In addition there will be not more than three nominated members, that is members who have not been elected but are appointed by the Governor either in view of their special skills or expert knowledge or to represent certain special interests which are not fully represented in the Council.

Finally, there will be one Standing Member, Datu Abang Haji Openg, who was appointed by His Highness the Rajah in 1941 to hold office as long as he remains in the Government Service. The Datu, who is of course the President of the Majlis Islam, provides a much valued link with the past. However no more Standing Members will be appointed.

So Council Negri will consist of not more than 43 members. In addition there will be a Speaker, that is to say, a Chairman for the Council.

This means that once elections to Council Negri are completed by the end of July, Sarawak will have a Legislature of which 36 out of the 43 members will be elected members who have been chosen by the people on the basis of the votes cast by every man and woman in Sarawak registered as a voter. Sarawak will then have a fully democratic Legislature.

One of the members of Council Negri will be appointed Chief Minister. He will be the man who in the opinion of the Governor is likely to command the confidence of the majority of members. So long as he retains that majority he will remain Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister will advise the Governor to appoint five members of the Supreme Council which will also include the three official members — the Chief Secretary, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary - so that Supreme Council will become a body of nine members of whom six are unofficials.

Supreme Council will then become the equivalent of the Cabinet in Great Britain, that is the supreme executive authority subject to the laws of the country backed by a majority in Council Negri which makes the laws and is the equivalent of the House of Commons.

The Governor may entrust members of the Supreme Council with responsibility for any subject or any department of Government. This member will then be known as a Minister. No Minister will engage in any business or profession connected with any subject or department for which he is responsible. If he does engage in any business or profession he cannot take part in any Supreme Council decision likely to affect his own interests in that business or profession.

Role of official members

As you will see this is designed to ensure that for instance a rich timber merchant does not become Minister of Natural Resources and that a banker does not become Minister of Finance. The Chief Minister is even more strictly controlled. He must not hold any public office and must not be engaged in any commercial enterprise.

All these steps are designed to provide the State of Sarawak under Malaysia with a democratic and popular machine of Government.

Although there will be three official members their functions will primarily be to advise their colleagues in Council Negri and the Supreme Council. This can only be a temporary phase and they are bound in the not too distant future to disappear from the political scene.

The official and nominated members and the Standing Member cannot of course influence by their votes the activities of Council Negri but they should provide valuable comment and advice which will be in the interests of Sarawak as a whole.

This then, is the type of machine which the electors of Sarawak will be voting into power this year.

The process of elections will have been completed before the end of July and it is

intended that the first meeting of the new Council Negri shall be held at the beginning of August. The Governor will then appoint the first Chief Minister who will choose his Cabinet.

The Governor will continue to be the executive authority for the country until the Federation of Malaysia actually comes into being on August 31. After that the Chief Minister will preside at meetings of Supreme Council.

In other words, the State of Sarawak will be self-governing within the new Federation, and one of the first duties of the new Council Negri will be to choose the 24 members who will represent Sarawak in the Federal House of Representatives.

It is therefore vitally important that voters should realise their responsibilities. They must make sure that they cast their votes and cast them well. The future of Sarawak will rest in the hands of these 36 members of Council Negri.

At the same time the candidates who stand for election in the District wards should realise their responsibilities too. They must be serious candidates. They must give the electors clear and constructive guidance.

And finally those who are defeated at the polls must take their defeats in good part for this is the essential condition under which true democracy can flourish.

FIVE GOVT. OFFICERS TO STAND FOR ELECTION

The Special Elections Committee of the Sarawak Alliance has announced that five Government officers have been granted permission by the Chief Secretary to contest the current elections to district councils. They are standing on Sarawak Alliance tickets.

The civil servants are: Abang Marzuki bin Abang Mohammed Noor, Deputy Superintendent of Constabulary; Inche Dawi bin Abdul Rahman, of the Medical Department; Inche Abdul Rahman Abdullah of the Judicial Department; Inche Awang Daud Matusin, of the Food Control Department;

and Inche Abdul Rahman Ya'kub, a Crown Counsel attached to the Attorney-General's Chambers.

At an extraordinary meeting of the National Council of the Alliance held recently Inche Abdul Rahman Ya'kub and Mr Sim Kheng Lung were elected Joint Executive Secretaries of the Committee.

The next meeting of Council Negri will be held on Tuesday, May 28.

"However the P.W.D. Union were assured that any benefits that it was finally decided could be accorded to daily paid employees would be back dated to take effect from January 1 this year."

'Just and fair'

In supporting the motion, Mr Chieng Hie Kwong (Sibu Urban) said that the Government daily-paid employees had in the last few years lived a hard life due to the increase in price of essential commodities.

He added that they were the men on whom the progress of development depended and therefore it was just and fair that their interests and welfare should be looked into constantly. The motion was then passed.

The second measure of benefit to Government servants was the approval of a rent allowance at the rate of 10 percent of basic salary, subject to a maximum of \$120 a month, payable to non-induced officers in Divisions I to IV ordinarily resident in Sarawak who are eligible for quarters in accordance with General Orders and who are not occupying, sharing or living in a Government quarter of any description.

In moving the motion the Financial Secretary, Mr Hepburn, said: "This Government has for some time been encouraging local officers to own their own houses and has been giving loans to these officers at a subsidised interest rate of 3 percent per annum.

"The Government wishes to continue to encourage, and if possible provide incentives for local officers to build and own their own houses.

"It is, of course, not always possible for an officer to live in his own house and it will be necessary for some time for Government to provide quarters in small outstations.

"The Government appointed a Committee to consider how Government should restrict and progressively reduce its capital investment in houses for officers and to recommend what incentives should be introduced to encourage local officers to provide their own accommodation.

"The purpose of encouraging officers to own their own houses is, of course, two-fold. First, this Government cannot afford to continue to play the role of landlord for the increasing number of civil servants which will be employed in this country.

"Secondly, it is felt that the Government should encourage local officers, as a social policy, to own their own houses so that they will have a home of their own on retirement from the Public Service.

"The Committee appointed by Government was not unanimous in its recommendations, and although it recommended payment of a rent allowance, which is now before Council for approval, it also recommended a Housing Loan Allowance.

"The Government is unable to accept the Committee's recommendations for a Housing Loan Allowance because it cannot afford the additional expenditure which would be involved.

"One of the aims of getting out of the 'landlord business' is for the Government to apply such funds as it has to economic development rather than put a large sum in Government quarters.

"It is considered that payment of a Rent Allowance to officers who are not living in Government quarters will assist officers to own their own houses. In addition to the payment of rent which will be saved, officers will get an additional 10 percent of basic salary.

"These two amounts will be available for the payment of any loan charges which may arise out of an officer borrowing money from Borneo Housing Development Limited to build his own home.

Subsidised interest rates

"The Government will continue to subsidise interest rates by paying the difference between the lending rate of Borneo Housing Development Limited and the approved rate for loans for Government officers, which is at present 3 percent per annum.

"The present lending rate of the Borneo Housing Development is 8 percent per annum: so that, in addition to the Rent Allowance, the Government will be providing a subsidy of 5 percent in interest rates for officers who wish to build their own houses and are eligible to participate in the Government Officers' Housing Loan Scheme.

"Payment of this Rent Allowance to non-induced Government officers will cost about \$800,000 per annum, that is, \$800,000 per annum based on the 1963 Establishment. Of course, the amount can increase if officers take full advantage of the scheme".

Opening the debate on the motion, Mrs Tra Zehnder (Nominated) asked why house rent allowance was not payable to officers in Division V.

She said: "I understand that officers in this division such as Junior Agricultural Assistants, Forest Guards, P.W.D. Overseers, Land and Survey Technical staff as well as Grade III teachers are liable, under the exist-

ing conditions of service, to be transferred to other divisions outside their own home town.

"These category of officers are compelled by circumstances and the moral obligation attached to their jobs, to rent houses in the station they are transferred to. In most cases, rent charged to them is often beyond their means."

Mrs Zehnder said she felt the Government should have a little sympathy with these officers and give them the same privilege, that is, entitle them for the Rent Allowance, as the Government did not pay rent on their behalf.

'SAME TREATMENT'

Mr Chieng Hie Kwong (Sibu Urban) said he would like to support the motion wholeheartedly, but asked for clarification of certain points.

Referring to the questions raised by Mrs Zehnder concerning officers who might be transferred to other places where there were no houses, Mr Chieng said that they too should receive the same treatment as officers in Division I to IV who were entitled to quarters.

He asked what was meant that no rent allowance might be paid in respect of a period of less than 60 days as stated in the circular.

He also asked if teachers in Government and aided schools were treated as Government officers entitled to the same rent allowance.

'OWNING HIS OWN HOUSE'

The Financial Secretary, Mr Hepburn, in reply, first took up Mrs Zehnder's point on the rent allowance not being extended to Division V officers and said that, as stated in the motion, the officers who would be eligible were those who were entitled to quarters in

accordance with General Orders.

He added: "Division V officers are not eligible for Government quarters. If a Division V officer is transferred from his home station, Government does try to provide quarters for this class of officer where it is difficult for him to get quarters. There are many Division V people who are in fact occupying Government quarters in outstations.

"However, while the Government cannot agree that a Rent Allowance should be paid to a Division V officer who is not eligible for quarters, the Government has and still is giving loans to this class of officer at a subsidised rate of interest. So in fact the Division V officer is getting help towards owning his own house."

He went on to say that this reply also covered questions asked by Mr Chieng Hie Kwong about officers transferred from one place to another.

The limitation of not paying the rent allowance in respect of a period of not less than 60 days was to safeguard any abuses that might be made of the payment of the allowance, concluded Mr Hepburn. The House then passed the motion.

Unofficials comment on public service structure

The third motion, asking for the approval of proposals for revising the Structure of the Public Service as set out in Sessional Paper No. 4, was moved by the Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr Snelus.

The proposals, which involve an annual expenditure of \$2 million, drew strong comment by Unofficial members.

(Publication of the speech of Mr Snelus and a report on the debate will appear in next week's bulletin.)

DEFENCE COSTS DISCUSSED

The Financial Secretary, Mr Hepburn, told Council Negri on Tuesday that expenditure to date and future financial commitments connected with the presence of military forces in Sarawak totalled over \$21/2 million.

The question of who should pay in final settlement was now under discussion, said Mr Hepburn, in seeking Council approval for the creation of an Advance Account under which such expenditure could be charged.

The expenditure included expenses on

accommodation, local transport, internal communications, repair charges and supply of government equipment, he explained.

Commenting, Mr Chieng Hie Kwong said that it was essential that an Advance Account should be created.

However, he said, he personally felt that a fixed amount should first be made, and some expenses incurred, like the supply of equipment, should be borne by Her Majesty's Government, as Sarawak at present, was "a

poor colony".

He added that Sarawak was not in a position to pay more than what she could. He hoped that when the final decision was reached, Her Majesty's Government would pay all costs incurred in the defence of Sarawak.

'Wider sense'

Replying, Mr Hepburn said that Mr Chieng had raised two points: first was that the Advance Account should be a fixed amount.

This, he said, was extremely difficult, and he hoped that the House would appreciate that was why the motion was framed in its wider sense.

He added that because circumstances dictated the action to be taken, and if this was in a fixed amount every amount of expenditure above that authorised or stated in the motion, would have no authority.

He thought that under the circumstances it was only fair that the Governor should be allowed to authorise expenditure which was necessary as the need arose.

As he had said earlier everything would be charged to an Advance Account pending final settlement.

On the second point of Defence, Mr Hepburn said that normally any action or any expenditure on internal security operations was for the Sarawak Government's account, and defence expenditure, normally, for the British Government.

Mr Hepburn said that in the case of the emergency now in Sarawak, it was difficult to draw the line between the cost of internal security and external defence.

There were two points — the operations originated from events outside Sarawak, and as he had said earlier it was difficult to draw a line between internal security and external defence. However the matter was under discussion and final settlement would be reached.

GOVT. SERVANTS' ELECTIONS: "DO NOT PERPETUATE" PLEA BY JAMES WONG

A hope that the scheme allowing Government servants to stand for election to Council Negri would not be "perpetuated" was expressed by Mr James Wong (Limbang) at Wednesday's meeting of Council Negri.

Mr Wong was speaking on the Special Pensions (Election to Council Negri) Bill which provides for those officers permitted to contest the elections to be able to retire and receive pensions should they reach Council Negri.

The Bill was moved by the Secretary for Local Government Mr A.R. Meikle, who said that it was the view of Government that it would be in the public interest to permit some civil servants to enter upon a political career.

He added: "In the light of this, a scheme has been advised under which civil servants who have been granted this permission may, if they reach the Council Negri, be permitted to retire on pension despite the fact that they have not reached the normal retiring age.

"Should any of these officers fail to reach the Council Negri they will be required to resign their seats on the Divisional Councils, and on the District Councils, if they have got that far, return to duty, and cease to take part in politics. Meanwhile they are on leave

pending relinquishment of office.

"In point of fact only eight officers are standing for election under this scheme, of these seven are serving on pensionable terms."

Seconding the motion, Mr Chia Chin Shin (Miri) said: "At a time such as this when this country is about to achieve independence through Malaysia, it goes without saying that we ought to choose from among our people those who are fitted for the important task of guiding the destiny of our people.

"No one who has not had experience in public affairs, whose character is not without blame, whose ambitions are not praiseworthy, ought to be elected. It is hoped therefore that every endeavour should be made to obtain suitable candidates, no matter what their occupation may be.

"It is well known that we have in this country a number of citizens who are at present engaged in some form of public service and who at the same time have those qualities which I have just mentioned.

"It is gratifying to know that they are now considered eligible for election. By reason of their experience in the management of public affairs and by their awareness of the need for

integrity and loyalty to the task of good government it is my conviction that we have in them the hope of sound government in the future.

"At the same time, it is evident that if certain gentlemen are eventually elected as members of the Council Negri they will perforce have to resign from public service. For many this will entail considerable financial loss and will call for personal and perhaps family sacrifices.

"It is therefore, gratifying to know that provisions have been tabled which, if accepted by this House, will enable the Government to grant such officers upon relinquishing their offices, compensation or gratuity even before attaining the normal retiring age. It is our hope then that no one will be barred from serving as a member of Council Negri because of financial worries.

"I offer, therefore, my whole-hearted support to this Bill and trust that it will finally be accepted by this House. I have just one point to add, namely, that the pension or gratuity to be granted to such officers should be commensurate with the years of service they have served and be adequate for their needs."

'ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE'

In supporting the Bill "whole-heartedly", Mrs Tra Zehnder expressed regret that it had been introduced just before the close of nominations because many who would have liked the opportunity of taking advantage of the scheme did not have time to think about it.

She then said that in her own experience as a member of Council Negri, a councillor should have education, ability and a knowledge of Government administration.

Sarawak, she pointed out, was taking the road to independence and it was important that its representatives should be able "to speak the language", know procedure and understand legislation in order to face their "very experienced" counterparts in Malaya.

She hoped that those Government officers who had taken advantage of the scheme would be elected and would truly represent Sarawak in the Malaysian Parliament.

Mr James Wong said that he had strong opinions about the scheme to allow Government officers to take part in the elections.

He pointed out that at this stage of the country's development and progress towards independence there was an extreme shortage of men in the Government service.

The Bill, he said, provided "an umbrella" for civil servants who wished to participate in politics — "preserving their jobs" and if they

were not elected to Council Negri they were allowed to go back to the Civil Service.

This "unprecedented move" created an "unprecedented example". If perpetuated, Government servants would always be considered standing for elections and as the day of elections drew near their duties would be clouded by this motive.

Mr Wong added: "We shall be obliged in the next elections to resort again to this move. Since we have now been placed with this fait accompli I would certainly second this Bill for approval so that we shall not cause unnecessary hardship to those who have participated in the field, to get into Council Negri.

"But I would like to say with all my heart that I would hate to see this perpetuated at the next elections. I feel, very, very strongly that our Civil Service, like Caesar's wife, should be above suspicion."

He finally pointed out that the fact that only eight Government servants have availed themselves of the opportunity to take advantage of the scheme did show that the time for consideration of it was too short. He also said that most of those who had decided to stand for election "even without this umbrella", would have resigned and stood.

'Once-only' scheme

Replying, the Secretary for Local Government, Mr Meikle, said he sympathised and agreed with a large part of what Mr James Wong had to say.

He assured him that the scheme and the Bill, which allowed the scheme to be fulfilled did not necessarily constitute a precedent.

The scheme and the Bill were particularly "a-once-and-only" scheme and Bill.

He said that the Government had considered "very carefully" the pros and cons and, though Mr Wong had made clearly the "cons" he felt that at this stage of constitutional development it was nevertheless desirable that a scheme of this nature should be devised.

Mr Meikle then pointed out that in the first "full elections" held in the Federation of Malaya permission was given to civil servants to retire on pension and stand for election. The difference there was that whether they were elected or not they were retired — they could not come back into the Government service,

Mr Meikle went on: "But I must remind Honourable Members that was under somewhat different conditions, namely, under direct elections. A man standing for Parliament either got in or not and he had a pretty good chance of gauging his success.

"Here, however, we still use the tier system. A civil servant who does stand under this system has to get through three hurdles—he has to be elected to the district council, then to the Divisional Advisory Council, and then to Council Negri."

It was in that light that the scheme had been devised. It was felt that it would be only fair that if a person should fail to reach Council Negri he would resign from the other councils he got to on the way out and would be permitted to return to Government on the strict understanding that he ceased to take any active part in politics.

The Bill was then put to the House and passed.

Another Bill seeking to ensure the fact that the new registers of voters may legally be used in the current elections was passed by Council.

LOCAL GOVT. ELECTIONS BILL

In moving the Local Government Elections (Amendment) Bill, the Attorney-

General, Mr P.E.H. Pike; said that when the principal ordinance was amended to provide, among other things, for the reconstitution of the register of voters on a basis of adult suffrage it was necessary to ensure that any legislation for the preparation of voters' registers could be made and brought into force before the ordinance itself came into force.

But it is also necessary, he added, to ensure that the new registers should not be used to any by-election held prior to dissolution of Council Negri.

It was sought to do this by section 13 of the ordinance but contrary to expectations a start had to be made for the electoral machinery before the date of dissolution of Council Negri and it is therefore arguable that as worded the voting in any local council election held before June this year should not have been on the new registers.

He then said: "This, of course, would defeat the object of the preparation of new registers and I feel sure that no one, of whatever political faith, would wish such a result."

PRIMARY EDUCATION: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS EXTENDED

Council Negri on Tuesday adopted a resolution approving the arrangements for the financing of primary education and financial assistance to Local Authorities contained in a 1959 White Paper to be extended to cover 1964.

In moving the motion the Secretary for Local Government, Mr A.R. Meikle, said:

"The arrangements referred to are those instituted in January, 1960, under which district councils have borne a percentage of the recurrent costs of primary education in their areas and, in return, have received rate-grants in respect of rates raised for education, for general purposes in rural areas, and for road maintenance.

"It was stated in the Sessional Paper that these arrangements would be reviewed in 1963."

He continued: "In so far as primary education is concerned, if future arrangements in this field are to be such as to enable the present rate of progress to continue without interruption, it is unlikely that Councils generally will be in a position to bear more than their present maximum share of 10 per cent of recurrent costs.

"The system of rate grants has generally achieved the main purpose for which it was designed; namely, to encourage district councils to extend the rating system throughout their areas. Probably, it now warrants replacement by some form of equalisation grant formula, which would also incorporate the present frozen capitation grants and be related to an individual Council's resources taken into consideration with its needs.

"It had been hoped to review the situation on these lines in 1963, but a major difficulty has been that it has not yet been possible to devise a practicable system of uniform and independent valuation for rating, which is a prerequisite of any system of equalisation grants.

"Furthermore, both Councillors and Councils staff are fully occupied with general elections and it is doubtful whether, if any revised system were devised at the present juncture, the Councils would have time properly to consider and comment on it before it was presented to this House for approval.

"In these circumstances, it is recommended that the existing arrangements should continue during 1964."

'Benefitted local councils'

Pengarah Montegrai (Saribas), who seconded the motion, said that the system of financing primary education had benefitted the local councils.

Commenting on the motion Mr Chieng Hie Kwong (Sibu Urban) said that he understood that after Malaysia, citizens of Malaya would be enjoying free primary education and asked whether the Sarawak Government would also consider providing the same as from next year.

Mrs Tra Zehnder (Nominated), supporting Mr Chieng, said that she too was anxious to know whether there was going to be free primary education in Sarawak next year.

Replying, Mr Meikle, said that it would be

improper for him to make any statement committing the Government or the Minister responsible for education in 1964.

He added that education would become federal subject, and on the point of finance, it would be the Malaysia Government that should make any decision of that nature.

Mr Meikle went on: "I therefore suggest when, in due course, the honourable members of this House wing their way to Kuala Lumpur to sit in the first meeting of the Federal Parliament, they can ask the same question."

In the meantime, he said that free primary education cost money, whoever was responsible for it and asked: "Are you prepared to pay your share of the price?"

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY MADE

Educational history was made in Sarawak this week when Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1963 was laid on the table of the Council Negri.

The paper contains the Curricula and Syllabuses for the Junior Secondary Schools which form the basis of the country's national education system.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Education Department explained: "The McLellan Report, accepted in principle by the Government in June, 1960, recommended a reconsideration of the secondary school curriculum for all types of schools to make it more suitable for its purpose.

"The very fact that Mr McLellan was asked to report on the provision of secondary education indicates clearly that the Government was determined to foster a system designed to provide adequately for the aptitudes and abilities of the school population.

"The curricula and syllabuses have been drawn up by the Director of Education in accordance with the recommendations of a team of Colombo Plan experts from New Zealand, Mr W.I. Shrimpton, Leader, with Mr C.A. Neate and Mr T-O. Fitzgibbon.

"The work began in 1961 and at every stage there was close contact between the schools, the New Zealand team, and the Department. It was a co-operative effort and by means of personal visits to schools, comments and criticisms verbal and in writing, by in-service courses, the present curricula and syllabuses were evolved.

"This year, 1963, sees the first Form I classes at work on the new national curricula. The syllabuses have been supplemented by pertinent and helpful teaching notes — compilation of which by the New Zealand team and local teachers is a matter for gratitude and admiration.

"The work of providing similar teaching notes, for advisory visits, and in-service course to implement Forms 2 and 3 will be continued by the present New Zealand team which has arrived to replace Mr Shrimpton and Mr Neate.

"Thanks, too, should be given to those men and women in Sarawak who have made substantial contributions by writing syllabuses and teaching notes on subjects of the curricula which are their specialities. Without their co-operation the new and national education system could not be implemented."

The curricula provides for a core of compulsory subjects to which a minimum time of 18y₃ hours must be given. There is also a group of optional subjects from which at least two subjects must be selected. The minimum total time to be devoted weekly to instruction in Junior Secondary Schools is 26 hours. The time to be allotted to optional subjects is left to the discretion of the principal of the school.

The compulsory subjects are designed to give all pupils a common group of subjects. English, History, Geography, Science, Elementary Mathematics and an Elementary

Asian language, together with at least two subjects chosen from Music, Art and/or Craft, Physical Education are prescribed subjects. This group provides fundamental education for all and is flexible enough to give sound all round education in cultural as well as traditional subjects.

The optional group, too, provides a wide choice. Those pupils who are capable of extended studies in full mathematics, or full Asian language, can do so as the study of these subjects as full ones satisfied the compulsory requirements. Art, home economics (needlework and cookery), Woodwork are also available as full optional subjects.

'Care for all pupils'

"Thus," commented the Director of

Education, "the new curriculum provides an education designed to meet the needs of the pupils in Sarawak schools. It is national because it is a curriculum common to all schools.

"Care has been taken to ensure that those pupils who are likely to proceed beyond Form 3 can develop subjects to enable them to sit and pass higher examinations but the main point about the new curriculum is that it has a care for all pupils with their varying aptitudes and abilities. The curriculum grasps at entities.

"Finally, it is a matter of national pride that our new curriculum has attracted widespread interest outside Sarawak and requests for copies of it and the admirable teaching notes are received with at times embarrassing frequency."

GOVERNOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO COUNCIL AT LAST MEETING

A hope that the traditions of tolerance, courtesy and understanding which had developed over the past years in the Council Negri would continue into the life-time of the new Council, was expressed by the president, Mr Jakeway, on Thursday when he spoke at the close of the session.

Observing that that would be the last occasion on which Council Negri met in its present form, Mr Jakeway said: "Elections are in progress which will result in the next Council Negri having a considerably larger elected membership and a much smaller nominated and official membership.

"There will inevitably, therefore, be many new faces, though I hope, too, some familiar ones.

"In the three and a half years during which Honourable Members have held office this country has developed and expanded in a number of ways.

"Our first meeting coincided closely with the arrival of a new Governor, Sir Alexander Waddell. His Excellency has asked me to convey to you his grateful appreciation of the manner in which you have discharged your responsibilities and the ready support which you have given to him personally and to the Government.

"You have not hesitated to criticise where you have thought criticism to be necessary, but you have not indulged in factious or unreasonable opposition, and the country has

benefited enormously from the measures which you have passed.

"In the next Council Negri, with a political Government in office, it is likely that we shall see members ranged on the two sides of the House rather differently from now. We shall have in all probability a Government and an opposition.

"If that is so I hope, nevertheless, that the tradition of tolerance, courtesy and understanding which have developed over the past years will continue into the life-time of the new Council, and that whatever disputes may take place on the floor of the House, concord and friendliness will reign in the Members Room.

'Unfailing co-operation'

"This will be the last occasion on which I shall preside over the House. In the next Legislature there will be a Speaker, and the Chief Secretary will take his place on the floor of the House as a member of the Government.

"I would like to thank you most sincerely for the unfailing co-operation which you have always shown and for raising so few points of order which can be a sore trial to a presiding officer. Some of you may have thought, from time to time, that I have been too insistent on a strict compliance with Standing Orders.

"If so, I hope you will understand that I have done so because it seemed that it was

good training for what may be more disputatious and highly politically charged years ahead to become familiar with parliamentary procedure and not be over-awed by it.

"It has, for me, been both an honour and a pleasure to be your President, and a memory which will remain with me always.

"I would like, both for myself and on your behalf, to pay tribute to the jofficers of the House — the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk — for the conspicuously efficient way in which they have carried out their duties and the unfading assistance which they have always afforded to Members.

"I would also like to thank the interpreters and the stenographers for their contributions to the efficient conduct of the business of the House.

"In conclusion, I venture to wish success to those elected members who are putting their fortunes once again to the test of the ballot box and to say that whatever their party political complexions, they will certainly be welcome members to the next Council Negri.

"To the official members who will not be members of the next Council Negri I would say that this change does not mark in any way a diminution in their stature or responsibilities.

"Rather, those responsibilities will in future be discharged as executives of a future Parliamentary Government.

"I wish all Members good health and good fortune and those who have journeys to make "bon voyage".

From June 2 to June 8, 1963

Council Negri passes Watson Report on public service

COL MOANS—Reply

No satisfactory evidence was yet available to Government to demonstrate that there had been any marked increase in the cost of living since the last comprehensive Review of the Service in 1956, said the Deputy Chief Secretary. Mr A.R. Snelus, at the meeting of Council Negri on Wednesday, May 29.

Mr Snelus said that he was sure — and he was delighted to be able to say it — "that no matter what may have happened to the cost of living, the standard of living has improved in leaps and bounds since 1956".

He added: "Just look at the number of motor cars in Kuching now; car parks overflow, and numerous are the cars belonging to workers in Government offices. Even humble messengers can be seen riding home no longer on bicycles, but on motor-scooters".

All aspects of the proposals for revising the structure of the Public Service (as set out in Sessional Paper No. 4) were fully debated and eight members—including two nominated—spoke during the debate.

In moving the resolution, the Deputy Chief Secretary expressed two hopes: one, that the members would appreciate that Parts I and II of the Sessional Paper should be read in conjunction with the Report by Mr Watson on the Structure of the Service, and two, that they

had time to study "these rather lengthy and complicated documents".

Time Limit'

Stating that Mr Watson's report was not received until February and after preliminary examination there had to be urgent consultation with the Government of North Borneo, Mr Snelus said that the views of the Staff Association and the Asian Officers Union had to be sought and the comments of Heads of Departments obtained.

Final decisions then had to be considered and taken before the Report could be released for general publication.

Mr Snelus then went on to say that apart from the considerations set out in paragraph 7 of the Sessional Paper, a time limit was fixed by the date of this meeting, for it was desired to finalise the revised structure of the service before further complications arose from Sarawak's entry into Malaysia.

He added Members would appreciate that that would be the last meeting of the Council as at present constituted, for it would be dissolved on June 1.

Mr Snelus then pointed out that the purpose of the Review undertaken by Mr

Watson was clearly explained in the Introduction to the Sessional Paper. It was, however, desirable to emphasise and underline one or two general points. In the first place the Review was not intended to be a salaries revision.

He added: "No satisfactory evidence is yet available to Government to demonstrate that there has been any marked increase in the cost of living since the last comprehensive Review of the Service in 1956; in fact calculations made by the Statistics Branch based on typical household budgets supplied by the Asian Officers Union show an increase since 1956 of only 0.75 percent.

"Furthermore, paragraph 31 of Annexe B of the Inter-Governmental Report on Malaysia recommends 'that the Federal and State Governments should as soon as possible set up a Joint Commission to enquire into and make recommendations on bringing terms and conditions of service throughout the Federal Public Service in Malaysia into line'.

"It is for this reason that Mr Watson was asked to pay regard to salaries and salary structures in Malaya to the extent that any changes which might be recommended by the Commission should preferably reduce rather than enlarge any existing difference between them and the salaries structure in the Borneo Territories.

"Moreover, I am sure that any intelligent observer of the scene around us here today will agree with me when I say — and I am delighted to be able to say it—that no matter what may have happened to the cost of living the standard of living has improved in leaps and bounds since 1956.

"Just look at the number of motorcars in Kuching now; car parks overflow and numerous are the cars belonging to workers in Government offices. Even humble messengers can be seen riding home no longer on bicycles but on motor scooters.

"In the homes of clerical grades, radio and refrigerators are regarded as common place. All this is admirable and Government can rightly take pride in the advancement that has made it possible. But let it not be said in the same breath that Government servants cannot afford to live adequately or in accordance with proper standards".

Improvement to emoluments

Mr Snelus then went on to explain that in case it might be argued that his remarks applied more generally to only the middle and upper ranks of the Service, the structural changes proposed would bring considerable

improvement to the emoluments of officers in the lowest grades of the Service and some improvement in pay, coupled with much better prospects, to those in the middle grades.

He continued: "For instance. Police and Prison staff who now receive \$90 a month on entry as recruits will receive \$100, and on passing out as constables the former will get \$110 a month instead of \$100.

"This represents a straight increase of 10 percent in emoluments. The salaries of corporals, sergeants and sergeant majors will be increased by very much more, by amounts ranging between 40 percent and over 50 percent; and this should prove a handsome inducement to join the Police Force.

"Similarly, people entering the G scale in Division V will receive over 10 percent more than they do at present, while officers holding the posts listed in the Appendix to the Report by Mr Watson presently in the G scale will attain even greater financial benefits on being transferred to the F scale. In the 'F scale an officer will proceed from \$110 to \$125 after only three years instead of five years as at present.

"There are also other jumps in the proposed F2 and F3 scales, while the F4 scale has been extended to \$350 instead of staying at \$330. There are too some improvements in the lower and middle ranges of the D scale and in the middle reaches of the C scale.

"As is stated in the Introduction to the Sessional Paper the Commissioner has produced recommendations which are regarded generally as being of value to the future development of the Public Service. It has not been possible for Government to accept all his recommendations — and some have been deferred for further consideration — but the Commissioner has recommended and Government is glad to accept a revised salary structure which will ensure a reasonably remunerative career to all officers whose work is satisfactory".

Mr Snelus then went on to say that there was provision also for promotion within the same Division of the Service for the officer who showed ability above the average and for promotion to a higher Division for the officer of exceptional ability.

The value of early promotion for the exceptional officer was recognised and the general principle was accepted that such an officer should be considered for promotion to a higher Division within the first ten years or so of his service.

This, said Mr Snelus, should help to overcome the present defect caused by the over-

lapping scales of the existing structure which led sometimes to no immediate financial award for the officer promoted from one Division to the next higher one.

Vital machine

He added: "Another criticism which has been made against the existing scales is that the regular incremental steps up the ladder, which are a normal feature of most of them, lead to apathy. This has been remedied by the introduction of an occasionally steeper increase at some point in the lower segments of most of the revised scales".

Mr Snelus then drew members' notice to the abolition of Scale B in Division II and to the short downward extension of Scale A which he emphasised was for a specific purpose.

He stressed that there would be no change in the initial salaries for professional and administrative officers who were fully qualified in all respects, adding: "I would also draw the attention of Honourable Members to paragraphs 5 and 7 of the Introduction to the Sessional Paper.

"As regards paragraph 6, of the Introduction where it is stated that the cost of implementing these proposals will be about \$2,000,000 a year, I trust Honourable Members will agree that although this represents a very substantial sum to spend on improving the salary structure of the Service at this time, it is money well spent with a view to increasing the efficiency of a vital machine and to maintaining the contentment of a loyal and hardworking Service".

Continuing, Mr Snelus said: "The greatest benefits will go to those branches of the Service, in particular those officers in the lowest grades, who are most in need of improved conditions; for if any improvement in the standard of living can justifiably be made in the light of the overall state of the economy of the country, it is amongst those in the lowest income brackets.

"The slant of these proposals is, therefore, towards those other hard working employees on daily wages whose rates of pay have just been considered and increased — in the previous motion before this House".

Finally, Mr Snelus told the House that the Government officers concerned with an examination of these matters had been working under considerable strain and pressure owing to the intensive preparation being made for a smooth entry into Malaysia, and due to the impact of the unhappy events that had taken place in Sarawak during the first months of this year.

He added that when the proposals came to be implemented it was not unlikely that some difficulties in converting from the existing to the new scales might appear, which would require resolution in the Establishment Office. Some anomalies in relation to fresh greetings- proposed might also come to light when they were implemented and these would be referred to the existing Gradings Committee for further examination.

'Nerve centre'

Mr Yeo Cheng Hoe (Nominated), opening the debate on the Watson Report said that he was glad to note that Government had agreed to accept its recommendations to improve the salary structure of the middle and lower ranking officers.

He noted with particular pleasure that there would be considerable increase in pay for the rank and file of the police force, nursing profession and school teachers, all of whom deserved this special consideration.

As an ex-untrained teacher of over 10 years standing, he was most gratified to read Mr Watson's recommendations in paragraphs 123 and 124 under the heading 'Education Department'.

Mr Yeo added: "However, I observe that while the Watson Report made no mention whatsoever about the nerve centre of the Government — the Secretariat—there is just one sentence about this important establishment in the Sessional Paper.

"I understand that there are few Principal Assistant Secretaries in the Secretariat whose salaries are lower than their Assistant Secretaries. I also understand that these Principal Assistant Secretaries and Officers in other departments got no financial gain when they were promoted from Division EI to Division n.

"If this is true, these are anomalies which the Watson Report seems to have overlooked. I regard these Division II Officers as the backbone of the country's Civil Service.

"They are the people who will eventually step into the shoes of those expatriate officers who will, in time to come, leave Sarawak under the Borneanisation Scheme. Sir, do you not think that these officers should receive the kind of remuneration commensurate with their responsibilities and status?"

"Do you not think that these officers deserve some incremental credits on their promotion? Sir, these are some of the anomalies for which I would urge Government to set up a special working committee to iron out".

Stressing that Sarawak should reduce its

dependence on officers from other lands for the administration of our independent country as soon as possible, Mr Yeo said: "We will need more and more local officers to man our public services. We could only get all the local officers we need provided we create favourable terms and conditions of service in attracting and retaining all locally domiciled officers in the service".

He appealed that there should be no discriminatory terms on point of entry "so long as our local candidates have similar qualifications. We must see to it that when our own boys and girls come home from their training abroad they will take up their rightful places in our civil service".

He added that there were also "some small points" in the Sessional Paper which he wished to comment upon, and referred to the instruction given to the Commissioner in paragraph 3 of the introduction to the paper.

He quoted... — 'regard was to be paid to salaries and to salary structure in Malaya to the extent that changes which might be recommended should preferably reduce rather than enlarge any existing difference between them and the salaries structure in the Borneo Territories; and observed: "It seems that it is implied here that the salaries of officers in Malaya are lower than those of officers of equal rank or status in the Borneo Territories.

'Not correctly informed'

"This assumption is not strictly in accord with facts. According to the Report of Working Party appointed by the North Borneo Government to consider comparable emoluments, cost of living and other relevant circumstances in North Borneo, Malaya and Singapore, it seems to be the other way round.

"In fact, the Working Party has reached the conclusion that (I quote paragraph 17 of the Working Party Report: 'generally emoluments tend to be lower in North Borneo... than in the Federation of Malaya and Singapore'. It therefore appears that Mr Watson has not been correctly informed in this matter before him".

Finally, Mr Yeo said he would also like to see improvements made to the salary scales of Division V officers. They deserved to be better remunerated than at present suggested in the Sessional Paper.

Mr Chieng Hie Kwong (Sibu Urban), supporting the Sessional Paper said that on going through the Watson Report one had no hesitation in saying that it was not what the Asian Government Officers Union wanted.

It was generally felt that due to the increase in the cost of living a review of salary scales of the Public Service of Sarawak was considered necessary.

It was regrettable that this had not been made possible. However, it was a good sign that the Commission's Report had received urgent examination by the Sarawak Government and the adoption of the Report by the House would, to some extent, benefit those officers who were in the lower ranks of the service.

Mr Chieng added: "Although it will cost Government a further sum of \$2 million a year by adopting the Watson Report, it is considered that the money spent is worth spending, because we do not wish that our officers should be underpaid.

"On the other hand if we want efficiency and good service, we have to pay our officers according to their abilities.

Commenting on the promotion and upgrading between Divisions, Mr Chieng said that he noted with pleasure the proposals made in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the Report and would like to urge the Heads of Departments to consider these proposals carefully before making recommendations for promotion of officers to higher divisions.

He said it was important to the running of an efficient and good government that besides having men and women of good qualities of mind, personality and better education, those persons should also be polite and attentive to the general public who called on them for prompt services.

He added: "It is a waste of public money to promote an officer who may be clever, but is not willing to serve the public well. It comes to my knowledge that some officers in the lower ranks of some Government departments never attend to the public promptly when they call at their offices and I hope that such attitude would be changed forthwith".

Common scale

Touching on the methods of conversions and the recommendations by heads of departments for promotion, Mr Chieng said he supported the view that a standing committee should be appointed to consider them.

Referring to the report on Education Department, he said he was happy to note that Government had accepted the recommendations contained in paragraphs 124, 125 and 126, i.e. all teachers with the same educational qualifications whether trained or untrained should be on a common scale with

higher entry points for the trained teacher, but the same maximum and promotion from one scale or grade to another should be dependent only on proven merit, and it should be required that candidates for promotion must have successfully completed an approved course of training.

He, however, added that one point that surprised him much was an application form for transfer of teachers from one school to another. The form had a foot-note reading "If a teacher wishes to transfer to a mission school, he will automatically lose his pension rights".

Mr Chieng wished to know what it meant? Whether there was any regulation laid down either in the Education Ordinance or in the Watson Report to discourage teachers to teach in mission school. If there was no such restriction imposed on teachers an explanation would be much appreciated as to why a teacher who wished to teach in mission school would lose his pension rights, and what about his provident fund, asked Mr Chieng.

He ended by saying that he personally felt that it was high time to revise the salary scale of the Public Service of Sarawak in order that its salary scale would be brought up to the level in North Borneo and Malaya, and hoped that a commission would be set up for this purpose in the near future.

More attention

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Lawas) supporting the motion said that the recommendations made in the Sessional Paper would bring improvement in emoluments and better prospects to most officers in the lower and middle ranks of the service.

He agreed that more attention should be given, particularly to those in the lower ranks, such as the police and the Field Force who were playing an important part in serving the country, especially during the emergency.

Mr Chen Ko Ming (Sarikei) said he accepted the reasons given by the Deputy Chief Secretary for the delay in publication of the Watson Commission Report, and the implementation of some of the recommendations as stated in the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1963.

He added that he must say that too little time had been given to members to study the Watson Commission Report and the Sessional Paper on the Structure of the Public Service. Both documents were lengthy and complicated, and deserved fuller examination and study. However, he felt he must make some comments in general.

Mr Chen said: "Quite a number of civil servants believed that there would be a general increase of salary of about 25 percent when the recommendations of Watson's Report were to be adopted because it was thought their counterparts in North Borneo have been given such an increase.

"Upon inquiry I was told by the Information Office that the question of the Structure of Public Service has not yet been studied or considered by the legislative council in North Borneo.

"Well, as North Borneo has always been behind us on almost all matters I take it for granted that this information might be true. Sir, in this connection I seek clarification".

Mr Chen added that the fact remained that there had been, for some time, general discontent especially amongst local officers in the public service and this discontent had now been explicitly admitted in the Sessional Paper.

After the publication of the Watson's Report and the Sessional Paper he had the opportunity of discussing the matter with quite a good number of Senior and Junior Government staff: To his amazement he found none was happy with the documents.

It was no longer true that the higher ranks of the Service was exclusively staffed by expatriate officers. Today there were not a few local officers in this category.

Continuing, Mr Chen said: "As far as emoluments and career prospects of the expatriates are concerned their worries and problems have already been solved or taken care of in various ways, therefore there should be no discontent among the expatriate officers.

"But the discontent among the local officers in this rank persists. Already the gap in the matter of take-home pay between an expatriate officer and a local officer in the same grade has widened to such an extent that it cannot now be bridged".

This, Mr Chen felt, was "most undesirable" as it had been the cause for discontent among local officers. He said to make it worse they had now to join and accept an initial salary three points below the starting salary offered to expatriate officers — a difference of \$90.

"Where is the fairness?" asked Mr Chen, adding: "Members of this House are fully aware that Sarawak will shortly achieve independence through Malaysia. In keeping with the change in political status of our country, it is important that we should place more and more reliance upon our local officers to run

our public service.

"We must develop and increase the supply of local officers. Particularly must we create conditions and terms of service most favourable to attract and retain locally domiciled officers in the service. In this context I view with disfavour the proposal set out in paragraph 2 of the Sessional Paper to provide for a downward extension of the salary scale of Division II officers.

"It is most unfortunate that this lowering of entry points should have been attempted at the time when increasing numbers of local officers are expected to return and serve in our country".

Academically qualified

Continuing, Mr Chen said that it had been pointed out in paragraph 2 of Part I of the Paper that the lower entry points in Division II were intended for placing academically qualified new recruits who would now invariably be local candidates.

This proposal of course, implied that there was already in existence in printed form schemes of service applicable to various branches of the public service. As far as he could gather, there were at the moment no such schemes and in fact Mr Watson, the Commissioner, had strongly recommended in paragraph 84 of his Report the early preparation and publication of such schemes.

Here the President, Mr Jakeway, interrupted to say that although it did not arise directly from the mover's speech, Mr Chen seemed to be labouring under a misapprehension.

The President said that it would save misunderstandings later on if Mr Snelus, the mover of the motion, cared to interrupt and explain the situation, and called upon him to do so.

Mr Snelus then explained at length that the downward extension made no difference in the point of entry to a fully qualified officer whether he was induced or not, or whether he was a local officer or not.

He defined a qualified officer as a man who had passed all his examinations and had got his academic qualifications and a certain amount of experience, in addition, as obtained by induced officers before arriving in this country.

He then went on to explain how, for example, it was proposed to place an engineer joining the P.W.D. on the salary scale. (He would enter straight into Division II at salary points lower than the proper entry point in Scale A for the man with full qualifica-

tions. After gaining his experience he would enter the proper point).

Mr Chen then continued his speech, and went on to say that the agreed with Mr Watson's view and that it was of great importance that all officers in the public service and all candidates for appointment should have access to clear and authoritative information regarding salary rates and opportunities for promotion, both in the service generally and in the particular branch in which they are employed or are seeking employment".

He added: "There is, I am sad to note, nothing in the Sessional Paper to indicate that this recommendation, vital to serving and prospective local officers, has been accepted or will be implemented. I should like to know what action Government proposes to take in this matter.

"I must say I am happy to know that some proposals as stated in paragraph 6 of the Sessional Paper are calculated to bring improvements in the emoluments and prospects of most officers in the lower and middle ranks of the service".

Mr Chen ended by saying that he was not satisfied with the Watson Report and the Sessional Paper in many respects, but should it mean that the defeat of the motion would penalise those who would otherwise be benefitted by the implementation of the Sessional Paper then he had no hesitation in giving his support to the motion with the request that the structure of Public Service and salary scale of the civil servants must be reviewed after Malaysia.

'Genuine discontent'

Inche Annie bin Dhoby (Sibu Urban) said that the Sessional Paper was handed to him only last Monday — that gave him only one clear day to study it.

He added: "I shall be doing a grave injustice to the public servants in Sarawak if I say that I understand the implications of the Paper.

"It took the Government of Sarawak about one year to produce the Report. This alone shows the implications involved, about which I have no doubt in my mind whatsoever.

"There is a genuine discontent among the local civil servants especially the lower income group receiving salaries which are inadequate for their own family upkeep.

"For these (the lower income group) immediate steps must be taken by the Government to alleviate their hardship by increasing their salaries.

"Here, I notice that the White Paper re-

commendations are of advantage to them. To others, who are not benefitted by the Watson recommendations, the problem must be approached with great caution if we are not to worsen the existing discontent among the hard-working local civil servants.

"I urge more strongly upon the Government to go fuller into detailed claims of the Sarawak Government Asian Officers' Union with regard to salaries.

"I fully realise that the Watson Report deals only with the salary structure of the civil service but anyone looking at the report will at once notice that it has a direct bearing on the question of salaries of civil servants.

"I feel that the claims of the civil servants for increase of salaries are more urgent than the salary structured revision".

'Benefit lower grades'

Mrs Tra Zehnder (Nominated) said she was glad to note that if the White Paper was passed, it would benefit the lower grades in the civil service, and also the Police Force.

She added: "But, I understand that hospital assistants, dispensers, nurses and laboratory technicians who are drawing a basic salary of \$215, \$245, \$260, \$275 and \$290 respectively in the present salary scale will now all convert to \$290 in the new salary scale.

"The method of conversion will, therefore, give no seniority to those who joined the service two or three years ago but place them on the same level with those who joined the service in their first year.

"This method of conversion will definitely cause grave discontent among the officers affected by the changes. I therefore propose that any conversion suggested in the report should be adopted without depriving any officer of their seniority".

Mrs Zehnder wanted to know why some posts in the Division III are graded C4, some C4-5 and some C4, 5 and 6. Unless convincing reasons could be given, she proposed that all the posts now graded as such be upgraded to C4, 5 and 6. Watson had seen fit to recommend the upgrading of Scale B to Scale A in Division m.

Finally, Mrs Zehnder said that Division V in the Civil Service had been looked on as a class of under-privileged officers, among them, for instance, some experienced officers who were receiving the same privilege as the office boys.

Said Mrs Zehnder: "Surely there is no dignity in some of the status for some of the officers now in Division V. I beg you to do some-

thing about it".

Mr Dagok Randen (Upper Sadong) regretted for being unable to go through the Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1963 thoroughly as he had received it only the previous day.

However, he had listened to the Deputy Chief Secretary's explanation with care and interest and learned that the recommendations contained in the White Paper would benefit not only the lower and middle ranks of the Sarawak Civil Service but their families and the country as a whole. He strongly supported the motion.

Mr Remigius Durin (Bau) said that he received his copy of the Sessional Paper three days ago and had not known much about it. But as the changes proposed would bring improvement to the emoluments and prospects of most officers in the lower and middle ranks of the service, he supported it.

Misconceptions

Winding up the debate, Mr Snelus expressed appreciation to Members for having shown such a keen interest in the conditions of the local civil service. He thought it was very admirable that Members should consider those things which were basic to good government.

He added: "But I do regret to say that there appears to be, despite your apparent interest, a good deal of misconception about conditions of service within the local civil service and also really, about the basic considerations which must apply when one is not only considering the structure of the service but the range of emoluments or pay which should be provided".

On the general nature of the points raised, Mr Snelus said: "First I would like members to turn their minds as to how one should relate the pay of the civil service to conditions in the country. It is all very well for one to say — 'well, let us give all our civil servants everything - give them as much as they ask for".

"Nobody is ever satisfied, believe me, none of us are. But in fact there are basic considerations. The first consideration which should be borne in mind, is what is necessary to attract a man to join the civil service? What is the basic salary for the type of work he is required to do which will encourage him to join the civil service?

"When you are thinking about that, you cannot think purely in terms of money alone — in a vacuum as it were.

"You have got to think in terms of pay that is received outside the civil service within the same country".

Mr Snelus went on to say that in a small but not very well developed country like Sarawak, where a large proportion of white collar jobs were in fact in the civil service, the Government had got to be particularly careful not to set those levels too high because it (the Government) was probably the guide.

If the Government set the levels too high, then the commercial people would find it hard to get people into employment with them, or they could not afford to employ people at those levels.

These are inter-related matters, said Mr Snelus, adding: "I think that in a country like Sarawak, Government has got to think very carefully about this".

He continued: "The other really basic consideration is what the economy of this country can afford. The Financial Secretary has explained why he had to ask Government to recommend the imposition of additional taxation. It was largely because \$2 million is required to implement the recommendations in the Watson Report which are to be accepted by the Government.

"The country, as he tried to explain, is limited by the amount of money it can raise and therefore there is a limited amount of money available to pay for the emoluments for the civil service.

"Nor am I aware that there are any large number of vacancies in the Government departments, implying that the Government is unable to attract local people to join the civil service. So the reason for increasing emoluments on that ground is baseless.

"To pursue the matter of economy and the money available to pay for the civil service, I have it on good authority from my colleague that had the Government without demur, without concern, without consideration and without further thought, accepted the Sarawak Government Asian Officers Union's claim for an all round 25 percent increase, it would have cost this Government no less than \$5 million a year. Where is that money going to come from?"

Mr Snelus then referred to the pause and silence in the House when the Financial Secretary announced the methods by which he was raising fresh money to pay for the additional expenditure proposed, and asked: "But think what would have happened to the cost of even essential commodities had he have to raise another \$5 million, on top of that?"

Basic salaries

He then went on to explain that what they

had been considering in the motion he moved were basic salaries which applied to permanent and pensionable staff, be they induced or non-induced, be they local or expatriates.

He added: "I explained the considerations applied in fixing those levels to bring the local people into the service — in other words, the basic salary. These basic salaries apply also to all expatriates.

"But if you want to induce expatriates to come and work thousands of miles away from their homes, then you have got to pay them something in addition, or you won't get them.

"And that addition is called Inducement Pay and it is not, does not, any longer fall to any extent on the tax payer in Sarawak—it is provided by Her Majesty's Government. But it is done for the purpose of benefitting Sarawak — many members of this House have on previous occasions urged the retention of service of expatriate officers for some years to come.

"Now, if they are going to do that for the benefit of Sarawak until the local people are trained up in sufficient numbers to take over, we have to be prepared to pay a little extra over and above the basic salary to induce a qualified and experienced officer to come here and do the job".

Mr Snelus then recalled his earlier explanation that not everybody with academic qualifications immediately enters at what is thought to be the initial entry point of the basic and appropriate scale.

He went on to say: "If he is either a local, or an expatriate officer who has not got the full qualifications to hold down a responsible job, over and above the academic qualifications and I repeat — some experience and further training — neither one can enter at the point approved for somebody who has the full qualifications.

"There are at least two local officers in the Secretariat today who, the moment they had that extra year's training, were immediately promoted to Division II very shortly they acquired their academic qualifications".

Referring to points raised by Mr Yeo Cheng Hoe, "regarding salary discrepancies between the Principal Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries," Mr Snelus explained that the Assistant Secretaries had a long scale.

He added: "If they are bright boys they get promoted from the long scale in Division III to Division II as Principal Assistant Secretaries. Then, at that stage there may be no increase in their salaries, but they then go to a very much higher point at the top of the scale.

Overlapping

"It is because there is that unfortunate overlapping between the top scale — the C scales in Division III which applies to Assistant Secretaries and the long Scale A in Division II which apply to the Principal Assistant Secretaries — that we have put in the lower segments below the normal entry points for the fully qualified man.

"Therefore, instead of having to do service as an Assistant Secretary, perhaps after gaining academic qualifications, he can come back and enter straight into Division II at one of those points lower than the proper entry, until he gains his experience when he immediately enters at the proper point in Division II Scale A for the man with full qualifications.

Continuing, Mr Snelus said: "We wish not only to provide opportunities for advancement and rapid promotion for the able and outstanding officer. We wish also to provide a reasonably remunerative employment for the officers who have served satisfactorily throughout their career.

"To do that you have to have some of these longer scales so that the man goes on getting another increment the longer he serves even though he has not any special promotion to a higher scale or a higher division".

Regarding comparisons made by Mr Yeo with salaries in Malaya, Mr Snelus said he (Mr Yeo) appeared to be slightly confused between salaries and cost of living allowances which were given in Malaya today and which brought the total emoluments of the officers perhaps to the same level, or in some cases higher, than the officer in Sarawak.

He said: "But let us think back again to basic salaries or what are necessary to attract an officer into the service and to retain his service.

"A cost of living allowance is something which is variable and can be taken away at any time. But the basic salaries presently paid, even on our own old structure, are, generally speaking, rather higher than the basic salaries in Malaya.

"When the Commission to which I referred to, in my earlier opening remarks that the Inter-Governmental Committee has recommended, is set up to review throughout Malaysia the salaries, who is to know — the cost of living in Sarawak is higher than in Malaya, and therefore there should be a cost of living allowance? I do not know but that will come in due course".

Referring to the suggestion that North Borneo's salaries were better or higher than

Sarawak's, Mr Snelus said he could not accept that at all. He said that they had been very careful to keep closely in line with North Borneo up to a short while ago, and that he could not speak for what might have developed since then; the Sarawak and North Borneo salaries since 1946 had remained very closely on a par.

Added Mr Snelus: "I rather think the Honourable Member also referred to Division V officers as needing better terms. I will not stress this point because I had made it clear that many officers in Division V will, in fact, be receiving a good deal better salary — by no means all of them because the 10 percent to which I referred was indeed only on the entry point.

'Handsome increases'

"But I went on to say that a large number of officers holding those posts listed in the Appendix to the Watson Report who are now in Scale G will be transferred to Scale F and they will all get very handsome increases in salary, something like 25-30 percent.

"Mr Chieng Hie Kwong apart from saying that all local officers, owing to the rise in cost of living, demand a revision of salaries, referring to some paragraphs in the Watson Report relating to promotion.

"I was not quite clear what he said but I rather thought he said that he endorsed that paragraph and if so I am very glad to hear. But if I am wrong I would be glad if he will explain what he has in mind later. I could not follow his remarks about a form of transfer of teacher footnote. It was not very clear where that appears".

Referring to Mr Chen Ko Ming's speech, Mr Snelus said that he had tried to answer the general points made by him and Inche Annie Dhobie regarding the wishes of local service for general salary increases. He hoped that he had tried to explain why that was not possible and in fact that it was not even warranted at this stage.

Continued Mr Snelus: "Mr Chen Ko Ming referred to schemes of service. That is a point which has been accepted by Government — that each department should have a scheme of service and it will be pursued. Let me assure him that many departments in fact already have a scheme. They have not been published as such, which is perhaps unfortunate, but those applying to join a certain department or those within the department are able to see what their chances are of promotion within the service in many departments.

"It does not apply to all, but I hope that that will be rectified before long and that schemes of service will be drawn up and published for the benefit of the general public".

Mr Snelus then went on to say that he could not ignore Inche Ainnie's comment that it had taken the Government one year to produce the Watson Report. It was not Government who produced the report, it was Mr Watson who was appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the request of the Sarawak Government, said Mr Snelus.

He added: "The Government here did not receive the report until sometime in February, so that we have not had more than three months, in fact, to go through all the necessary steps that had to be taken and to consider this very lengthy and complicated operation.

"There has been mention by other members that the lower income groups need immediate increases since they are a discontented body. I have tried to find out several times now that although this report and the Sessional Paper are in fact considering the structure of the service, it does so happen that it is those people in the lowest income brackets, who, generally speaking, derive most benefit from this review by way of increase in salaries".

Finally, Mr Snelus referred to a point made by Mrs Tra Zehnder who referred to nurses, hospital assistants and others, all converting to \$290, no matter what their previous salaries were.

Further investigation

He remarked: "There is a slight misconception there. Not all nurses and hospital assistants will go from \$215 to \$290, that is a new entry point only for nurses and hospital assistants who have passed their final qualifying examination, which is stated quite dearly in the Sessional Paper.

"As for the conversion of those who may have proceeded up to another scale beyond \$215 already, so that the number will convert to \$290, that is a point I would not care to answer directly at the moment. It is one of the things I indicated which might require further investigation.

"If there is any anomaly there, it will be sorted out either in the Establishment Office or the Gradings Committee".

Answering Mrs Zehnder's reference to Scales C4/5/6, Mr Snelus said it was not quite clear, but the purpose of having different segments in that scale was to relate the salary

to the responsibility of the post held by the officer; they could not all be equated and that was why one had to make a distinction between responsibilities of the post held by the various officers. The motion was then put to the House and passed.

Council Negri—Adjournment speeches

An appeal to build more clinics in Kuching — at Tanah Puteh, along Green Road and across river for the kampongs—was made by Mrs Tra Zehnder (Nominated) when she spoke at the adjournment.

Remarking on the crowding at Kuching's Health Centre by "housewives, children and old men" Mrs Zehnder spoke of the disappointment experienced by these people when they are told "come back".

Some of the patients, she pointed out, came from the rural areas to see the doctor, and not for minor treatment.

Mrs Zehnder suggested that minor treatment cases could be dealt with by the clinics she had suggested, leaving the Out-patient Clinic at the Health Centre for those coming in from the rural areas.

She also spoke of the difficulties experienced by those from the rural areas calling at the Hospital when they are told to get their "surat" from the Health Centre.

Mrs Zehnder finally referred to the ambulance service, saying that she had been informed that there were two ambulances but not enough drivers. More drivers should be engaged so that emergency cases could be dealt with promptly, she urged.

Appointment system

The Director of Medical Services, Dr D.A. Baird, replying, said that it was unfortunately only too true that in Out-patient departments in hospitals everywhere — unless it was possible to operate some appointment system — patients had got to wait.

This was because it was impossible to predict the number of patients who might be expected to attend at any particular day. It was also impossible to predict when they might choose to attend and it was finally impossible to predict how long their investigation and treatment might take.

He added; "So whether we like it or not we have to accept the fact that patients have to wait. What we must try to do and what Government has been trying to do is to reduce the waiting time to the minimum possible".

Dr Baird then suggested that the problem could be solved in two days. First, there must be an efficient organisation in the Out-patient Department, and then one must have a co-operative public.

He continued: "In respect to the first, quite recently the Medical Department invited the Organisation and Methods Adviser to visit the Outpatient Clinic at the Health Centre and to advise on ways and means of improving the organisation. The recommendations made by him have been put into practice and I hope improvement will result.

"With regard to co-operation by the public, it has been mentioned by Mrs Zehnder, that people at times crowd round the reception desk".

Dr Baird stressed if they would not crowd round but come up to the desk in an orderly manner, then perhaps they might sometimes be able to put them through rather quicker.

Furthermore, if the load on the Outpatient Department could, some way or other, be spread, there would not be such an amount of waiting at certain periods of the day.

Dr Baird went on to say that recently when he had occasion to visit the Health Centre in the early afternoon he counted two patients in the Outpatient Department. And yet in the morning the place was full to overflowing.

He added: "I would like to suggest that those of us who live in and around Kuching might, for the benefit of those who come from further afield, delay our attendance at the Clinic until the afternoon, and so allow patients who come from Serian and other places to have their attention in the morning.

Replying to the suggestion that it might help the situation to establish other outpatient clinics in various parts of Kuching and district, Dr Baird said he did not think he would be giving away any secret when he said that the Medical Department had suggested for the consideration of Government in its 1964-68 Development, the establishment of three such centres. He would not like to anticipate where they might be sited. This was a matter which would be decided later and Mrs Zehnder's suggestion would be kept in view.

With regard to the matter of ambulances Dr Baird said he would like to make a slight correction to Mrs Zehnder's remarks. It was true that there were two ambulances at the hospital, but they also made very full use of the Red Cross ambulance for which Government paid a subsidy to the local Red Cross. So they had available three ambulances. They also had a fourth vehicle which was suitable for the transport of patients though it was not a suitable transport for a stretcher case.

The number of drivers available was such that they could only operate one ambulance in what he might call out-of-duty hours. This was because the existing drivers had got to take a share of the duty calls.

Dr Baird finally said they were conscious of the fact that the need for a second ambulance to be available during the night hours and during holidays was a pressing one. They had, in fact, made provision in the draft estimates for next year for an additional driver so that it would be possible to operate more than one ambulance at night and during holidays.

APPEAL FOR HEADMEN'S TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES

An appeal on behalf of the Upper Sadong District Council for "travelling allowances and transport charges" to headmen or their representatives who assist the local authorities to collect rates, was made by Mr Dagok anak Randen at the Council Negri meeting on May 30.

He said that poverty and difficulty of communications prevented the rural people from paying their rates individually and went on to express his "deep gratitude and appreciation to the Sarawak Government and the heads of departments for all the good work done by them in the rural areas".

Mr Randen reminded the Government that the rural people should be given "priorities in all fields" and that they should not be forgotten.

Replying, the Secretary for Local Government, Mr A.R. Meikle, said that there could be no question of headmen being formally appointed rate-collectors on behalf of District Councils.

He added that this would be quite inconsistent with the functions of a headman. On

the other hand, if a headman from a remote area was visiting the District headquarters, and voluntarily assisted his people by bringing down the money for rates and other taxes and paying them into the District Council on their behalf, there was, of course, no objection, said Mr Meikle.

'Merit' in the system

He added: "It is appreciated that in some ulu areas people rarely visit the District Headquarters, and in many cases District Councils send a member of their staff on tour to collect rates and taxes.

"I suggest that there is merit in this system since at the same time the Council staff can explain to the people the reasons and needs for the taxes that they are being asked to pay.

"I would strongly commend that system for consideration by the District Councils to which Honourable Members belong to and to other District Councils that do not at present do so".

SARAWAK'S PADI PRODUCTION DISCUSSED

The Director of Agriculture, Mr J. Cook, agreed with the member for Sibu Urban, Mr Chieng Hie Kwong, that Sarawak's padi production was far from satisfactory.

Mr Cook said that it meant that Government must do everything it possibly could to intensify production. This, he said, was what had been happening over the past few years and would be intensified in the forthcoming years under the 1964/1968 Development Plan.

Mr Chieng said that the 1960 census had revealed that about 89 percent of the working population were farmers. It was also certain that the rate of increase of agricultural production would not keep pace with the rate of increase of population from now on.

He added: "The problem facing our Government today is to find ways and means to open up new land all over the country for

our farmers to work on in order to help improve their livelihood.

"Generally speaking, our rubber, pepper and timber export earnings will not be enough to cover our expenditure in the years to come. Therefore I would like to take this opportunity to urge Government to take immediate steps to encourage padi planters — especially Chinese padi planters — to plant wet padi by giving them suitable land so that we could be able to save a substantial sum of money for purchasing rice from other countries".

Mr Chieng went on to say that he understood there was enough planting land along the coastal line of the Second and Third Divisions for wet padi, and asked the Agricultural Department to investigate and make known to the padi planters where land for padi planting was available, and to invite applications

for padi land.

Commenting on the Agricultural policy in Sarawak and its implementation as contained in Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1963 which had been tabled at the previous session, Mr Chieng suggested that this Paper should be debated in the next session of the House.

'Strong front'

Continuing, he said that it was not easy at the moment to pay full attention to the work of agricultural development in Sarawak without looking at the political development.

Added Mr Chieng: "If we want to raise the living standard of our people the most important task facing us is to get all the political and community leaders together to form a strong front to face all troubles that may be lying ahead.

"With the unity of all our people we are not afraid of hunger and foreign threats".

Finally, Mr Chieng appealed to all political leaders to discard the differences, if any, that might have existed in their midst and to come forward forcefully to lead the people on to the road of independence by constitutional means.

'Welcome suggestion'

Replying, Mr Cook said that it was an "extremely welcome suggestion" that the public, communities and political leaders should get together and combine to assist Government in its programme for agricultural development".

He said: "Agricultural development covers a very broad sphere indeed and the broad outline of Government policy and its implementation was tabled as Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1963.

"It is an encouragement to me and to the whole of my Department that this policy has certainly been given some attention, and as far as I am personally concerned I would like to see a debate on our agricultural policy.

"Specific mention was made of the role of padi planting in that policy. I want you that padi planting is an extremely important part of the rural calendar in Sarawak but we must pay attention to the circumstances".

Mr Cook went on to say that the policy was to encourage padi planting to the point of economic profitability. Beyond that point it was considered that national interests were best served if they devoted the time, money and energy to more profitable crops.

He added: "Sarawak climatically and

from the soils point of view is not ideally situated nor endowed with natural resources for the economic padi planting on a large scale.

"Padi is a seasonal crop. It requires a dry season when it comes to harvest in order to harvest the crop properly. We suffer from a well dispersed rainfall here. Consequently, it is difficult to plant with confidence a seasonal crop like padi.

"I would certainly agree with Mr Chieng that our padi production is far from satisfactory. Our estimate of local production is only 54 percent of our requirements. It means therefore that Government must do everything it possibly can, even if it cannot possibly increase the acreage to intensify production and this, in point of fact, is what has been happening over the past few years and will be further intensified in the forthcoming years under the 1964/65 Development Plan".

Measures adopted

Recounting measures taken so far, Mr Cook said that they included the stepping up of the programme for research, including fertilising techniques, improved varieties for planting and ordinary cultivation techniques.

He added that the Department was looking with a great deal of interest on the results of the gift from the Malayan Government of the 35 tons of selected padi seed which would be distributed widely in the First, Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions under a flood campaign rehabilitation.

That padi seed, Mr Cook said, was the result of research work in Malaya which took as long as eight years to collect one variety. In Sarawak they had started but they had not reached the eighth year yet.

Fertiliser techniques were also under investigation as well as mechanisation. It was a matter of some regret that they very largely depended on human drudgery to plant wet padi.

Said Mr Cook: "Although we do have a few buffaloes, very few in point of fact are used for traction purposes. This is another scheme which the Government introduced two years ago to import more buffaloes, train them to the plough and at the same time train selected farmers to operate these buffaloes.

"Such buffaloes along with the implements have been distributed in all Divisions at subsidised rates. We intend to continue this scheme".

Mr Cook added that substantial sums of money had been set aside in the past three or four years under a scheme which was known

as the Assisted Padi Planting Scheme. In the Fifth Division, particularly, an extraordinarily good job had been done under this scheme.

He went on to say that the Second Division too had done a useful job and although they could not claim that there had been a radical change in the attitude of dry padi planters, nevertheless there was an increasing number of hitherto dry padi planters coming down-river for the wet padi planting scheme.

Sum total

Mr Cook then went on to cite Bijat and Lubok Nibong, in the Second Division, Senga in the Fourth Division and Limbang in the valley of the Limbang River.

He added: "Therefore the sum total of these efforts we look upon and hope, will be an intensification of production per unit area.

"In regard to making further areas available we do have a Soils Division, part of whose job is to go into various Divisions, examine the land and describe whether it is suitable for wet padi planting.

"We co-operate with Divisional Development Committees and we hope that they, as part of the programme, will submit suggestions as to areas which should be investigated under such a programme.

"While intensification of padi is possibly a goal which Sarawak will not reach, we should not be dismayed because our efforts turn to cash crops".

Finally, Mr Cook said that he did not mean only rubber and pepper and coconuts but other cash crops which were now under investigation. So that in the sum total they had not only a cash economy but also a food economy — in other words diversified agriculture.

Ibans in Ulu Ai lived under "miserable conditions"; experienced great difficulty in transporting their land produce through treacherous 'wong' (rapids); were unable to educate their children, and often found it hard to earn some ready cash to pay for their door tax.

This was stated by Mr Buda anak Ulan (Lubok Antu) who said that the Ibans of the Ulu Ai had been "neglected" by the Government.

He also alleged that Government officers had never visited longhouses in the Ulu Ai, and did not know the living conditions and hardships encountered by the inhabitants.

Mr Ulan went on to say that Government Information bulletins and news from Radio Sarawak 'never reached the Ulu Ai', and that the people were still suspicious of the

Malaysia Plan, "because non-English speaking councillors are not acceptable as representatives in the Malaysia Parliament".

He added: "They have cause to believe that the Iban language has no place in the Parliament. This has created dissatisfaction among non-English speaking councillors who have a desire to represent their people".

Alleging that the people in Ulu Ai had no representatives in Council Negri, Mr Buda declared: "They should now have representatives in the Malaysia Parliament.

"The Tengku has not stated specifically what languages are to be used in the Parliament. They want the Iban language to be used side by side with other languages. For the benefit of non-Iban speaking representatives, this could be conveyed through interpretation. Only in this way can it be called truly democratic".

Mr Ulan then suggested that a Branch Office of the Public Works should be located at Lubok Antu for the purpose of carrying out promptly any project provided for by the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund for the development of the Ulu Ai in the 1964 to 1968 Development Plan.

'Put forward projects', says D.C.S.

The Deputy Chief Secretary, Mr A.R. Snelus, in his reply suggested that if Mr Buda anak Ulan wished to have something done about improving communications, he should put forward some projects for consideration in his Divisional Development Committee for inclusion in the 1964/68 Development Plan.

Mr Snelus began his speech by saying, "It was a sad thought that the Honourable Member has been sitting in the council for over three years and that only now, on the last sitting before the Council is dissolved, he chooses to give us this diatribe on the plight of the Ulu Ai".

He added that Mr Ulan had mentioned that Ulu Ai had no representative on the Council Negri. "The Honourable member himself is their representative and he has missed many opportunities of seeking the support of this House for the projects he may wish to see initiated," said Mr Snelus.

He continued: "And now it is too late for this House as at present constituted to do anything about it. It is to be hoped, however, that he has in the past put forward any projects he would have wished to see initiated for consideration by the Second Divisional Development Committee and that he will continue to press for their inclusion by the Committee in the future.

"To turn now to the substance of the Honourable member's remarks, I flatly deny that the Ulu Ai has been neglected by Government in the manner stated. It is a gross distortion of the truth to say that Government officers have never visited the longhouses there, for I have recently read in the Annual Report for 1962 by the District Officer of Lubok Antu that travelling was thoroughly done twice during the year throughout the district — once by the District Officer himself and his assistant Administrative Officers explaining about Malaysia, and secondly Sarawak Administrative Officers compiling election registers when they toured other longhouses in the district.

"Furthermore I am assured that the various Residents of the Second Division have visited Lubok Antu and the Ulu Ai, particularly Delok, on many occasions during 1962.

"Like myself when I had the good fortune to act as Resident of the Second Division for some months — it is a very delightful part of the country to visit and no Resident misses such an opportunity".

Mr Snelus went on to say that in that same District report he read that an agricultural extension team was stationed at Nanga Delok in January, 1962 and, although the team was later withdrawn to Lubok Antu in November, its members continued to visit Nanga Delok from time to time to keep in touch. He also read that there was a great demand for assistance under the Rubber Planting Scheme and that 590 acres were planted up during 1962 under that scheme and 450 acres under the Assisted Rubber Planting Scheme.

Five new schools opened

Continued Mr Snelus: "The Honourable Member accuses Government of neglecting the advancement of education in the Ulu Ai, but, as he must well know, since he is now the chairman of Lubok Antu District Council himself, it is the local authority that is responsible for primary education.

"I am glad to read in the same annual report that five new schools were opened in the district during 1962. I do not know how many of these, if any, were in the Ulu Ai proper, but, I take it that the Honourable member's structures relate to the whole of Lubok Antu District and so here I would remind him of the community development scheme operating in the Lemanak within Lubok Antu District, specially designed to improve the welfare and economy of a poor section of the Ibans living there. I am glad to say that it is having a marked success.

Finally, Mr Snelus said that it was true that land and water communications were difficult and tough going in the Ulu Ai, but no more so than in many other upriver areas — for example the Ulu Balleh, Katibas, Balui and Bar am.

Heavier penalties for subversive activities were suggested by Inche Ainnie Dhoby (Sibu Urban). He said that only such penalties as life imprisonment or deportation for those found guilty of treason or subversion, as those committed by members of the Clandestine Communist Organisation in the past, could serve as a grim warning to those who intended to violate the laws of the country.

Urging the house to take a more serious view of the matter of communist subversive activities in Sarawak, Inche Ainnie said that if the present forms of penalties were not altered, the communists would not be deterred from carrying out their evil deeds.

He added: "I regret to say that most of the CCO members who had been convicted are mostly Chinese, and I wish to assure our Chinese friends — the loyal Sarawakians Chinese — of our sympathy that they have been unnecessarily implicated by this racial coincidence.

"I hope, and I feel sure, that all loyal Chinese of Sarawak will continue to work with us to make our country a more peaceful and prosperous place to live in".

Inche Ainnie then went on to cite Malaya's 15-year struggle against the communists during which the Federation Government "spent millions of dollars of hard-earned money, and what is even more regrettable, the sacrifice of thousands of innocent lives".

Touching on the subject of Malaysia, he trusted they were all prepared to welcome the auspicious day — August 31. Stressing that Malaysia was inevitable, Inche Ainnie referred to Indonesia's "confrontation" policy and said: "We do not want to be enemies of the Indonesians, far less to wage war against them.

"We are hoping that Indonesia will soon realise the advantage that Malaysia will offer her.

'Anti-communist basis'

"Malaysia is formed on an anti-Communist basis, and we feel that Indonesia should appreciate this, because as we understand, a large section of the population of Indonesia are not communists".

Hoping that Indonesia would carefully re-study the Malaysia concept and try to understand it, Inche Ainnie continued: "We have

grounds to believe that their doubt will vanish if they sincerely try to find out the truth on the Soekamo-Tengku Abdul Rahman talks and again at the Ministerial level talks between Malaya, Indonesia and the Phillipines when it materialises in June this year".

Expressing gratitude that the Philippines had now tried to understand the Malaysia concept, Inche Ainnie said he believed they would not now hesitate to support the Malaysia Plan. All independent countries of the World would adopt a friendly attitude towards Malaysia, he hoped.

Finally Inche Ainnie said: "This is the last of our sitting this term. Whether or not we shall be re-elected is a matter for the people to decide. During the term of service we have come to know each other well. I cannot picture how the new elected Council would look like. I am sure it will be a lively one when our country shall join Malaysia.

"May I say how happy I have been to serve with you in this Council. Our deliberations here have mostly been friendly, and to me educational, and for this I am grateful. Before we officially disperse, I wish to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" for your company, guidance and for your advice, and I wish you and honourable members of this House the very best of luck and good health".

The Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, replying said he hoped the words expressed by Inche Ainnie would reach out beyond Sarawak's boundaries and would be heard and heeded by those who had believed, perhaps all too readily, that the noise of the few represented the will of the many.

He added: "I hope that his expressions of confidence in the meetings which are about to take place in between the heads of certain states will be justified.

"As to his suggestions that the penalties for certain offences are inadequate, I do not subscribe to them.

"There are penalties extending up to death for certain offences in our Penal Code. Then too under our Societies Ordinance if a society has been declared a prohibited society, as has the Clandestine Communist Organisation, a person who assist in its management is liable to seven years imprisonment and a fine; whilst a member is liable to five years imprisonment and fine.

Under the Preservation of Public Security regulations the unlawful possession of firearms by any person, including a member of the CCO, renders him liable to life imprisonment and a fine. Consorting with a person intending to act prejudicially to Sarawak is liable to 10 years and a fine; possessing

subversive documents renders him liable to 10 years and a fine.

Penalties adequate

"I suggest that the penalties are adequate but it must be remembered that before the penalties can attach to any person evidence must be obtained such as to satisfy a court that the person has been guilty of the offences with which he is charged.

"Traitors and subversionists do not habitually leave bits of evidence lying about. It is extremely difficult for the police to find any evidence such as to satisfy any court of any of these offences.

"It was for that regrettable reason that we found it necessary in this Council last year to introduce legislation which enables persons to be detained without trial, because the sort of evidence which was in possession of the police in relation to these persons was convincing but not such as could be laid before a court.

"If this was done, sources of information would be prejudiced and no further such information would be obtained.

"I think the Honourable member is misled in thinking that our penalties are inadequate. It was only very recently that they were increased under the Societies Ordinance".

On the question of deportation, raised by Inche Ainnie, Mr Pike said he could not be expected to deal at short notice, with a subject which was difficult, both legally and political-ly-

Added Mr Pike: "I can only assure him that whenever any evidence is forthcoming against persons who are attempting traitorously to act to the detriment of Sarawak, the appropriate and most serious charges would be laid against them consistent with the evidence obtained.

"Mr Pike then went on to refer to the remarks made by Mr Buda anak Ulan that he was speaking not for himself but for 16,000 people in the Ulu Ai.

He said: "I hope the Honourable member was also speaking for himself because if he is not, he was acting out of order.

"He is here like other honourable members, to represent his constituency, but he must represent his own views as well. It will be quite wrong for him to represent his constituents' view if he does not agree with them".

Mr Pike concluded: "May I wish Honourable members the luck of the draw at the forthcoming elections. I hope we shall see them here again".

'Sad but happy'

Inche Atahar Khan (Bintulu), who spoke last said that it was a sad as well as a happy occasion.

Sad, because it was the last meeting of the present council, and happy because they were entering the Federation of Malaysia on August 31.

He added that there was no better alternative to Malaysia and called on all those who claimed that they were loyal to this country, to work together to ensure that Malaysia would come into being on the scheduled date.

He added that they should all work together and actively fight to eliminate the clandestine communist organisations which were threatening the peace of Sarawak. He said considerable sums of money were being spent to fight the country's traitors and asked:

"Would it not be better spent for the development of our country?"

Finally, he urged people to forget about their political differences and to work together.

He ended by expressing appreciation of the work of the staff of the Council and thanked them for their continued co-operation.

'Warmest wishes' sent to Mr Fisher

The President of the Council, Mr F.D. Jakeway, before concluding the meeting drew attention to the fact that the Resident of the Fourth Division, Mr J.C.B. Fisher, would shortly be leaving Sarawak on retirement and said that the Council would wish to send him its "warmest wishes for long life, happiness, health and good fortune in the years ahead".

September 8 to September 14

SARAWAK'S SPEAKER OF COUNCIL NEGRI



Dr Sockalingam

Dr M. Sockalingam, C.B.E., O.S.S., who will become the Speaker of Council Negri as from Sunday, September 15, 1963 is a well-known public figure in Sarawak, distinguished not only as an able member of the medical profession but as a man who has taken a wide and generous interest in public and social affairs.

He was born at Telok Anson; Malaya, where his father was a member of the

Malayan Medical Department. He was educated in the Anglo-Chinese School, Ipoh, and the Methodist Boys' School, Kuala Lumpur, and was a graduate of the King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore.

Dr Sockalingam joined the Singapore medical service in 1939 and was seconded to the Sarawak Medical Department in 1941. He remained in service until 1947 when he resigned and went into private practice in Kuching.

His public service has included membership of the Kuching Municipal Council, Council Negri and the Supreme Council. He is Chairman of the Sarawak Social Welfare Council, has been a Trustee of the Bako National Park and is a member of the Advisory Committee appointed under the Restricted Residence Ordinance.

As Speaker, Dr Sockalingam will have a vitally important part to play in the parliamentary life of Sarawak. That he will command the respect and affection of members of both sides of the House goes without saying and his knowledge of Sarawak affairs, tact and fairness will be the vital key stone for an effective and happy legislature.

Key position

The position of Speaker is, of course, one of the key positions in every democratic country and Sarawak is indeed fortunate in

being able to call on the Services of such a suitable and well-liked personality.

Dr Sockalingam married in 1944, Miss Evelyn Voon, a member of a well-known Sarawak family, and they have four sons.

DR SOCKALINGAM SWORN IN AS NEW SPEAKER



Dr M. Sockalingam was sworn in as the Speaker of Council Negri, by the Governor of Sarawak, Dato Abang Haji Openg at a ceremony at the Astana.

SIS picture shows Dr Sockalingam signing the Oath of Office as the Governor watches on. Behind him is Mr John Nichol, A.D.C. to the Governor.

Council Negri

QUESTION TIME

The Sarawak Government has stated that no absolute guarantee could be given that no Malayan would be appointed to any post in the Public Service.

This statement was made in Council Negri last week by the Chief Secretary, Mr F.D. Jakeway, who also referred to that part of the Inter-Governmental Committee Report on the creation of an integrated civil service.

Mr Jakeway was replying to a question by Mr Charles Linang (Supp) who asked how many expatriate officers were leaving as a result of Malaysia and for an assurance that on their leaving the Service their places would be filled by local officers and not Malaysians.

Said Mr Jakeway: "Up to September 4, forty officers had given notice of intention to retire; four officers had been required to retire because of Bomeanisation of their posts and two officers had been requested to retire to facilitate constitutional changes.

"Of the 40 voluntary retirements, 25 are from what will be Federal posts and 15 from State posts.

"Appointment to the Federal posts will be the responsibility of the Local Branch of the Federal Public Service Commission and paragraphs 5 to 13 of Annex B of the Inter-Governmental Committee Report and in particular paragraphs 8 to 9 set out the guarantees that Bomeanisation will be the first priority.

"Appointments to the State Public Service will be made by the State Public Service Commission".

Integrated civil service

Mr Jakeway continued: "No absolute guarantees can be given that no Malayan will be appointed to any post and paragraph 30 of Annex B to the Inter-Governmental Committee Report refers to the creation of an integrated civil service.

"Replacements for the State officers who have given notice are being found either by local promotion or the employment of expatriates on temporary terms".

Study standing orders, urges Speaker

The Speaker of the House, Mr A.R. Snelus, ruled as inadmissible a question put by Mr

Charles Linang (Supp), who asked what were the reasons for the Chief Minister's appointment of two nominated members as Ministers of his Government.

The Speaker said that the question was inadmissible because the Ministers concerned were appointed by the Governor, acting in his discretion. Such an act, he added, could not be questioned in the House.

He also drew the attention of members to Standing Order 20 dealing with the object of questions and urged those newly elected members to make a point of studying the Standing Orders.

IMMIGRANTS: GOVT. CAN CONTROL ENTRY

Under the Malaysia Immigration Act, the State Government of Sarawak would have power to control entry into the country both from other parts of Malaysia and elsewhere, said the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan.

The directions which would be given to the Controller by the State Authority, he added, would be worked out. This would ensure that a policy substantially similar to that now in operation would be followed.

Mr Ningkan was replying to a question put by Mr Charles Linang (Supp) who asked what policy would be adopted by Government on immigration.

In a supplementary question, Mr Linang asked the Chief Minister how he would reconcile what he had stated with the Prime Minister's of Singapore statement that 50 per cent of the labour used on projects carried out with Singapore loan funds must come from Singapore.

The Chief Minister replying said: "There is no intention to allow the entry of unskilled labour. Skilled labour will be admitted when it is needed for the benefit of Sarawak.

"There is no likelihood of any sudden influx of population from Singapore. It is entirely up to this Government who comes in.

"If we need to import skilled labour for development plans we should naturally expect to seek it from other parts of Malaysia before turning to other parts of the world.

"We do not anticipate that any attempt will be made to force this Government to im-

port labour as the condition of a loan. We should, of course, resist any such attempt.

"The State control of immigration is protected by the Malaysian Constitution and cannot be changed without the concurrence of the Government of Sarawak.

"It is hoped that the new legislation and regulations will shortly be published in convenient form. The general effect is to put up two immigration fences, one round Malaysia and one round Sarawak within Malaysia. In both cases the controls exercised will be substantially similar to those now in force".

C M. REFERS YONG TO STANDING ORDER

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked what Government proposed to do with those who made statements prejudicial to good inter-racial relationship "in view of the necessity for racial harmony and co-operation in the national interest".

Replying, the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, said that as the question sought an answer to a hypothetical situation he would not deal with it.

He then quoted the following Standing Order: "A question shall not be asked for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion, the solution of an abstract case or the answer to a hypothetical proposition".

'GOVT. SERVANTS ABOVE PARTY POLITICS'

There was no need to stress that Sarawak

Government officers were above party politics, said the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, in reply to a question by Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp).

Mr Ong had asked what steps would be taken to ensure that Administrative and other Government officers did not take sides in party politics.

He also wanted to know whether the Chief Minister would issue directives to Government officers not to victimise opposition political party members.

Mr Ningkan replied that a precautionary circular had already been issued to Government officers.

Government, he added, was not aware of any instance of a Government officer failing in his duties in this respect or taking any action which he should not have taken.

He said: "There is no need for me to stress that Sarawak Government civil servants are above party politics. I am proud of the fact — and I am sure that the honourable gentleman who has asked the question will be equally proud — that in Sarawak we have a band of loyal and efficient civil servants who know full well their duties and obligations".

The Chief Minister then read out a directive by the Government recently circulated to all civil servants on the subject.

The Chief Secretary, Mr F.D. Jakeway, then gave an assurance on behalf of the civil service that disciplinary measures would be instituted against any civil servant infringing the regulations contained in the directive.

ELECTION TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili (Panas) raised a query as to the procedure contemplated in electing representatives for Sarawak to the House of Representatives.

He also asked whether candidates who were defeated in the last elections were eligible to be nominated to represent Sarawak.

Replying, the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan said: "Draft rules on the procedure for electing members of the House of Representa-

tatives are still under discussion. They require the concurrence of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

"It is intended to honour the recommendation of the Inter-Governmental Committee that the procedure should result in the election representing the political composition of the Council Negri.

"There is no provision for nominating representatives to the House of Representatives".

ALLOWANCE FOR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Financial Secretary, Mr B.A. Hepburn, told Council Negri he did not consider that the payment of allowances to district councillors should be a charge on Central Government funds.

He was replying to a question by Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili (Panas) who asked for a fixed allowance to be given to all district councillors "bearing in mind that members of Council Negri are to receive \$250 per month and that the responsibility and duty of a District Councillor are no less heavy than the latter".

In his reply, Mr Hepburn said: "In order to maintain the principle of voluntary service in the local government context, the current approved scheme of allowances is limited to reimbursement of transport and lodging charges in connection with absence from

home on Council business and a daily allowance at the rate of \$5 towards the cost of their out-of-pocket expenses.

"Any element to compensate for loss of earnings has been specifically excluded in this count.

"It is proposed that this policy should continue in order to maintain the voluntary nature of local government service, which has been the hallmark of successful local government development in other countries of the Commonwealth, and to ensure that during this formative stage in Sarawak, Councils' financial calls on rate-payers are limited to those which are most in the public interest.

"In any event I do not consider that the payment of allowances to district councillors should be a charge on Central Government funds".

C.M. ON UNRULY DEMONSTRATIONS

The Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, gave an assurance that the Government would not hesitate to use more drastic measures against unruly demonstrations which could not be quelled "by mild methods".

He was replying to a question by Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili (Panas) who urged Government to take, in the future, more appropriate measures to deal with violent demonstrations such as those which recently occurred at Sibü and Miri during the United Nations' tour.

Said Mr Ningkan: "The Government regrets and deplores the embarrassment and inconvenience caused to the United Nations team at Sibü and Miri and the danger they have been put into by the violent demonstrations and rioting which occurred in these towns, where members of our police force too have been injured in the course of carrying out their duties to maintain peace and order.

"In the face of extreme provocation, our police have shown commendable restraint and the minimum use of force.

"Unfortunately, this restraint has been misconstrued by one section of the com-

munity as a sign of weakness".

Mr Ningkan then said: "I have declared to the public that my Government and the future Government of Malaysia will take severe measures against any subversive elements and any trouble-makers who try to upset the peace of this country.

"If the Government thinks that stringent measures are called for, the police force, which is now well trained, will not hesitate to deal with unruly elements.

"If these trouble-makers cannot be quelled by mild methods my Government can give an assurance that we shall not hesitate to use more drastic measures.

"The people who have instigated and taken part in these breaches of the peace are playing with fire and if they persist they will be responsible for the very dangerous and unpleasant situation in which they put not only themselves but also numbers of others who may well be quite unaware of the sinister forces at work behind the scenes".

Finally, Mr Ningkan hoped that Abang Othman and members of his party would use their influence in emphasising this.

CELEBRATIONS EXPENDITURE' JUSTIFIED'

The sum to be spent on the Malaysia celebrations in Sarawak was \$400,000, said the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, in reply to a question by Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp).

Of that sum, he said, \$300,000 would be from Sarawak funds and \$100,000 would be a contribution from the Federal Government.

In rebutting a suggestion that "the money could be better devoted to much more urgent work such as flood relief or rehabilitation", the Chief Minister said: "The amount to be spent by Sarawak is small in comparison with the amounts to be spent by our neighbours

and is, in my opinion, fully justified".

'Entirely voluntary'

Mr Teo Kui Seng (Minister-designate for Natural Resources) denied that school children were being forced by school authorities to take part in the lantern procession on Malaysia Day and said that the Education Department had stressed that participation was entirely voluntary.

He was replying to a question by Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp).

'WHEN WILL DETAINEES BE RELEASED?' — CHAN

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) asked when the political detainees would be released and whether they would be brought to trial in a Court of Law.

Replying, the Chief Secretary, Mr F.D. Jakeway, explained that section 4 of the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance provided that where the Governor was satisfied that a situation in Sarawak existed which was so grave that it was necessary for the preservation of public security to make regulations to provide for the detention of persons, he could declare this by notification in the Gazette.

This was done when the insurrection broke out last December in Brunei and adjacent areas of Sarawak.

Regulations made under this Section provided that the Chief Secretary or any Resident authorised by him in writing could direct that a person should be detained for a period not exceeding two years where it appeared to him to be necessary or expedient for securing public safety.

The regulations also provided for objections against an Order of Detention to be heard by an Advisory Committee.

Mr Jakeway added: "The invocation of this section of the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance reflects an abnormally grave situation. As soon as it is considered safe to do so, the invocation will be revoked.

"It is in the interest of all loyal and law-abiding citizens in Sarawak to co-operate in achieving this situation at the earliest possible moment.

"Meanwhile, all Detention Orders are kept under regular review and are revoked as soon as the person concerned is considered to be no longer a threat to public safety.

"If persons against whom Detention Orders have been made can be proved to have committed a crime, they will of course be brought to trial.

"The evidence on which they are detained is not, however, necessarily such as to prove a criminal offence, or it may be of a nature which cannot be disclosed publicly in a court of law".

The Chief Secretary also told Mr Chan in reply to another question that if there was evidence that any police or prison officer ill-treating a detainee he would be charged under the appropriate discipline regulation and, if found guilty, punished severely.

Alternatively, if the evidence warranted it, he might be prosecuted under the criminal law.

Binatang incident discussed

The recent incident at Binatang was still being investigated and there was nothing to report at present.

This was stated by the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, in reply to a question by Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) who asked whether he could give more information on the incident where three persons were shot and wounded "and whether the unprovoked attack had any political motive".

PROTECTION OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES

It is the policy of the Sarawak Government to encourage and protect local industries, said the Financial Secretary, Mr Hepburn, in reply to a question by Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Panás).

Mr Hepburn said that he would like to quote the promise to the electorate contained in the Sarawak Alliance elections manifesto: "To strengthen our country's economy it is necessary to introduce legislation".

To do this, he said, the Government hoped to launch schemes to -

- * prepare sites for industrial purposes;
- * allocate industrial land at attractive premiums;
- * grant loans to those who have sound industrial propositions; and
- * give advice and help to industrialists as and when required

Mr Hepburn then said that the Sarawak Government already possessed in the Borneo Development Corporation an instrument to this purpose and hoped that with the partners in that Corporation — the Government of Sabah and the Colonial Development Corporation — to strengthen its capital structure and to widen the scope of its activities.

He pointed out that the Minister Designate for Natural Resources (Mr Teo Kui Seng) had already pointed out that the prospects for encouraging local industry were much enhanced by the creation of the Malaysian Common Market.

In order to ensure adequate protection of such an industry a Bill had already been passed by the Malayan Parliament providing for the establishment of a Malaysian Tariff Advisory Board as recommended in the Rueff's Mission Report on the economic aspects of Malaysia.

Mr Hepburn continued: "Sarawak's particular interests will be cared for in the Tariff Advisory Board by the requirement that one of the three permanent and full-time deputy chairmen of the Board shall be jointly nominated by the Governments of Sabah and Sarawak.

"Industrialisation is by no means solely a State concern. Indeed, in the Legislative Lists of the Constitution of the new Federation of Malaysia 'industries' appears in the Federal list.

"But in as much as 'land' appears in the State list, the State Government has a final say in the allocation of industrial land and in the preparation of industrial sites, and through the Borneo Development Corporation will be able to grant loans to those who have sound industrial propositions and give advice and help to industrialists".

'Remove duties on Chinese medicine'

Mr Ong next asked whether it was possible to remove import duties on Chinese medicine as "this imposition affects the poorer section of the rural people for whom Western medicine is not so readily available".

Replying the Financial Secretary, Mr Hepburn, recalled that an import duty on medicines was imposed about two years ago when the Governments of Sarawak and Sabah sought to bring their tariffs closer into line in connection with the setting up of the Borneo Free Trade Area.

At that time, he said, North Borneo imposed an import duty of 10 percent on medicines and Sarawak no duty at all. It was agreed on a compromise whereby North Borneo reduced its duty to 5 percent and Sarawak imposed a duty of 5 percent.

Mr Hepburn then said that an opportunity would arise under Malaysia to look at the tariffs as compared with those in force in Malaya and he would note medicines for further examination.

He added that he could give no promise now that there would be a change in the duty and did not accept the statement that Western medicine was not readily available to the rural people.

LAND ACQUISITION QUERY

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Panas) asked the Minister for Natural Resources -

- * if he would explain the reasons for the delay in acquiring certain land in Kuching District which had been declared as likely to be needed for public purposes since 1960; and
- * whether Government would introduce a time limit for the acquisition or otherwise of such land.

Replying, Mr Teo Kui Seng said: "It is not entirely clear to what land in Kuching District the Honourable Member refers. Perhaps the Honourable Member has in mind the access road from the 4th Mile to the port at Tanah Puteh and the proposed Development area in the Pending peninsula.

"To enable full investigations to be undertaken particularly for development schemes, alignment of new roads, re-alignment of existing roads and so on, it is essential that a resolution is made, under Section 47 of the Land Code, that the land is likely to be needed for a public purpose.

"In many cases investigations must be detailed and take considerable time. This inevitably results in delays.

"Every effort is made to reduce these delays to a minimum and it is not the Government's wish to retain any land under Section 47 which it does not intend to acquire".

Legislation proposed

Mr Teo then referred to the Land Committee Report and the appointment of a Working Party under the chairmanship of Mr A.J.N. Richards to consider the implementation of the recommendations.

The Working Committee, he said, had proposed that the sections of the Land Code dealing with the land acquisition be replaced by a Land Acquisition Ordinance.

Consideration would be given to the introduction of a time limit for the acquisition of land when the legislation was drafted, he added.

Finally, Mr Teo commended to the House the Land Committee Report which, he said, had been published in October last year and approved by the Governor in Council in February this year — with certain reservations.

As a result, legislation had been drafted and because of its importance, it had been decided to send it to all district and divisional advisory councils for study.

He urged all members when they returned to their respective districts to advise local councillors to study the Report and the legislation carefully.

NAMING OF ROADS - POLICY NOT ALTERED

Government had not altered its policy of not naming public roads after Government officers while they were in service, said the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, in reply to a question by Mr Stephen Yong (Supp).

In a supplementary question, Mr Yong asked whether the Minister was aware that a road leading from the Serian/Simanggang Road to Pantu (Second Division) had been named after a serving Government Officer.

Inche Taib said he was well aware that this

road had been named after Mr J.T. Weekes (Acting Resident of the Second Division).

He explained that Mr Weekes himself had at first refused to have the road named after him but the local council insisted on it.

Inche Taib then explained that this was not a step in contravention of present Government policy. Roads either financed or maintained by a local authority could be named by that authority without consulting Government.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ALLEGATION REFUTED

An allegation of racial discrimination was refuted by the Chief Secretary, Mr F.D. Jakeway, when he defended a Bill providing compensation for seven induced, non-designated Government officers.

The allegation was made by Mr Charles Linang (Supp) who said that the Bill was to remedy "an act of racial discrimination perpetrated against fellow Commonwealth citizens who have come to serve this country when they are so badly needed".

In introducing the Bill the Chief Secretary said: "There are, seven officers at present serving in Sarawak whose appointments were either made or approved by the Secretary of State, and who are in receipt of inducement pay but who for varying reasons have not been accepted by the British Government for designation under the Overseas Service Aid Scheme.

"They therefore do not qualify for the compensation payable to their colleagues. The Government feels that this is inequitable and therefore seeks by this Bill to give them the same benefits as they would have received had they been so designated.

"At the same time Sarawak should not be called upon to foot a bill which should have been paid by Her Majesty's Government. Worse than the question of money is that in approving the Bill this House is in fact asked to remedy an act of racial discrimination perpetrated against fellow Commonwealth citizens who have come to serve this country when they are so badly needed".

Replying, Mr Jakeway said that Mr Linang "has been less than fair to the British Government in his castigation of them for racial discrimination and for parsimony and explained:

"In the first place I did say I hoped that these officers were not all appointed by the Secretary of State. In fact only two of them, I believe, were appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the time.

"The others, their appointments were approved by him as is necessary in appointments at certain levels in the service though the appointments were in fact made and the recruitment was made by this Government.

"Secondly, it was not until 1961 that the

British Government assumed responsibility for Inducement Pay. Until then all inducement pay was paid by this Government. That was a generous gesture when responsibility for inducement pay was taken over and has relieved this Government for a very considerable financial burden.

"But it so happens that in the definition of a designated officer these seven officers did not fall within the definition.

"I can assure Hon. members that this Government has made representations on this but the decision has been taken that they are not designated and it is for the British Government to decide.

"They are paying the money and it is no good us going back any more. We have made our case and it has not been accepted. And it is therefore a question whether or not these officers are left out in the cold and receive nothing or whether we will make good the difference and that is the purpose of this Bill.

Not ungenerous

"But I do suggest it is scarcely fair to accuse the British Government of being ungenerous in this matter when they say they have paid the inducement pay and the compensation for loss of careers for a vast majority of persons who are in receipt of inducement pay. It is just these seven who have not fallen within the definition and I would also say that there is no question whatsoever of racial discrimination in this matter.

"The fact that they are Asians is entirely beside the point. There are a number of Asians who are receiving their compensation from the British Government but these of course necessarily must be Asians because it is a question of a definition of being in receipt of inducement pay which causes them to be disqualified, but I would like to disabuse the Hon. Member of his feeling that all Asians are being discriminated against because that is certainly not so".

* The seven officers are — Messrs H.G. Raj, D.R. Bayly, Chang Fuk Wah, L.S.V. Murthy, C.V. Subramaniam, Tseng Wah Hin and Wang Teh Tsing.

COUNCIL NEGRI PASSES 'PRIVILEGES AND POWERS' LEGISLATION

Legislation to determine and regulate the privileges, immunities and powers of Council Negri and of its members was passed at last week's meeting of the Council.

In introducing the Bill, the Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, said: "When I arrived here in 19581 was very forcibly struck by what seemed to me after experience in certain other legislatures, of which I had been a member, the somewhat muted nature of the proceedings of this Council.

"Few members spoke and sometimes those who did seemed to do so almost apologetically. This state of affairs had, I am glad to say, steadily diminished over the years and with the advent of party politics and party government, any remnant of this tendency will undoubtedly disappear, and the tempo of debate will quicken and with it, outside interest in the proceedings of this Council will also quicken.

"In such circumstances it is sensible that the privileges and powers of this Council should be safeguarded by statute so that you, Mr Speaker, and the officers of this Council will be able to ensure that freedom of debate and of the proceedings of this Council prevails".

The Attorney-General then went on to outline the provisions of the Bill.

Other Bills connected with the legislature provided for the remuneration, allowances and privileges of the Members of Council Negri and remuneration of the Speaker.

Legislation providing for the remuneration of the Chief Minister and other Supreme Council members and for the salaries, allowances and privileges of the Chairman and members of the Public Service Commission was also passed.

The legislature also approved the Civil List of the Governor of Sarawak providing for a Privy Purse of \$48,000 a year and a Duty Allowance of \$12,000 a year.

Eight Bills passed

Eight other Bills were passed by Council Negri. They were:

The Widows and Orphans Pensions (Amendment) Bill, the main object of which is to substitute new Tables for the commutation of pensions for the tables now existing in the Principal Ordinance.

The effect of the new tables will enable beneficiaries to receive larger pensions without requiring any larger contributions to be made either by the contributors or by the Government.

The Native Officials (Retiring Allowances and Gratuities) Bill making statutory the payment of retiring allowances to Temenggongs, Datus, Pengarahs, Penghulus and Tua Kampongs. Provision of such allowances was laid down in a Standing Order before this.

The Pensions (Amendment) Bill seeking a number of amendments to the principal ordinance, including:-

- * deletion of the right of a woman officer to retire at the age of 45. (A corollary to the amendment was made in 1960 under which women officers were put on the same terms of service as regards compulsory retirement as men officers);
- * deletion of that section giving the Secretary of State the right to call on a pensioner under 50 years of age to accept employment on conditions - no worse than those he enjoyed just before his retirement;
- * a new clause providing that - if an officer dies while on probation his case will be treated as if he had been "confirmed in his post"

provision for the payment of death gratuities for non-pensionable officers. (Formerly such gratuities were dealt with by administrative regulations);
a clause increasing the minimum annual pension payable to a widow of an officer who dies on duty as a result of injuries - from \$125 to \$500;

* new regulations for marriage gratuities for women officers and a new regulation for retiring allowances for officers who are non-pensionable and are not covered by Provident Fund or any other superannuation scheme.

The Statute Revision Bill repealing obsolete legislation and amending certain other legislation in minor respects;

The National Registration (Amendment) Bill aimed at seeing that only "permanent residents" of Sarawak are registered under the Ordinance;

The Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill allowing an officer to opt for the salaries tax

payable at the end of his gratuity or deferred pay arising from or payable at the end of any contract or employment to be spread over the years during which it was earned;

The Government Securities Bill providing for the continued protection of the status of a Sarawak loan raised on the London market; and

The Supplementary Appropriation (1962) Bill giving legislative sanction to the expenditure incurred over that provided for in the 1961 Appropriate Ordinance. The sum involved totalled to just under \$9 million.

CALL TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL UNITY

A stirring call to strengthen national unity was made by opposition and Government leaders at the adjournment on Friday, September 6, of the Council Negri's first sitting of the elected legislature.

The Council adjourned *sine die* after a three-day sitting.

An Opposition leader, Abang Haji Mustapha who is chairman of the Party Negara Sarawak, congratulating those re-elected as well as the new councillors, hoped that they would help maintain "the traditionally harmonious atmosphere" of the House, and help "promote the progress of this House in its national undertakings".

Said the Datu Bandar: "As the longest continuous serving member of this Council, who had started my career since September 1941, I would now express Sarawak's grateful thanks and appreciation to the valuable and remarkable services and guidance that the British Government had rendered Sarawak".

The Datu Bandar added that he was—and he believed that the members of the House were—happy to see "that in accordance with the system of parliamentary democracy which all of us aspirants uphold and maintain at all times, this House now has two important fundamental institutions of parliamentary democracy—the Government side and the Opposition side".

Congratulating the Government members on their success in forming the first government of Sarawak, the Datu Bandar said: "we all hope that you would at all times be in a position to plan, deliberate and execute your various undertakings and obligations to the best national advantage and interests which you vowed to maintain and uphold in your political manifestoes".

'Sons of Sarawak'

Assuring the Government of the co-operation and support of his party, the Party Negara Sarawak, the Datu Bandar said:

"It is also my wish to say that it is one of the basic policies of my Party, the Party Negara Sarawak, to work first and foremost, for the attainment and preservation of the country's national interests. In achieving our ideals towards such national interests, we must instil in ourselves the feeling that we are the sons of Sarawak, regardless of whatever race, religion, colour, creed or political affiliations we may belong to.

"We cannot afford, at this stage of nation building, to allow ourselves to be swayed away from our pursued courses by racial, communal or religious diversions".

Turning to the Chinese members in the House, the Datu Bandar said: "To my Chinese friends who are honoured as being representatives of their electorate in this House I would give this assurance - we have trust and confidence in you as our brother Sarawakians, and we will work alongside you—but it is up to you to show to our other brother Sarawakians, your undivided loyalty to Sarawak.

"Show to all Sarawakians that you are an integral part of us and Sarawak, and you will no doubt have our word of honour that we and Sarawak are part and parcel of you.

"To those of your people who had been misled, knowingly or otherwise, into putting their trust in certain ideologies considered foreign or unwanted for Sarawak—also your country—I would say, discard your errors, present or past. It is never too late to make amends.

The Datu Bandar ended his appeal to the Chinese by saying: "Help us, and by doing so, help yourselves to make our Sarawak the traditionally happy, harmonious and peaceful country as we have together known it for over a century. Make our Sarawak a land of pride in Malaysia, and help us to make Sarawakians a respected group of people in the eyes of our other Malaysian brothers and sisters".

CHIEF MINISTER - THANKS DATU BANDAR

Speaking immediately after the Datu Bandar, the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, thanked him for his "commendable address" and said: "This

House will always need the advice and guidance of an elder statesman of the calibre of Honourable the Datu Bandar who has more than 20 years of continuous service as member of this council, dating back to the reign of the third and last Rajah Brooke.

"In spite of the fact that he is on the Opposition side, we on the Government side would always consider him a true Sarawakian who would be ever ready to place national interests above party politics when issues concerning the nation as a whole are discussed by this House".

The Chief Minister then went on to thank the Datu Bandar "and his honourable colleagues for the unwavering stand they had taken on the Malaysia issue", and said: "On Wednesday, when this House discussed the motion I proposed regarding the Malaysia date, the Datu Bandar clearly demonstrated the line he and his party colleagues would follow whenever national issues are discussed and decided by this House".

He added: "I can assure this House that the Alliance would endeavour to keep all the promises it made in its election manifesto. I am also very grateful for the assurances of support and co-operation which the Datu Bandar has promised us should we need them, for the promotion of national interests and public welfare.

Assuring the Datu Bandar that the Government side "would always give the greatest consideration and support" for all policies which he and his colleagues might help formulate for the promotion of social, political and economical interests of Sarawak, the Chief Minister said:

"The Honourable the Datu Bandar has just said that in achieving our ideals we must adapt ourselves and instil into ourselves the feeling that we are all true sons of Sarawak.

"His advice that all Sarawakians should, regardless of religion, colour or creed or political affiliations should work for the common good of Sarawak has come at the right time.

"I join with the Honourable gentleman in appealing to all those who regard Sarawak as their true home — especially our Chinese brethren—to change their outlook and throw in their lot with the other races of Sarawak to continue to work for the country's upliftment.

"As the Honourable Datu Bandar has said we have confidence and trust in our Chinese brethren. It is untrue to say that we regard the Chinese as more exploiters of the indigenous people.

"In Malaya and in many other parts of South East Asia the Chinese had reached

their present status through their own enterprise, industry and perseverance; we admire these characteristics.

"The Chinese had proved that they are good and loyal citizens of the countries of their adoption, especially in Malaya. And I am sure that our Chinese brethren in Sarawak too will prove that they are not second to those in Sabah, Brunei or Singapore in this respect".

The Chief Minister then appealed "to all our Chinese brethren in Sarawak, wherever they may be, not to lend their ears to false rumours that are now being circulated by certain subversive elements whose aim it is to disrupt the peace of this country".

He said: "If through mistaken youthful zeal some of our Chinese young men and women had been led astray, it is the duty of those who wish them well to see to it that they soon mend their ways and return to their homes instead of losing themselves in foreign lands amongst the prophets who preach false ideologies".

Stressing that it is never too late to make amends the Chief Minister said: "Sarawak had always been a peaceful, happy and harmonious land. Let us strive to keep the country we love always happy and harmonious".

Foreign ideologies

He added: "I say again to those who disagree with us on the main issue of Malaysia, let us not make it a racial issue. This had been the cause of many Chinese youths being led astray. This Government considers that it is its bounden duty to ferret out and bring to book those culprits who are continuing to preach foreign ideologies to our students in the schools.

"One of the promises that the Alliance made in its election manifesto was that it will promote the safety and security of the people of Sarawak and weed out the undesirable characters.

"We will not allow the rot to spread. And I say once again, let those who continue to subvert our Chinese youth, beware".

Recalling his recent statement "that the subversive elements in the Chinese community will be weeded out and brought to book," the Chief Minister said that there was an attempt to interpret it as a threat to the Chinese community as a whole "by those who are bent on prolonging the agony".

He continued: "Therefore, we the Dayaks, the Malays, the Melanaus, the Kayans and Kenyahs and all other indigenous peoples of Sarawak, who had lived in peace and amity with the Chinese in our midst all these years,

appeal to you as one body to help us found a better, free and happy Sarawak for our own children, and children's children".

Finally, the Chief Minister urged leaders of the Opposition not to carry the heat of the Council Chamber outside.

He ended: "Should I repeat that the Government side looks upon the Opposition as great and able leaders. Though we might continue to disagree on several issues, I fervently hope that when national issues crop up, we would be able to sink our differences and get together to strive for the good of the country in which we live".

In conclusion, the Chief Minister thanked the Speaker, Mr A.R. Snelus "for the efficient way you had conducted the deliberations of this Council and your indulgence at our omissions and commissions".

CHAN SIAW HEE BLAMES GOVERNMENT

The next speaker, Mr Chan Siaw Hee, (Supp), talked of the importance of preserving racial harmony, and blamed official sources for putting out what he called "pernicious racial propaganda".

Mr Chan began by saying that Sarawak was a multi-racial country and although its people of several races had been living peacefully together for more than 100 years under the White Rajahs, and then under the British Rule, they did not feel as one nation.

He said the reasons for this was partly due to their different customs and tradition, partly due to difficulty of communication, "as well as lack of encouragement by the colonial government".

Colonial governments in most parts of the world found it easier to divide and rule to maintain their position, Mr Chan alleged.

He added: "Recently, some people including a very senior government official, raised the alarm of the danger of a possible racial conflict in this country. If we keep our sense of proportion and balance and look at things dispassionately we will see that such an alarmist report is possibly groundless and much exaggerated. Those who make such alarming reports only create tension, foster feelings of mistrust among the different races, and undermine the friendship and harmony among them".

Mr Chan went on to say that in the recent elections "a party within the Sarawak Alliance tried to appeal to racial sentiments by telling the Chinese that if they do not vote for that particular party, there would be no

representative of the Chinese in Council Negri. This unwise statement undoubtedly gave the Chinese community an impression that the Malays and Dayaks are unfriendly to them".

"Another instance" Mr Chan said, "is the speech made recently by the Resident of the Second Division to Chinese leaders in which he said 'Dayak and other policemen have been injured. I warn you clearly. The Dayak people will not stand for it in the Third Division. If there are riots they will not stand for it in the Second Division. The Dayak and Chinese have been friendly together for many years, but now the patience of the Dayaks is getting to an end'.

He added: "This sort of speech is so suggestive psychologically and can only have the effect of rousing the Dayaks against the Chinese. If he really values the peace of the country he should not drag the Dayaks into his speech when he appealed to the Chinese leaders for the good behaviour of Chinese youths. Why should the Chinese, or anybody else for the matter, stand for such unruly behaviour? The question of the riots should not be turned into a racial issue and it is not conducive to racial harmony to talk on those lines".

Mr Chan then charged that not long ago "a few leaders of a certain party sowed the seeds of racial discord in some parts of the country by telling the Ulu people that the Chinese are exploiting the natives".

He said: "In fact one of the local councils ceased to renew the licences of Chinese boat hawkers. Actions such as these are not conducive to good racial relations".

Continued Mr Chan: "Even the Information Office has seen fit to identify the Chinese with communism by changing the official name of the CCO from Clandestine Communist Organisation to 'Chinese Communist Organisation'. This is pernicious racial propaganda".

'Someone worried'

Continuing Mr Chan said: "Someone worried that if the Chinese do not wish to take part in the Malaysia celebration, it will arouse displeasure of the other races. This also is a pretext to encourage other races to go against the Chinese. Because I do not believe the Malays and Dayaks will be so unreasonable as to ask the Chinese to do things which are against their will. As you know, the refusal to participate in the Malaysia celebration cannot be interpreted as an act of disrespect of their

wishes.

"Racial harmony can only be preserved, if no provocation or instigation is allowed. I am of the opinion that if the Alliance Government has the sincere intention to see racial harmony they should first cease to put out any propaganda which is not pertinent to the issue.

"Secondly they should cease to single out the Chinese and blame them for the unfavourable events which may happen, and thirdly recognise and acknowledge the fact that the mass of Chinese are loyal to this country".

Mr Chan went on to say that he strongly believed that no one who was loyal to this country would be prepared to destroy what harmony that existed in this country. One must be realistic; there would be no peace if one of the major races in this country was made to feel cornered and frustrated. He then appealed "to all leaders of all races to keep their heads and reject any malicious rumours or propaganda designed to disrupt the peace and harmony in this country".

Malaysia celebrations national not racial

The Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong replying to Mr Chan Siaw Hee said that he would like to draw his attention to the comments made by the Datu Bandar and the Chief Minister on this subject.

He said: "I think they have spoken very eloquently, very forcefully and very clearly and I hope what they have said have dispelled completely the fears of the honourable members.

"I hope that when the honourable member speaks about the participation of Chinese in the coming Malaysia celebrations he is not deliberately laying the groundwork for the Chinese in this country not to participate in the festivities.

"May I also remind the honourable member that the celebration on the 16th for the Malaysia Day celebrations is a matter of national issue and not a matter of public issue or even racial or communal issue.

"It is our fervent hope, and very sincere desire, that all the Chinese in this country on that day show their sincerity and co-operation, and their love for Sarawak by coming and participating in the celebrations".

'Links with the past'

Mr Ong Kee Hui, chairman of Sarawak United Peoples' Party, referring to the speech

by the Datu Bandar said that they had been fortunate in having been able to retain some links with the past, and hoped that the friendly atmosphere of the House would remain.

Said Mr Ong: "I cannot claim to be a member of such old standing as my honourable friend, the Datu Bandar, but I would like on this first sitting of the newly constituted Council, and as one who has sat here since 1955 in four successive councils with two changes in the constitution of Sarawak, to make a few observations on the work of this Council".

He added: "When I was first sworn in as a nominated member from the First Division taking the place of my own uncle who sat in the House before me, there were only 11 unofficial members sitting on this side of the House.

"Of those 11 members at that time, as I look round the House today, I recognise beside myself four other honourable members, who have survived three successive reconstitutions of the House, namely the Hon'ble Temenggong Jugah, the Hon'ble Abang Haji Mustapha Datu Bandar, the Hon'ble Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau, and the Hon'ble Abang Haji Openg (the sole surviving standing member).

"These honourable members had sat in this Council "much longer than myself. Of the others, we welcome back my old friend the Hon'ble Abang Haji Abdulrahim and we will have as our new speaker, when we next meet Dr M. Sockalingam who was also with us at that time.

"Of members on the other side (the official side of the House) at that time in 1955 you, Mr Speaker, (Mr Snelus) is the only one with us today. As an official your membership was naturally broken by the changes of office but we have seen a good deal of you in this House, you have in fact presided at the meeting of this Council on numerous sittings and it must give you, Sir, great satisfaction to be able now to preside as the first Speaker of the House under the new constitution".

Mr Ong said that he had spoken of these things "because every legislature has its tradition, and in times of great changes it is vital to forge our links with the past, which like an anchor prevents us from going adrift and getting on the rocks".

He went on to say that they were fortunate in that they had so far been able to retain some links with the past in the persons of old members of the House. It was his earnest hope, that although times had changed the tradition, "the very friendly atmosphere of

this House will remain".

Continued Mr Ong: "We on the Opposition benches will play our part in maintaining this tradition and the friendly atmosphere that prevailed. We can only, however, succeed if the other side of the House play the game. Two ministers of the Government had taunted the Opposition with a homily on sportsmanship.

Parliamentary democracy

"Their advice is superfluous as they will find very good sportsmen on this side of the House and some of us have even played cricket though none of us have taken to golf, a game for aspiring politicians in Malaysia. We can assure our friends on the other side that we will not indulge in body line bowling if they do not infringe the rules of the game themselves.

"Parliamentary democracy, like cricket, is something introduced to us by our British masters — I am not using the word 'masters' in a disparaging sense, but as believers in this ideal of government, it is for all of us here to make it work".

Mr Ong then said that the Government must realize that "although they command a majority they cannot afford to ignore the Opposition. To completely ride rough shod over Opposition views and turn this House into a rubber stamp would not only sour the Opposition and destroy that friendly atmosphere which we all value, but would also destroy the faith of the people in the democratic system of government and play into the hands of those who advocate different ideals of government and a different way of life".

Added Mr Ong: "The Opposition, therefore, would expect Government to come to this House more often to account for its stewardship of the people's affairs. And here I would say to the Opposition I very much regret that the sitting of this Council had been fixed and postponed without any indication to the Opposition.

"Further, there may be matters of national interest that are above party politics and in such matters the Opposition would expect to be consulted by Government".

Mr Ong then touched on the civil service and said that outside the House, "if the tender plant of parliamentary democracy is to survive, it is vital that the independence of the civil service must be preserved and that within limits prescribed by security needs, political activities be allowed to develop unhampered. An impartial non-aligned civil service must be made to serve the people without discrimination of their political affiliations".

Mr Ong ended by paying tribute to Sir Alexander Waddell and Mr Jakeway. He said: "The Opposition was not invited or given the opportunity of associating themselves with the compliments paid. Mr Jakeway being present I would like on behalf of my colleagues to put on record our appreciation of the signal service that he had rendered to Sarawak during a very difficult period in her history.

"We offer him our heartiest congratulations on his appointment Governor of Fiji Islands. We will miss his wise guidance as our President in the Council. We wish him and Mrs Jakeway every success and all future happiness".

Mr Ong also paid tribute to the Speaker, Mr Snelus, for the many years of devoted service to Sarawak.

He said: "Your departure, when the time comes, will mark the passing of two eras in the annals of Sarawak, as there will only be a few left who had served Sarawak since the time of the Rajahs of Sarawak".

The Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, then addressing Mr Snelus said that he would like to associate himself with the sentiments and wishes expressed by Mr Ong Kee Hui in connection with his service to this country.

REVIEW DETAINEES' CASES, URGES YONG

Mr Stephen K.T. Yong, Secretary-General of Supp, in his speech referred to the measures taken by Government in dealing with subversive elements and urged Government to set up an independent body "to review the cases of all detainees so that questionable cases might be brought to open trial in a court of law and the rest released forthwith".

Mr Yong said that they had been told in the past that certain repressive measures were taken by Government "because these measures were necessary for maintaining of public security and law and order".

He added: "We can understand that at times of national emergency that the deprivation of democratic rights may be necessary. However, if we sincerely believe in democracy, we must declare that such measures are an exception to the rule and must be of a temporary nature. Unless we take this attitude, we may find that in the end we are destroying democracy in the course of trying to save it.

"Many people were detained following the Brunei Revolt in December last. There were those who either have taken up arms or actively supported the armed revolt and those who did nothing of this sort but were accused of being subversive elements".

Continuing Mr Yong said that the curious things was that whereas they had seen that many, if not all of the persons who had advocated violence, had been released, the others of the second type were not. He added: "One would have thought that the sensible thing to do was to release the ones who have not or will not likely to resort to violence. Why was that not done?"

"I am not trying to belittle the danger of subversion, but it should be pointed out that in so far as every political party desiring to have political control of the country to the exclusion of its rivals must, when so campaigning, be regarded as indulging in a form of subversion. The difference may be between open campaign and a clandestine one".

Mr Yong went on to say that it should be realised that those people who were detained were suffering great mental torture. They were forcibly separated from their families, they had to give up their businesses, resulting in many cases great hardship to their dependants.

Although there was an Advisory Com-

mittee to which they could object to their detention, there were no adequate facilities for them to prove their innocence. They could not question their accusers nor could they find out the grounds on which the charges were made against them. They had not "a chance in hell".

Finally, he said: "Our minister talks of battle of ideas but I prefer to call it a battle for men's mind. Surely all that have been done to deal with one's adversary of this type is not the proper method.

"I would urge that all the cases of these detainees must be reviewed by an independent body with executive powers and the questionable cases brought to open trial in a Court of law and the rest released forthwith. The Government can do so as an act of amnesty".

Chief Secretary replies

The Chief Secretary, Mr F.D. Jakeway, replying to Mr Yong, said this was the last occasion on which he was sitting in the Council Negri.

Referring to the question raised by Mr Yong why detainees should be kept without trial, Mr Jakeway said that it was an exceptional measure taken at an abnormal time, and hoped that the abnormality would soon disappear.

Mr Jakeway went on to say that it was not until the outbreak of actual violence that strict security measures were introduced. He said that Mr Yong chose to ignore the situation in spite of the fact that it had been pointed out to the public in numerous Government publications.

He added that there was evidence that a secret organisation was operating in this country, but if Mr Yong still maintained there was no secret organisation then he was afraid that Mr Yong "must be completely, utterly and wilfully blind or much more foolish than I can ever give him credit for".

Mr Jakeway went on to say that it must be obvious to everybody that there was a secret organisation. It also must be obvious that if it was a secret organisation it had reasons for being secret. It had all the difference between evolution — which is the parliamentary method of conducting political affairs — and revolution.

Added Mr Jakeway: "The party of which the honourable member is a member is a party, which advocates — I am glad to say — progress, truth and evolutionary process, but there are elements in our midst which do not.

"They are out deliberately for revolution, and revolution with violence. And it is the plain duty of the Government to see that they are not allowed to operate".

Mr Jakeway then pointed out that a considerable number of the rebels who were arrested after the abortive revolt had in fact been prosecuted because they committed criminal offences, and were serving prison sentences.

The others were there, and as had been said before, would have to be there until the

Government was satisfied that the danger of a revolution could be disregarded.

Mr Jakeway added that of all people who could assist the Government Mr Yong and his colleagues were able more than anybody else. But if they openly continued to express sympathy with the alleged criminals — which these misguided people were — then they were precisely doing the opposite.

Mr Jakeway ended by saying: "I would most sincerely, as my final testimony, appeal to him to ask him to take it that way, and to realise that if they will help to turn these people away from their revolutionary ideas then we have a much better chance to return to a normal situation".

PLEA FOR AIRFIELD AT SEBUYAU

First to speak at the Adjournment was Pengarah Storey anak Ngumbang, to Ulu Sebuyau, Batang Lupar (Second Division). He wanted to know the reason why the plan to build an airfield at Sebuyau had been dropped, and requested Government to reconsider it for the following reasons:

* Firstly, Government was at the moment planning to provide facilities and bring about improvements to the rural areas so that the rural people could enjoy the same benefits as enjoyed by those living in the town areas;

Secondly, Sebuyau was a district with a population of about 7,000 and was a swampy area situated between Kuching and Simanggang.

Thirdly, it was impossible to build a road across such a wide area of swamp without spending considerable sums of money. One of the ways by which communication facilities could be accorded to the people of Sebuyau was by building an airfield there.

The Pengarah said that the existence of an airfield would enable people to easily and

speedily go anywhere at any time without being hindered "by big waves during the Landas".

Answering the Pengarah, the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, said that the dropping of the Sebuyau airfield from the national 1964 to 1968 Development Plan was due to the fact that the first draft of the plan had not yet been considered by the Government. It was therefore too early to say which project was being included or excluded in the 1964 to 1968 Development Plan.

Speaker compliments members

In adjourning the Council, Mr A.R. Snelus, the Speaker, said that the meeting of the Council, had proceeded "remarkably smoothly", and "rather more smoothly in accordance with procedure than I have anticipated".

He then congratulated the new members on the speed and ease with which they had adapted themselves to the procedure of the Council.

MORE MONEY FOR INTERNAL SECURITY

A sum of over \$430,000 for internal security measures was approved by Council Negri on Friday, September 6, when it sanctioned a total sum of about \$5,328,000 as additional expenditure for this year.

Other main items in the schedule included:-

- \$640,000 to meet the increases in salaries of the Constabulary;
- \$235,700 for increased expenditure under transport and communications in connection with the expansion of the Field Force;
- \$204,000 to meet the allowances of Auxiliary Constables who have been called out for active service;

- \$253,000 as an additional grant to the Kuching Water Board so that it can extend its supplies beyond the present boundaries; and \$384,000 as a loan to the Board for the same purpose; and
- over \$200,000 for additional plant and equipment for the Public Works Department.

The Council also approved additional expenditure amounting to about \$719,100 incurred in 1962.

From September 29 to October 5, 1963

Council Negri meets in Kuching

SENATORS ELECTED



*Temenggong
Oyong*



*Datuk Tuanku
Bujang*

Council Negri, at its meeting held in Kuching on Friday, elected two of the country's leading personalities to the Federal Senate — Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau, paramount chief of the Kenyahs and Alliance member of the legislature, and Datu Tuanku Bujang bin Tuanku Haji Othman, well known Malay leader and head of the Barisan Ra'ayat Jati Sarawak. Two other Senators from Sarawak will be nominated by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The House also postponed the election of 24 Members to the House of Representatives because the State Government had not yet received formal approval of the electoral

procedure from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

The Government expressed regret for the delay and the leader of the Opposition Sarawak United Peoples' Party, Mr Ong Kee Hui, called on the House "to record our protest to whoever is responsible for all this unaccountable delay". This received applause from both sides of the House.

'Insufficient time'

The legislature, which met for two days, spent most of Thursday morning's meeting deliberating on the question of the Senate elections.

After one nomination had been proposed by a Party Negara Sarawak Councillor, the Speaker, Dr M. Sockalingam, asked for the production of a statement from the nominee accepting the nomination.

He was told that it had not been obtained because notice of this was given only the day before the meeting, giving insufficient time for the statement to be obtained.

At this stage the leader of Party Negara Sarawak, the Datu Bandar, Abang Haji Mustapha, rose to complain about the time given for the compliance of the procedure of nominations for both elections.

COUNCIL NEGRI WELCOMES FIRST SPEAKER

Speeches welcoming Sarawak's first Speaker of Council Negri were made by Government and Opposition leaders when the legislature met in Kuching on Thursday.

First to speak was the leader of the Government side, the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan.

Said Mr Ningkan: "We are very happy indeed, to see a Sarawakian in the Chair, for this occasion marks the end of colonial rule and the beginning of an era wherein we have a Government that is truly of the people, by the people and for the people".

Mr Ningkan spoke of "the invaluable services" Dr Sockalingam has rendered to the people of Sarawak in the field of social welfare and also in the old Council, and paid tribute to his "wide experience and knowledge of the finer points of parliamentary practice and procedure.

The Datu Bandar, Abang Haji Mustapha, chairman of Party Negara Sarawak, assured the Speaker of their "constant respect, confidence and trust" and said "Sarawak as a whole, should be well proud to have our Honourable friend, Dr Sockalingam, as its first Speaker in view of his well-known personality and creditable past experience as a former Member of this House in the by-gone colonial regime".

Asserting that Dr Sockalingam "could have made an ideal Opposition Leader if he had stood for election and returned in the last General Elections", the Datu Bandar said: "But since Providence would not have it as such, my friends and I are, however, very confident that he will, doubtlessly, make a good and able Speaker of the House".

Utmost impartiality

The Datu Bandar added: "Nevertheless, knowing full well that you are not a member nor affiliated to any existing political party, we have every confidence that you would always avail and preserve your exalted position by executing your onerous tasks in this House with utmost impartiality and justice in your role as 'referee' to both sides of this House".

Ong recalls the past

Mr Ong Kee Hui leader of the Opposition, and chairman of Sarawak United Peoples' Party recalled the days "when we have sat together as unofficial members of Council Negri on this side of the house and engaged in the "battle of words" and pitted our wits against a solid block of officials on the other

side".

He hoped that the experience Dr Sockalingam had gained as a member of Council Negri and as a member of the Supreme Council would stand him in good stead in his present office.

Mr Ong said that the people of Sarawak owed much to Dr Sockalingam for his work and untiring efforts in the field of social and community service and was pleased that his work had been recognised not only by the honours which had been conferred upon him before but also by his appointment as Speaker.

SPEAKER'S REPLY

Thanking the speakers, Dr Sockalingam said: "I am very conscious of the honour conferred upon me by my appointment as the first Speaker of this Council, and I am deeply grateful for the very kind expressions of welcome which have been addressed to me this morning.

"I am equally conscious of the responsibility of the duties which will fall upon me and I trust that I may earn your confidence, both in me and the office, because confidence in the impartiality of the Speaker is an indispensable condition of the successful working of the Council.

"I desire to add that in the course of my duties in serving this Council I shall always be ready and willing to give advice to any Honourable Member who seeks to consult me privately upon any action he may propose to take in the Council or upon any questions of order which are likely to arise in its proceedings".

Datu Abang Haji Openg congratulated

In his communication to the House the Speaker announced the resignation of Datu Abang Haji Openg as the Standing Member owing to his appointment as Head of State.

He said that on behalf of the Council he had thanked Datu Abang Haji Openg for his services and also congratulated him on his new appointment (applause).

The Speaker also said that he had ruled out of order some of the questions sent in by Members because they touched on Federal matters.

He drew attention to Standing Order No. 20 which lays down that questions asked must be connected with the business of the Council for which Government is responsible.

He hoped that Members would keep this in mind when asking future questions.

ONG CONCERNED ABOUT RULED OUT QUESTIONS

The subject of questions in Council Negri cropped up again on Friday, when the leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui, referred to it in his adjournment speech.

Said Mr Ong: "I am very concerned at the Government's inability to deal with matters of public interest which form the subject of questions from the Opposition benches.

Recalling that at the first meeting of the Council the reply given to a question regarding the participation of school children in the lantern procession was prefaced by the remarks that education was a Federal subject, Mr Ong said:

"This was a very odd reply because not only has the lantern procession no direct bearing on education as such but it is known that in the interim period the State still retains control over education.

"At this sitting I submitted two questions one on the treatment of political detainees and one on the confiscation of shotguns from the Chinese community. Both questions cannot be answered because they concern security — a Federal subject.

"Another member on this side of the House asked a question as to what steps Government proposed to take to protect the property, life and limb of the people of Sarawak in view of the recent cases of murder and gang robbery which have been reported in the newspapers. Such a question was also regarded as something that concerns the Federal authority. Such treatment of important and urgent matters of great concern to the people will not inspire public confidence".

Mr Ong then alleged that there was "something radically wrong if matters of public interest cannot be discussed here, and one has to take up in the Federal House matters which are only of interest to Sarawak and not of the least bit of concern to any other states".

He then urged that serious consideration should be given to amending Standing Orders at the next sitting of the House.

He added: "I would also, if I may, say this to the Government: "The special safeguards which are given to Sarawak are the result of many hours and months of negotiation, and it is the duty of those now in charge of the State to ensure that not only are these safeguards preserved, but also that advantage is taken of Federal powers delegated to the State.

"The tendency to take the line of least

resistance and rely on the Federal Government would lead to a situation like that illustrated by the old story of the Arab and his camel". Mr Ong then related the story for the edification of those who had not heard it.

Matter to be referred

Replying, the Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, said that they would certainly bear Mr Ong Kee Hui's remarks in mind on the question of asking questions in the House "concerning matters for which the Federal Government is responsible".

He added: "There may be some difficulties in amending Standing Orders to give sufficient power to give an effective answer, because the matter being the responsibility of another Government, (Federal) it may well be unwilling that this Government should commit that Government without prior consultation.

"The only answer which can, in many cases, be given is that the matter will be referred to the authorities responsible. That may be possible, and it would have to be done in consultation with the Federal authorities.

"I am sure, Mr Ong will agree that this Government has acted entirely properly in regard to questions as regards Standing Orders as they at this moment exist. I suggest that it would be a grave mistake for this Council, whether this side or the other side, to urge that Standing Orders be ignored or broken deliberately".

Chan Siaw Hee speaks on citizenship

The second speaker on the adjournment, Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp), spoke on citizenship. He said that since Malaysia was first discussed, the question of citizenship was exercising the minds of all non-indigenous peoples. It was a most important issue and was even now causing a great deal of anxiety to a good many people.

Said Mr Chan: "A recent announcement by Government that the Federal Government has delegated to the Chief Minister of Sarawak the power to revoke the citizenship of people in Sarawak is not reassuring.

"This news comes even before the process of registration of citizenship has been set in motion, and therefore people begin to wonder what the purpose is behind the act of

delegating this power to the Chief Minister. Even before the benefits of citizenship are conferred on these entitled to acquire them, power is given to the Chief Minister to deprive people of such benefits.

"There is a good deal of speculation as to why the Federal Government is in such a hurry to provide facilities for the cancellation of citizenship to the Chief Minister. It certainly gives him the weapon which he can use against his political opponents, perhaps those who have struggled hard for the independence of this country, and may be trade unionists who have criticised the Government and have been actively involved in political activities. If such is the object of the exercise, it must be condemned as this the surest way of killing parliamentary democracy".

The Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, replying said: "I would ask that he (Mr Chan) reads that Order" again, and I think he would find that it only applies to proceedings which were pending before Malaysia Day. So far as I am aware no proceedings of that sort were pending in Sarawak and the Order would not, therefore, apply to us.

"I think it had a specific purpose and it included a rather wider range than was entirely necessary for that purpose. I do not think he need have any worries on that score, because I think I am right in saying there were no proceedings pending in Sarawak for the deprivation of citizenship.

"It is, of course, appreciated by this Government and by the Federal Government that deprivation of a person's citizenship is an extremely serious step to take.

"The number of cases which have occurred are comparatively rare, and I think, in the future will continue to be comparatively rare. As Mr Chan has pointed out there are other means of punishing a citizen who misbehaves".

Clause (6) of Article 28A in the Malaysian Constitution.

Senators elected

He was supported by Mr Ong Kee Hui but the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, considered that the election should go ahead. He had actually made a nomination when the Speaker broke in and asked the Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, if he would like to clarify the situation.

Mr Pike said that the House could postpone the election but pointed out that there were two distinct elections before the House

— one to the Senate and the other to the House of Representatives.

He said that the rules of the election of parliamentarians had not yet received the approval of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and could not be proceeded with that morning.

The Speaker then adjourned the House and on the resumption, after discussions, called upon the Attorney-General to explain the procedure for elections to the Senate'. When this was done he adjourned the meeting until the following morning.

Meeting Resumed

When the meeting resumed on Friday morning, the Speaker, Dr M. Sockalingam, announced that the State Government had so far not received approval from His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong regarding the procedure for election to the House of Representatives and directed that the election of the Senators be proceeded with.

Here Mr Ong Kee Hui rose to question the advisability of election the Senators in view of what the Speaker had said.

He added: "Some members of the House feel most strongly about this delay over approval of the regulations prescribing the elections of Members of the House of Representatives. They would like to record their protest against this delay.

"Some of us feel that as a form of protest we might not like to proceed with Item 2 (election of Senators). I do not know what the other members of the House feel, but that is what some of us here feel.

The Datu Bandar, Abang Haji Mustapha supported Mr Ong's remarks but the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, proposed they should go ahead because the Senate election had no connection with the other.

Mr Ong's motion was then put to the vote and lost by 10 votes to 28.

The election of Senators then went ahead and three nominations proposed.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen, seconded by Abang Othman bin Moasili (both Party Negara Sarawak), proposed Mr Austin Jaga, a Land Dayak and vice chairman of his Party.

The Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, seconded by Inche Abdul Taib (Minister for Works and Communications), proposed Datu Tuanku Bujang and Temenggong Jugah, seconded by Penghulu Jinggut, proposed Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau.

Voting followed — as each candidate's name was called out; those supporting placed their ballot papers in a glass jar at the Table.

When the results were announced it was

stated Mr Jaga had polled eight votes, Datu Tuanku Bujang 25 votes and Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau — 34 votes (unanimous).

The Speaker then declared Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau and Datu Tuanku Bujang elected — Temenggong to serve a period of five years, and the Datu a period of two years.

The Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, then moved that the item on the election of Members to the House of Representatives, be withdrawn from the Order Paper stating that there had been a delay in the Yang di-Pertuan Agong giving his concurrence to the procedure to be adopted for the election. The Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike seconded the motion.

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) speaking on the motion asked whether it would be possible for the House in future to get assurance from the Alliance Government that meetings of Council Negri should not be called unless the Government was fully prepared for the business of the meeting.

He added: "This sort of postponement not only causes a great deal of inconvenience to the Members, particularly those who come from outstations, but also considerable sums of money has been spent unwisely in getting Members to attend this meeting".

He hoped that there would be no repetition of this kind in the future, "otherwise we shall be making a mockery of this House".

'Beyond our control'

The State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw, in reply said: "I take it that Mr Chan was criticising this Government. The reason for the further delay is due to circumstances entirely beyond the control of this House. We had an assurance that the procedure as far as we envisaged it would be, could be put into operation on October 4, if not on October 3. That has not proved to be the case.

"This side of the House regrets as much as anybody else that we cannot proceed with these matters as scheduled. But as I said, to begin with, the fault does not lie over here".

Mr Ong then said: I think we ought to record our protest to whoever is responsible for all this unaccountable delay. (Applause).

The motion was then put to the House and passed.

The Senators

Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau, is the paramount chief of the Kenyahs and Kayans who live in the great Baram District of the Fourth Division.

He has a strong and aristocratic personality and is keenly interested in the development of his area.

The Temenggong, who is 63-years-old, was made a Penghulu in 1935. He has been a member of Council Negri since 1949. He contested and won in the last two general elections in Sarawak and is chairman of the Baram District Council.

During World War II he played a conspicuous part in guerilla operations against the Japanese. In the recent Brunei rebellion he rallied his people to the defence of Sarawak and for his services was awarded the Queen's Medal for Chiefs (Silver Gilt). The Temenggong is also a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

He is married and has one son, who is also a member of Council Negri. A Catholic, the Temenggong has travelled to Australia and Malaya.

Datu Tuanku Bujang, who is 74-years-old, joined the Sarawak Police in 1927 and was later posted to the Rangers with whom he served until they were disbanded in 1929. He played an important part in operations against the Asun rebels between 1929 and 1934.

He transferred to the Native Officers Service in 1934, where he proved to be an officer of great energy and spirit, yet fair and just in his dealings. He was made a Datu in 1954 and was promoted Administrative Officer in 1956.

He retired in 1960 but continued his interest in many voluntary services.

Datu Tuanku Bujang was created a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1957 and later an Officer of that Order.

He is head of the Barisan Ra'ayat Jati Sarawak of which he was one of the founders.

Council Negri

Question Time

The Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, replied in the affirmative at last week's meeting of Council Negri in Kuching when he answered a question by Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) who wanted to know whether the Government Ministers had "complied with the provisions of the State Constitution requiring that Ministers should liquidate their interests directly or indirectly connected with their ministries".

As to the question on "whether the particular clause in the Constitution

applicable to the Chief Minister in this respect would also apply to his deputy," Mr Ningkan replied: "There is no legal provision for a Deputy of the Chief Minister. The State Constitution refers specifically to the Chief Minister and no one else in its reference to not holding any office profit and not actively engaging in any commercial enterprise.

"The Minister who is regarded as a Deputy of the Chief Minister is a minister without portfolio".

QUERY ON FEDERAL/ ESTABLISHMENT OFFICER

Mr Charles Linang (Supp) sought information about the functions of the Federal Establishment Officer and inquired to what extent such an officer could influence the Sarawak Public Service.

He also asked for an assurance that the officer would "not interfere with appointments, promotions or dismissals in the Sarawak Civil Service".

Replying as Head of the Civil Service, the State Secretary Mr G.A.T. Shaw, said:

"The brief answer is that the Federal Establishment Officer can under no circumstances influence the Public Service Commission, nor would he want to. The same goes for any Minister or any other civil servant.

"The Federal Establishment Officer has no authority over the Sarawak Civil Service in State Departments below the C3 scale in Division III.

"Correctly speaking, it is not the Federal Establishment Officer himself who operates in the Borneo States, he is represented by a Regional Federal Establishment Officer in Jesselton and a Deputy Regional Federal Establishment Officer in Kuching. The object of their presence is to establish the closest liaison on the spot between the Borneo States and the Federal Government in staff matters.

"As I have already said, the Federal Establishment Officer or his representatives

would certainly not attempt to influence the Sarawak Public Service Commission, nor would they wish to interfere with appointments, promotions or dismissals in any service where these are the responsibility of the Public Service Commission".

Mr Mak Yai Lim (Independent - Lawas) asked Government if it would consider issuing Certificates of Identity to aliens permanently resident in Sarawak to facilitate their travels within Sarawak, Brunei and Sabah..

In reply the State Secretary, Mr Shaw, said: "Although an internal travel document will be produced to facilitate travel within Malaysia and although there is already the Sarawak Certificate of Identity which allows for travel in the Borneo States, these documents are not and will not be available to aliens.

"An alien who is permanently resident will, in most cases, be eligible for registration as a citizen, and the necessary organisation for this purpose will shortly be set up.

"Once registered as a citizen the person concerned can, of course, apply for the appropriate travel document.

"It is, however, unlikely that there will be any further relaxation of immigration requirements so long as Brunei remains out of Malaysia".

BIG ALLOCATION FOR FEEDER ROADS

The Third Division Development Committee had not proposed in the 1964-68 Development Plan the building of a spur road from Kanowit to link up with the Julau/Durin Road, the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, told Penghulu Francis Umpau (Alliance-Kanowit).

He said: "There will be a very substantial allocation in the Development Plan for the construction of feeder roads, but the Plan does not lay down their locations. It is intended that these roads should be located on the advice of Divisional Development Committees.

"The Third Division Development Committee has not proposed this particular road. The main purpose of these roads will be the opening up of land for agricultural purposes and it is probably that the other roads proposed by this Committee are considered more important for this purpose."

Minor roads subsidy

In reply to another question by Penghulu Umpau as to whether Government would

consider increasing provisions in the next Development Plan subsidise all district councils in building more minor roads for the purpose of rural development," the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, said:

"As the Minister for Communications and Works has just said, there will be very substantial provision for the construction of feeder roads in the 1964-1968 Development Plan.

"It has been found that tracks for bicycles and motor-cycle traffic constructed on a self-help basis with assistance from Government have been useful and successful, and further Government assistance for these is planned for the 1964-1968 period.

"On the other hand, it has been found that such roads are not suitable for four-wheeled traffic since they have largely to be re-made after each landas (monsoon season).

"It is therefore considered that the feeder road programme should aim to provide most of the roads required for four-wheeled traffic, and that tracks built on a community basis should be limited to cycle traffic."

SURFACING ROAD TO SIMANGGANG

Government has decided not to continue surfacing the Serian/Simanggang Road pending an agreement with the Nippon Coal Mining Company Limited (of Japan) on the development of the coalfield at Silantek (Second Division).

This was stated by the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, in reply to a question on the subject by Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp), who

said: "Nothing beyond maintenance appears to have been done for over a year."

Inche Abdul Taib pointed out that the road was at present bitumen surfaced to a width of nine feet for 10 miles.

The technical specifications for the bitumen surfacing which would be warranted for ordinary traffic on the road would suffice for the traffic that would result if the coalfield development took place, he added.

Council Negri meets in Kuching

24 MPs Elected

FIRST WOMAN M.P.



Che Ajibah Abol

Council Negri at its meeting held in Kuching on Tuesday elected 24 members to the House of Representatives — 17 from the Sarawak Alliance, three each from the Sarawak United Peoples' Party and Party Negara Sarawak and one Independent.

The Alliance members are: Temenggong Jugah anak Barieng, Pengarah Banyang, Penghulu Jinggut anak Attan, Penghulu Francis Umpau anak Empam, Mr Sandom anak Nyuak, Mr Jonathan Bangau anak Renang, Mr Kadam anak Kiai, Mr Sim Boon Liang, Mr Edmund Langgu, Mr Edwin Tangkun, Mr Ling Beng Siew, Mr Tan Tsak Yu, Mr Sng Chin Joo, Inche Abdul Rahman Ya'acob, Haji Su'ut Tahir, Wan Abdul Rahman and Che Ajibah binte Abol (the only woman member).

Their nominations were proposed by Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, Minister for Communications and Works, and seconded by Temenggong Jugah.

The three representatives proposed by the Opposition Sarawak United Peoples' Party bloc were Mr Stephen Yong (secretary-

general), Mr Charles Linang and Mr Song Thian Cheok (proposed by Mr Ong Kee Hui, chairman, seconded by Mr Chan Siew Hee).

On behalf of Party Negara Sarawak, the chairman, the Datu Bandar, Abang Haji Mustapha, nominated Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili (secretary-general), Abang Ikhwan bin Abang Haji Zaini and Mr Dagok anak Randen (seconded by Abang Othman).

Immediately after, evidence of a split in the Panas leadership came to light when Mr Leong Ho Yuen, the vice-chairman, rose to nominate two candidates — Tua Kampong Haji Dol bin Osman and Mr Tan Hock Seng (assistant secretary-general).

Mr Leong was, however, thrown into confusion when the councillor he expected to second his nominations did not do so. The Speaker, Dr M. Sockalingam, then rejected his nominations.

Later in the day Mr Leong disclosed that Tua Kampong Haji Dol, Mr Tan and himself had resigned from the Party. The split is said to be due to a disagreement that the Party should become a branch of the United Malays National Organisation.

Two candidates were nominated for the 24th seat — Awang Daud bin Matusin (proposed by the Alliance members) and Mr Mak Yau Lim (proposed by Supp councillors). They are both Lawas (Fifth Division) District Councillors.

There was also a surprise nomination by Mr Dunstan Endawie anak Enchana, Minister for Local Government, who proposed Penghulu Tawi Sli (Council Negri member from the Second Division). This was not accepted as there was no seconder.

Votes were then cast and resulted in the election of Awang Daud who received 21 as against Mr Mak who polled 7. The Speaker then declared the 24 nominated people elected to the House of Representatives.

Of the 17 Alliance members of the House of Representatives nine are not members of Council Negri. They are Mr Jonathan Bangau anak Renang, a leading member of the Party Pesaka Anak Sarawak who is a former member of Council Negri; Mr Edmund Langgu and Mr Edwin Tangkun, both Second Division District Councillors (Batang Lupar and Kalaka respectively).

Mr Ling Beng Siew, chairman of the Sarawak Chinese Association and former member of Council Negri and Mr T.Y. Tan, secretary-general of the S.C.A. and former Kuching Municipal Councillor; and four leading members of the Barisan Ra'ayat Jati Sarawak — Inche Abdul Rahman Ya'acub, Haji Su'ut Tahir, Wan Abdul Rahman dan Che Ajibah binte Abol.

Haji Su'ut and Wan Abdul Rahman have both served in local councils as well as in Council Negri. Che Ajibah, who is the leader of Barjasa's Women's Section and a National Executive Committee member, is expected to voice the views of the countrywomen. She is a forceful orator and runs a kindergarten for Malay children at her home in Kuching. She is also chairman of Wanita Melayu Sarawak (Sarawak Malay Women's Association).

Other Representatives

Of the Supp parliamentarians only Song Thian Cheok is not a member of Council Negri. He is, however, a Kuching Municipal Councillor and chairman of the Kuching Branch of the Party.

Abang Ikhwan is the only non-member of Council Negri among the Panas parliamentarians. He is a Kuching Municipal Councillor, editor of the Utusan Sarawak and Publicity Chief of the Party.

The election was held under the House of Representatives (Election of Members) Order 1963, which is part of the Malaysia Act.

Before the election, the Speaker said that he had received written declarations from the 39 (elected and nominated) members of Council Negri as to their political affiliations as follows: Sarawak Alliance — 27; Panas — 5; Supp — 5; and Independents — 2. He then called on the Chief Minister to announce the allocation of seats.

The Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, then said that according to his calculations the Alliance would have 17 seats; the Supp and Panas each 3 seats; and that the remaining seat would be voted by all party groups.

At the adjournment, Mr Mak Yau Tim (Lawas) rose to make a strong protest at the "exclusion" of the Independent group from becoming members of the House of Representatives,

He said that during the last Council Negri meeting he was given a copy of the House of Representatives (Election of Members) Order, 1963.

This, he asserted, permitted both members of the political groups as well as the

independent group to become the members of the House of Representatives.

Before the Order had been implemented, he added, there came a sudden postponement of the election and an amendment, the purpose was to exclude the members of the Independent group.

Mr Mak described this as "unreasonable and undemocratic" and said that this was made to "deprive the voices of the majority of our population who are collectively greater than the members of all political parties put together, from being heard in the Central Council in Kuala Lumpur".

He added that though the independents were in the minority in Council Negri, they were in the majority outside the House. This could be gauged by deducting the total number of party members from the total population of Sarawak.

'Absurd' says C.M.

Replying to Mr Mak's protest, the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, said that to say the Independents formed the majority outside the House was absurd.

If they really formed the majority either outside or inside, they would have formed the Government of the day.

Clarifying the position of Awang Daud bin Matussin the Chief Minister said: "He was and is not a member of any political party. He is an Independent and that is why we elected him to represent the people in the Fifth Division.

(Mr Mak rose to "challenge" this statement but was prevented by the Speaker).

Mr Racha Umong, the only other Independent (also from Lawas) also rose to protest.

Speaking in Malay, Mr Umong said that it seemed to him that only members of political parties were able to elect and be elected members of the House of Representatives.

It was obvious that a large majority of Council Negri members belonged to political groups while the Independents formed a small minority, he said.

Mr Umong then complained about this and contended that the 24 seats should be equally distributed among the district or Divisional Councils.

If this was not done, then it would seem that the Government was "forcing all the people to join political parties before they are eligible for election to the bigger governing body of Malaysia".

'Not voice of majority'

Replying, also in Malay, the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, said that the Independents could not call themselves the voice of the majority.

He pointed out that the Government had never forced the people to join any political party and that Mr Umong and Mr Mak were both given the opportunity to join either the Government side or the Opposition. Both

preferred to remain Independents.

The Chief Minister ended by saying that the representatives to the Federal Parliament were elected at the wishes of the majority, and not the minority.

Mr Umong then rose to deny saying that the Government had "forced" the people to join political parties. What he meant was that the Government "seemed" to force the people to join political parties".

ATTORNEY-GENERAL APOLOGIES FOR 'MISLEADING STATEMENT'

The Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, apologised to Council Negri and to a member, Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) for a "misleading statement" he had made at the last meeting of the legislature on the subject of the Instrument of Delegation relating to deprivation of citizenship.

He said that when replying to an adjournment speech by Mr Chan then, he spoke without having in front of him or without being able to refer to the Instrument of Delegation.

Mr Pike continued: "Replying on a brief perusal made some days earlier, I stated that the effect of it was to delegate to the Chief Minister only the power to deprive a person of

citizenship if proceedings were pending on Malaysia Day.

"Subsequently, having re-read the Instrument of Delegation I found that I was under a misapprehension of its effect and that it also delegated the right to deprive a person of citizenship if that citizenship was acquired on Malaysia Day as a result of connection with Sarawak.

"I apologise to the Council and to the Hon. Member (Mr Chan) for the misleading statement which I made in good faith and with no intention to deceive this House. As soon as I discovered my mistake, I wrote personally to Mr Chan to apologise".

QUESTION TIME

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) was told by the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, of one way the hardships of the padi planters and rubber tappers living within the curfew areas could be alleviated.

He said: "It is for everyone to stand fast against our enemies (the communists and Indonesians) to condemn them all without any clever double-talk, to root them out and to make things so difficult for them that they will find it highly unprofitable to continue their terrorists operations".

Mr Ningkan, who was replying to Mr Yong's question, said that the Government was fully aware of the fact that hardship was caused by the imposition of a curfew and the greatest of care was taken to investigate any situation where it was sought to impose a curfew.

He added: "A curfew is only imposed in

the interest of public safety and the maintenance of public order. At present we are faced with enemies both within and outside Sarawak who are for practical purposes waging war against Sarawak.

"It is inevitable that in these circumstances innocent people suffer and nothing much can be done about it short of resettling people elsewhere".

In reply to a question by Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Panas) on whether the Border Scouts were fully trained before going on active duty, Mr Ningkan said: "The Border Scouts are fully trained for the function they are required to perform namely to defend themselves the posts or villages to which they are assigned and to provide a means of getting information about the enemy quickly to the police and military forces".

GOVT PLAN TO RAISE STANDARD OF LIVING

The measures which Government proposed to take to raise the general standard of living would be published shortly, said the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, in reply to a question-by Mr Leong Ho Yuen.

Mr Leong also asked whether, as a temporary measure, "supplementary feeding" could be given to those who according to a United Nations report were suffering from undernourishment and malnutrition.

The Chief Minister replied: "The Government is aware that the position regarding nutrition is not entirely satisfactory. However, the difficulty lies more in the situation and preference of various sections of the community than in the inability to grow or buy enough food.

"Steps are being taken to improve the quality and quantity of foodstuffs through the various Agricultural Department development schemes. Supplementary feeding in the form of milk and multi-purpose food is already being given through schools and maternity clinics.

"It is not proposed to initiate any scheme for distribution of food different in principle from that already being undertaken".

Mr Leong Ho Yuen also asked whether Government would either exempt or reduce the import duty on materials imported by local manufacturers to enable them to compete with manufactured goods.

Highly intricate problem

Replying the Financial Secretary, Mr Hepburn, said that the question related to one aspect of a highly intricate and complicated problem — the whole question of encouraging industrialisation within Malaysia.

He said: "A very highpowered mission under the chairmanship of Professor Rueff spent several months earlier this year in making an examination of the problem and their report, which has been published and is available from the Information Office, recommends as one of the means of solving the problem the establishment of a Malaysian Tariff Advisory Board.

"This Board will be charged with the responsibility for examining the entire tariff structure of the several states comprising Malaysia which at present have different tariffs, and I am confident that one of the means to the encouragement to local industry, which the Tariff Board will look into, will be the question of reducing import duty on raw materials.

"There are, of course, other ways of achieving the same objective, the most obvious of which is to increase the import duty on manufactured goods coming from outside Malaysia.

"Which of these two courses is chosen most depend upon considerations such as, for example, whether the Federal Minister of Finance can afford to give away revenue.

"It is not of course within the competence of the State Government to amend import duties since that is a Federal matter. In any event, it would not be a wise policy to proceed to make piece-meal adjustments since the problem must be seen as a whole, if the people of Malaysia are to receive the greatest possible benefit".

Mr Hepburn finally hoped that the Sarawak members of the House of Representatives would put such questions to the Federal Minister of Finance as he would be in the position to give a definitive answer.

Rise in sugar price

The Financial Secretary, Mr Hepburn, told Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp), in reply to a question, that as far as he knew the only commodity that had increased in price recently was sugar which had risen from about 45 cents a kati to 65 cents.

He added: "This increase in price of sugar is not confined to Sarawak alone and has taken place in other parts of Malaysia — in fact, in other parts of the world.

"Whether the retail price should rise so sharply and so suddenly is a matter which is now being examined by the Federal Government. If necessary, steps will be taken to remedy the situation".

WAGES LAW BEING EXAMINED

An examination is at present being made of the Wages Councils Ordinance of Malaya with a view to its extension, with any necessary modifications, to Sarawak.

This was stated by the Attorney-General, Mr Pike, in reply to a question by Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) who enquired about the draft legislation on the terms of employment for shop assistants recommended by the Labour Advisory Board before the present Government took office.

Mr Pike said: "While it is recognised that there is a need for legislation relating to the terms of employment of shop assistants it is thought that the stage has been reached in Sarawak at which it would be more appropriate for such control to be exercised by means of Wages Councils Ordinance rather than a separate Shop Assistants' Ordinance.

"Modifications to the Malayan ordinance have been prepared and are being examined".

PROBLEM OF UNSELECTED PUPILS RAISED

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked what steps Government was taking "to deal with the problem of the increasing number of youngsters who are forced to discontinue their studies under the present selection system".

Replying the Minister for Local Government, Mr Endawie anak Enchana, said: "In so far as the question relates to education policy, this is a matter in which both the State and Federal Governments have an interest.

"Reply to this part of the question requires reference to the appropriate State and Federal authorities, accordingly and the very short notice given of intention to raise this matter has not permitted such reference before the date of this meeting.

"I will, however, arrange for him to receive a written reply as soon as such consultation has taken place".

He continued: "In so far as the question relates to youth welfare generally, the Hon. Member will be well aware of the importance Government attaches to ensuring that the recreational needs of youth are properly met.

"Funds, on a generous scale, have been made available for the provision of Olympic-standard swimming pools in Kuching and Sibul, together with adjacent playing-field space and similar units on a smaller scale at Simanggang and Limbang; grant-in-aid has been given to local authorities to assist in the development of playing fields in outstations.

"Government grants are available for payment towards the Youth Council and other voluntary youth organisations such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

"Government has also been instrumental in securing assistance from the Wolfson Foundation towards the development of urban youth clubs and student volunteers, in Sarawak under the auspices of V.S.O., are assisting in this field".

Another query on education

In reply to a question by Mr Leong Ho Yuen as to when Government will implement free primary education and set up semi-trade schools for primary school leavers, Mr Endawie said: "Education policy is not a matter lying entirely within the competence of the Local Government Ministry. This is a subject in which both the State and Federal Governments have an interest and reply to the questions require reference to the appropriate State and Federal authorities.

"The very short notice given of intention to raise this matter has not permitted such reference before the date of this meeting and I will arrange for the Honourable Member to receive a written reply as soon as such consultation has taken place".

Mr Endawie also referred Mr Leong to his previous reply in dealing with another question as to whether Government would allow a higher percentage of primary school pupils to be selected for entry into secondary schools than the present 30 percent allowed.

Mr Charles Linang asked the Chief Minister if he considered that facilities of Radio Sarawak should be made available to

Opposition parties.

Replying Mr Ningkan agreed that they should and added: "However the responsibility for a decision rests with the Federal Government to which further reference will be made".

The Minister for Local Government, Mr Endawie anak Enchana, told Mr Ong Kee Hui in answer to a question that a local council's policy relating to the licensing of trades which it was empowered by law to control was a matter primarily for that Council to decide.

He added: "It is not Government's inten-

tion to interfere with the legal exercise of such powers where these are exercised in the general public interest and applied in a fair and reasonable manner".

In his communications to the House, the Speaker, Dr Sockalingam, said that he had ruled out of order notice of an adjournment speech given by a member because the subject concerned internal security which was a Federal matter. For a similar reason he had also ruled out part a question submitted by another member.

CHIEF MINISTER CLASHES WITH YONG

A clash between the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, and Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) took place during Tuesday's meeting of Council Negri.

Mr Yong's advice that the Chief Minister should "exercise more prudence, deal with problems calmly, and make decisions more independently" drew a strong retort from Mr Ningkan.

In his adjournment speech Mr Yong referred to recent criticisms made by Singapore's Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, that the Sarawak State Government was "weak, having no so-called 'strong man' to manage the country".

He was surprised that the Chief Minister should allow these disparaging remarks to go unchallenged.

Furthermore, Mr Donald Stephens, Chief Minister of Sabah, had urged the Chief Minister to take immediate action against "traitors in Sarawak".

Mr Yong commented: "Here we have a 'nosey parker'. My advice to him is that he should look under his own bed before he turns in. He might do well to look after his own i security".

Mr Yong then pointed out that there was danger the Government "may be goaded into taking unnecessarily severe action from a sense of inferiority complex in the desire to appear big".

He referred to the Chief Minister's statement after his last return from Kuala Lumpur saying that "a country-wide arrest of all persons known to be involved in the activities of the communist movement in Sarawak will be launched by the Government soon".

This statement, he added, made people wonder whether the Chief Minister was not after all being influenced by outsiders.

'Tough lines of action'

He went on: "We have noticed on many occasions whenever the Chief Minister returned from Kuala Lumpur, there must be some 'tough lines of action' announced by him to be taken against certain people.

"This leads people to think that pressure had been put on him to eliminate members of rival parties and the anti-Malaysia nationalists. Indiscriminate and arbitrary arrest must naturally be looked upon in that light.

"The Chief Minister has said that those who are causing dissensions and disharmony among the people are the communists, a very convenient label.

"But so far I have never heard of actual cases of people of any particular race trying to stir up discord or trouble among the people here, except regretably for the statements and speeches given by a few Government officials and some party leaders which pinpointed the Chinese community and which could result in instigating non-Chinese communities against the Chinese community".

In reply the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, declared that the State Government was not weak.

The reason why he, as Chief Minister of Sarawak, could not act quickly was because the subject in question was a Federal matter. That was why before "doing anything in connection with a Federal subject" he had to

consult the Federal Minister or the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Referring to his latest statement, Mr Ningkan said that he had made "quite a short statement, but it was exaggerated".

Regarding the country-wide arrests of the communists Mr Ningkan said: "I would tell the Hon. Member very frankly— yes, it is our intention.

"But it does not mean that we want to eliminate members of the rival party. However, if the Hon. Member himself is found to be a member of the C.C.O. or a communist, I will have no hesitation in ordering his arrest".

He continued: "I did mention that even if my own brother was a communist, he would be arrested. If members of our party happen to be communists, they too will also be arrested".

The Chief Minister then said he "should thank the Hon. Member for urging me to act with prudence and justice" but urged: "At the same time I would ask the Hon. Member to look after his own party members, because quite a number of his party members have been arrested, having been found to be members of the CCO.

"And I can assure the Hon. Member that he will not find a single member from my Party who is a communist or a member of the C.C.O. I think the Hon. Member should be a bit careful when mentioning that the State Government is weak".

'Got me wrong'

He ended: "If this is not a democratic country, and if this subject is not a Federal one, certainly I will take action. But unfortunately, this is a Federal subject and I have to consult the Federal Minister before I act".

Here Mr Yong rose to say: "I think the Chief Minister had got me wrong. I did not say his Government was weak I have not had a chance of testing that out yet".

The Chief Minister retorted by saying that Mr Yong was using Mr Lee Kuan Yew's statement. In fact, he meant it and in fact some time ago he criticised the Malaysian Prime Minister's action in breaking off diplomatic relations with Indonesia and the Philippines.

'COME OUT IN OPEN'—STATE SECRETARY URGES SUPP

The Government would like to see leading

members of political parties in particular the Sarawak United Peoples' Party, make unequivocal statements condemning those who had gone across the border.

Mr G.A.T. Shaw, the State Secretary, said this in reply to a speech by Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp).

Mr Chong complained that the Government had failed to make an official statement when an Education Officer, Inche Ahmad Zaidi, recently disappeared.

He said that when Inche Ahmad Zaidi disappeared last month it appeared that Government was not aware of what had happened to him. Although several letters appeared in the press there was no official statement from Government about him.

He added: "From a statement by the Barisan Pemuda Sarawak of which the officer concerned was President, it was believed that he had gone over the border to Indonesia. On the other hand there are others who seem to think he may have been drowned. Our Information Service appears to have failed on this occasion to do its duty".

Mr Chong alleged that "this sort of thing creates rather unfavourable impression among the Chinese in Sarawak".

He then referred to the recent air dropping of pamphlets in Chinese calling on people to report the disappearance of any one they knew and said: "It is known that some Malays and other have also gone over the border but pamphlets in other languages were not air dropped. People therefore have some justification in complaining that the Chinese are being singled out by the Information Service in this particular exercise".

Connected with CCO?

He then went on to say that a "good deal of activities of border raids are attributed to the CCO and people are therefore anxious to know whether the Education Officer and some other people who may have gone over too are also connected with the CCO".

Finally, Mr Chong asked for "a more fairer presentation of the security position so that one community should not be regarded as the only black sheep and the others entirely blameless".

This, in his view, was most important "if we wish to preserve the peace and harmony among all races living in Sarawak".

Replying, the State Secretary, Mr Shaw, said that Mr Chong had touched on matters of internal security which had both Federal and State angles.

Council Negri meets in Kuching

DEVELOPMENT PLAN GETS 'GO-AHEAD'

Council Negri at a special meeting held in Kuching on Tuesday unanimously adopted the draft 1964-68 Development Plan which is expected to cost about \$300 million.

The motion, seeking approval of the Plan, was moved by the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, and the debate drew a total of 12 speakers.

Comments ranged from a plea that a suspension bridge in Kuching be replaced by a concrete one to a discourse in the socio-economic problem of the Plan. (Satok Bridge — see picture).

The debate was characterised by the earnest concern felt by many speakers over the importance of making the Plan a success and the offer of co-operation by Opposition Members.

The Chief Minister sounded the keynote to success when he said: "The Plan is a tough one because we have tough problems to overcome. It aims to benefit all sections of the community, and all must work and strive together — the farmer, the labourer, the fishermen and the businessman. If they do, we shall succeed".

In moving the motion, Mr Ningkan said that the Plan affected the future of all the inhabitants of Sarawak.

He explained: "Opportunities he before us, greater opportunities than in the past; but to reach our goal we shall need hard work, perseverance, patience and a measure of self-sacrifice.

"Sarawak is at present troubled by the policy of confrontation adopted by our neighbour, and we also have a new form of colonialism in our midst: I refer to the Communists whose aim is to bring this part of South East Asia under foreign domination.

"Fortunately, the group of Communists in Sarawak is small, but they were well organised, and we must wipe them out as quickly as we can.

"I am certain that the spirit of our newly won independence will give us strength to overcome the dangers from without and the difficulties created by the Communists within our own society. In this way, we shall be able to press forward and seize the opportunities which await us".

Turning to the Development Plan, Mr



Ningkan said: "It represents the Government's fundamental economic policy for the forthcoming period. The very large sums of money which we hope will be available to us would certainly not have been available if we had remained a British colony or if we had attempted to stand alone in the world as a separate State. Therefore one may say that the Development Plan could only have been conceived as a result of Malaysia.

"Economic development is a matter which will affect us all in Sarawak, and the Plan is intended to benefit every section and part of the community.

"The very high aims and ambitions which are laid out there cannot possibly be achieved without the co-operation of all the farmers in their rubber gardens and padi fields, together with the hard work of Government staff.

"The effort which we put into our work and the results, which I am sure will be forthcoming, will unite us to combat the dangers from within and without".

Mr Ningkan went on to say that the Plan contained broad allocations of Government funds but not a detailed list of works which it was intended to carry out during the five years.

Expenditure on individual items would be arranged by means of annual budgets, and it was the purpose of the Plan to show the priorities and lay down the framework within which these budgets would be prepared.

The grand total of allocations made in the new Plan was \$343 million, but actual expenditure might be expected to be about \$300 million.

Sarawak expected to be able to contribute about \$33 million towards this amount. Some of the revenue which the Government previously received would in future be payable to the Federal Government under Malaysia, and therefore Sarawak's contribution was somewhat higher than the 10 percent represented by the figures.

The British Government would be making a contribution of L1½ million a year to Malaysia for the development of the Borneo States, of which Sarawak's share might come to about \$8 million a year.

Large Federal contribution

Mr Ningkan then said: "However, if the total of \$300 million is to be achieved in the five years, the average expenditure would be \$60 million, and it will be seen that the contribution which the Federal Government will itself have to find will be very large".

The Federal Government, in promising "to use its best endeavours to enable this amount of development expenditure to be achieved", had shown a great spirit of generosity. But the analysis of Sarawak's economy showed at the same time that no less than this amount of money was required "if we are to achieve our aims".

Mr Ningkan continued: "This \$300 million relates of course to the Government's development expenditure. But development is by means only brought about by Government. In fact in Sarawak (in the year 1961 when the survey was made) somewhat over half of all development expenditure was from non-Government, or 'private' sources.

"One has only to think of the large number of new houses being built in Kuching and Sibü to realise that private investment is very considerable.

"There is also private investment in agriculture to take into account, and that in various forms of industry, which includes sawmilling and mining.

"Therefore, in order to get a true picture, it is necessary to try to estimate what the total investment from all sources is likely to be, and to assess the total output of the economy as a result of this investment.

"Individual people, business companies, factories, sawmills and Government departments must all work together to increase production and raise our standards of living.

"About 80 percent of our people live in the rural areas and depend on agricultural occupations for their livelihood, and these people produce at least 80 percent of our exports.

"It is the policy of this Government to encourage industrialisation wherever this is practicable, and can be done without damage to the economy.

"However, the fact remains that owing to the limited market, the prospects of substantial industrialisation in Sarawak are small. We hope that the formation of Malaysia will assist in this respect, since the Customs Union which will eventually come about could mean a larger market for our products.

Word of caution

"But of course one cannot get over the fact that Sarawak is quite far from the main Malaysian market and that our products sold there will have to bear the cost of transport.

"All this means (to quote from the Plan) that "whilst the number of people in commercial, industrial and Government jobs will undoubtedly grow it is unlikely that this increase will be more rapid than the rate of growth of the population as a whole: in short, it is probable that the proportion of people gaining their living from the countryside will remain at about 80 percent of the total".

"I am sure therefore that the Government has the support of all Members and indeed of everyone in the country in laying the main emphasis on rural development and particularly agriculture".

Mr Ningkan went on to speak about the establishment of oil palms as a commercial crop in Sarawak and mentioned the success of the industry both in Malaya and in Sabah, where it was providing employment and earning revenue.

He then announced that a substantial area of reasonably good soil for oil palms had been discovered to the south of Miri.

It would not be satisfactory, he then said, to establish an oil palm industry in Sarawak on a smallholder basis adding: "If we are to introduce a new industry our methods should be up-do-date and we should aim to produce a high quality product.

"For this reason Government considers that the best was to establish oil palms in this new area is to do so on an estate basis. The

investment required for such an estate is of the order of \$10 million which we hope will come from private sources.

"In this respect, Government's main function will be to make the land accessible by pressing ahead with the road. This is the reason for the inclusion in the Plan of \$20 million for the road link between Miri and Bintulu".

Mr Ningkan then turned to agricultural and land problems centering round hill padi cultivation, and referred Members to the Plan's statement on the main disadvantages of the traditions form of hill padi cultivation.

He then said: "If we can encourage native hill padi farming communities to take up intensive agriculture they will get a very much better income than they do at the moment.

"At the same time, it will be possible, if the farmers and their families live in a village, or group their longhouses close together, to provide them with the sort of amenities that their brothers in the towns already have — that is to say streets, electric light, a clean water supply, regular medical attention, schools and so on.

Development Area Concept

"This is one of the main reasons behind the Development Area concept explained in the Plan. The whole point and purpose of intensive agriculture is that the farmer concentrates all his work and effort on a fairly small area of land from which he is able to gain a decent living.

"As we know, a family which depends only on hill padi planting will require a very large area of land, its members will have to do a great deal of work and, at the end of it all, their income is very small and indeed in some years may be almost nothing.

"If, on the other hand, they are willing to progress and change to intensive agriculture they will have no need for such a vast area of land, and indeed it would be quite impossible for them to use all of it.

"In this way, the natives will be able to get a better income and also will be able to sell land which they no longer require, to others who need it.

"I therefore am sure that it is no exaggeration to call this the central land and agricultural problem which we have to solve. If we solve it, we solve at one blow the problem of increasing the income of that section of the population which depends at present upon hill padi and we also solve the problem of making land available to those who, at the

moment, have none.

"Furthermore, if we can make the countryside pleasant to live in, there is no reason why the more enterprising of our young people should not be willing to take up agriculture as a career.

"As Members who have been abroad to some more developed parts of the world will know, modern agriculture is a scientific pursuit which requires all the knowledge and skill that education can provide.

"We are endeavouring to provide such education in our schools; we aim to modernise agriculture and make farming more productive and we aim to make the countryside pleasant to live in by providing amenities there.

"I therefore hope that in the future many young people with sufficient education will take up agriculture so that the new and improved methods can be introduced".

Mr Ningkan next turned to the question of the rice industry as a whole and said: "The income which a person working on hill padi may expect is very low indeed and we are aiming to improve the farmer's livelihood by encouraging him to take up other forms of agriculture.

"In many cases, the hill padi fanner will be encouraged to turn his attention to rubber, together with vegetable and fruit growing and the keeping of livestock. In cases where there are suitable areas in the neighbourhood for wet padi cultivation, Government will assist in their development.

Drainage and irrigation

"As I have said, hill padi does not produce an adequate return for the farmer, and in many instances, even wet padi cultivation is not particularly profitable.

"A substantial sum of money is allocated under the Plan for drainage and irrigation works to assist in the improvement of wet padi lots, but proposals for individuals schemes must be carefully examined to ensure that they will in fact be of real benefit to the economy.

"Major rice producing countries are able to sell rice to us cheaply either because they themselves have a very low standard of living and hence low labour costs, or else because their padi fields are suitable for large scale mechanised cultivation.

"Unfortunately, padi land in Sarawak is not suitable for large scale mechanised cultivation and people who say that we should aim to become self-sufficient in rice should be aware of the difficulties involved.

"In order to compete with countries which can produce rice more cheaply than us, we should have to limit the import of rice in some way. This would be bound to raise the price, and cause hardship to the people. At the same time, we should be diverting effort from more productive occupations into less productive ones.

"I do not think this would be acceptable. The obvious course is to try to make our rice industry more efficient, so that we can produce rice as economically as other countries, and this is what the Plan aims to do".

Turning next to road development, Mr Ningkan said that the existing programme which started during the current Plan period would also be completed in the earlier part of the next period. The total cost of these roads had shown a considerable increase over the original provision.

The reason for this was that it was considered so important to press ahead with their construction that work was started before complete surveys could be carried out.

The original provision was therefore only based on tentative estimates and he was sure the House and the country as a whole agreed that the Government of the time was well advised to start the work on this basis.

"It is nevertheless necessary to ensure that we do not spend too much money on these particular roads as there is so much else to be done," he added.

Mr Ningkan went on: "The picture then is that by the end of the Plan period, the trunk road from Kuching to Sibuluan will be virtually complete, and so will the section between Bintulu and Miri".

He then said that a vital factor in solving the central land and agricultural problem was road access to the areas where it was intended to encourage intensified agriculture.

For this reason, the construction of feeder roads is a most important part of the Plan, and the aim was to complete 500 miles of such roads during the period.

Organisation described

Mr Ningkan then spoke on the organisation for putting the Plan into practice and said: "The success of agricultural development schemes will depend on co-operation between the farmers concerned and various Government departments, and also on the co-ordination of the work of Government departments amongst themselves.

"For this reason the Divisional Develop-

ment Committees which played a major part in drawing up the Plan will have an important role in putting it into practice.

After outlining the functions of the Committees, Mr Ningkan turned to the proposed expenditure on the social services. He said that it was the aim of the Plan to ensure that by 1968 there was a place in a primary one class for every child likely to be able to go to school.

He said: "If we get universal primary education by 1968 we shall be doing very well. The average primary school attendance over the country as a whole is only about 60 percent of the children of primary school age and, in some districts, it is even lower than this.

"Much as the Government desires to increase the extent of secondary education, it would clearly be unfair to devote more than a reasonable share of our resources for this purpose until we are at least near to attaining universal primary education.

"Nevertheless, a dramatic expansion in the number of Government secondary schools is envisaged. At the moment there are altogether 11 Government secondary schools in operation. We intend to construct 20 more during the Plan period so that by 1968 the number of Government secondary schools will be almost three times what it is today.

"In addition, another teachers' training college will be required, largely to cope with the expansion in primary education that is being undertaken".

On the medical development programme mention was made of the \$13½ million allocated for the new Sarawak General Hospital which the Chief Minister said "will be a fine new up-to-date and well-equipped hospital of which Sarawak may be proud".

Besides being of great benefit to the people of Kuching and the First Division, it would act as a specialist hospital and training centre for the whole of Sarawak, he added. In other respects the main emphasis was on improvement and the development of health services would be in the rural area, since the urban centres were already relatively well provided for.

Assessment of total results

Mr Ningkan finally said: "It is now time to see what the total results will be for the economy of Sarawak as a whole. We have a rapidly growing population. This in itself is a good and cheerful thing.

"But it means that we have to increase the output of the economy at least as rapidly as

the growth of population, or otherwise our standard of living will fall. It also means that we will have to provide many more jobs for the young people who want work.

"This Plan can, and does, set out what Government aims to do in the way of development over the next five years. These aims are ambitious, but I believe they can be achieved. It also sketches out the possibilities for private investment.

"While Government can control its own expenditure, it is not possible to force a private citizen to build a house or start a business unless he wants to. Therefore, the future of private investment is much less predictable than that of Government investment.

"It is nevertheless possible to make some estimate of the increase in output of the economy which will result if the aims of the Plan are achieved.

"It is shown in the Plan that the total output of the economy should increase a good deal more rapidly than the rate of growth of the population.

"However, we must, I am afraid, be prepared for a possible fall in the price of rubber and for this reason we must do all we can to strengthen the economy.

"Unless we spend every cent that we can on the productive parts of the economy, we run the risk of a fall in our standard of living, and also of not being able to find jobs for our young people.

"We have much to do. The lazy and unprogressive farmer must learn to work hard and improve himself. Above all, there is no place in Sarawak now for Communists, whose aim is to disturb us and disrupt our economy so that the people will become discontented.

"The future that lies before us is a challenging and exciting one. Malaysia is a young nation, and we welcome both adventure and hard work because we know that we shall receive the benefit. This Plan is a tough one — make no mistake — because we have tough problems to overcome.

"I shall expect Government servants to work hard and to travel to all parts of the country. I am sure they will feel that their efforts are worthwhile.

"The Plan aims to benefit all sections of the community, and all must work and strive together — the farmer, the labourer, the fishermen and the businessmen. If they do, we shall succeed.

THE DEBATE

The motion was then thrown open for debate and the first to speak was Mr Sim Boon

Liang (Alliance) who expressed strong support for the aims of the Plan.

Next to speak was Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili (Party Negara Sarawak) who put in a strong plea for the Satok Suspension Bridge in Kuching to be replaced by a concrete one.

It would, he said, promote the economic development of the Matang area and it would make possible the development of holiday resorts there. He estimated the cost of the concrete bridge to be between \$3 million to \$4 million.

Abang Othman also said that vehicle owners living along the Matang Road had complained about the "exorbitant" ferry service charges, adding that when the new ferry service came into full operation the ordinary people would be "hardest hit".

The third speaker was Mr Dagok anak Randen (Independent) who spoke on the problem of the "unfortunate school leavers" and suggested that provision should be made for continuation schools and vocational training centres.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Independent) suggested that provision be made to improve the quality of padi seedlings so that farmers could plant twice a year.

He criticised the allocation of J44 million for the cost of the Miri-Bintulu and Kuching-Silantek roads, pointing out that the provision for feeder roads, which would serve the needs of the rural people, was \$40 million.

He then said that many non-native farmers were without land but expressed satisfaction that "individual schemes" would be prepared by the Divisional Development Committees for the re-distribution of land.

Mr Leong also pointed out that the Plan did not provide for cheap-rent houses or flats for the "cubicle dwellers" in the town areas, and that insufficient funds had been allocated for the development of local industries in the towns.

Study Sabah's success — Mak

Mr Mak Lau Lim (Independent), in his remarks on the Plan, spoke of the success of the "irrigation and resettlement schemes" he had seen in Sabah, and urged that they be investigated and adopted in Sarawak.

On the subject of education, he raised the problem of payment of school fees and hoped that the Government would introduce free primary education as well as raise the school leaving age from 12 to 15.

He next suggested that more hospitals and clinics should be built throughout the country

and that more travelling dispensaries should be provided for the ulu people. He also expressed concern over the problem of ensuring that there were enough doctors in the country to serve the people adequately.

Mr Mak finally asked for an assurance that development funds promised to Sarawak by the Federal Government would be forthcoming.

Minister explains

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, then rose to explain some aspects of the Plan and to reply to some points raised.

He said that Sarawak was by this Development Plan, tackling its economic problems in a systematic way, and added: "The Plan sets out its aims and objectives and all projects under it was synchronized to achieve them. It has as its specific goals certain production and employment targets".

"Expenditure under the Plan was double that spent for the last five years but there were "implications" to that.

He continued: "One is the question of labour. In order to spend the money intelligently and to the best advantage, we must spread our money wisely and allocate it to proper use.

"I understand that there are restrictions to the entry of labourers to Sarawak, so the main problem is not so much as, how much money we can get, but how we can utilise this money properly. Members are therefore invited to judge the various allocations in the present Development Plan.

"The Plan will require tremendous co-operation from the people. I would invite them to take the initiative in taking the best advantage and benefit out of any project that will be launched under the Plan".

Inche Taib went on: "Although the Plan does not pretend to solve all our economic problems, it at least tries to take the first great stride of raising the standard of living of our people. I would dare say that this Plan is the Government's answer to the call for help that has been echoing throughout our country for the last few years."

Question of roads

"Although this Plan is not called the rural development plan as some of items deal with matters occurring within the urban areas, the major part of it will cater for the needs of the rural people.

"This is not without reason—80 percent of our people live in the rural areas and the dominating factor in our economy is Agriculture. Therefore, it is an inevitable feature of our Development Plan to help our rural people, who form our majority, by gearing all our resources to the development of the productive sector of our economy.

"It is in this light that I would invite members to consider the items that are allocated within my portfolio, namely roads, bridges, utilities and port development."

Referring to roads, Inche Taib said: "It is the general impression among most people in the country that the first step towards development is to build as many roads as possible.

"One tends to agree immediately to this suggestion, but one has also to think how to take the first step, and this is what the Development Plan is. We cannot just build roads and roads alone in the face of our limited funds and limited labour. So somewhere the vicious circle has to be broken: no roads, no development; no development, there is no use for roads.

"It is best for us to frame our policy in such a way that we do supply roads and use them to the best possible advantage. Roads unfortunately happen to be the most expensive items under all development projects. They range from \$40,000 per mile to over \$300,000 per mile.

"Members can therefore judge how many we can construct when we have only \$110 million in our hands. One hundred and ten million dollars may sound a very big sum but when you divide it into mileage costs you will find it very meagre sum indeed."

The Minister went on to state that no specific allocations of development had been made in the Plan. These would have to be decided by the Divisional Development Committees and could be more appropriately discussed when the annual estimates were debated.

However, he hoped Members would realise that Government tried to make the best use of its money. It would like to pour out money for roads where it would expect, at least within the next seven years, some return for the investment. Such examples can be found in the Lambir-Subis Road, the Limbang Road and other roads in the First and Second Divisions.

He added: "If we were to embark on building the Satok Bridge we might find that it is from a certain angle quite justified when you think of the holiday resort that will be

created. There are also some farmers who are staying in the Matang area.

"But the decision to build bridges and certain standards of roads cannot be made in isolation. We cannot say: 'Here are people who are farmers and here is a place which can be a very good holiday resort'. When allocating funds we have to compare the return we will get from opening up of areas by the laying of roads and bridges in order to arrive at certain priorities.

Different criteria

"Unfortunately the Government cannot decide purely on the merits and demerits of cases: it has to decide on priorities which have an entirely different criteria. It is comparative in form."

The Development Plan, he finally said, did not reflect theoretical capitalism or theoretical communism — it was merely a pragmatic solution of the problem of Sarawak's current state of under-development.

He added: "Nevertheless, with the aims envisaged in the Plan to call for popular participation by way of representation to this House and representation to the Divisional Development Committees and to improve the lot of the poor, this Plan does exclude the need for adopting in this country any of the measures characterised by what is very well known as communism."

First to speak from the Opposition Sarawak United Peoples Party bench was Mr Chan Siew Hee who cautioned that the Plan must not be regarded "as a panacea that will turn Sarawak into a paradise five years after Malaysia."

He said: "The authors of the Plan are realistic when they admitted 'even if the targets are attained they will barely suffice to maintain the present standards of living and rates of employment.'

"The Plan follows to a large extent the pattern of the previous Plan under the colonial government and Sarawak will remain a producer of raw materials with very little industrial development".

Mr Chan went on to put in a strong plea for encouraging light industries to be established and for opportunities for training technicians and skilled artisans not only to provide "gainful employment" to the increasing urban population but for "an increasing amount of manufactured goods to be made for the home market instead of being imported".

Turning to agriculture, Mr Chan said he was puzzled by the Plan's statement that "there is a clear need to encourage diver-

sification of exports to start to reduce the preponderance rubber" in contrast with the allocation of \$57.7 million — more than half of the money allocated for agriculture — for rubber planting.

The Plan, he added, favoured diversification of the economy and yet only \$2 million had been allotted for the oil palm planting scheme.

He felt that the scheme should follow the same lines of either the rubber planting or coconut planting schemes, with a central processing factory run either by the state or a publicly owned corporation or a co-operative.

Pepper industry

Mr Chan went on to comment on what he considered to be the Plan's scant attention to the pepper industry.

Farmers who bred pigs, poultry and fish, he said further, should have an organisation which would provide them with a "stable market and a reliable source of cheap feeding stuff".

He next pointed out that the Plan made "no provision for marine fishing as this is now passed on to the Federal Government" and commented: "It is doubtful whether it will receive the urgent attention that is required if the industry in Sarawak is to survive and the living of the fishermen protected".

As for the Silantek coal mining project Mr Chan drew attention to the allocation of \$23 million for the building of a "coal road", and suggested that the State should participate in the industry, by taking up shares in the enterprise, "thus retaining a great portion of the profit in the country instead of allowing foreign interests to take the greater part of the benefit".

Mr Chan ended by saying: "If all the targets are reached, the authors of the Plan expect that they will barely suffice to maintain the present standards of living and rate of employment.

"If that is all that can be achieved then I would urge that much more should be sought from the Federal Government.

"People of this country have been led to believe that Malaysia would mean accelerated development and better living standards for every one. If these expectations are not to be realised we would have sold our birth right for a cup of potage".

Medical problems

Mr Chan was followed by another Supp speaker, Mr Chong Kiun Kong, who spoke on

the "urgent need" for a new general hospital in Kuching.

Turning to the staffing problem he said: "We have had doctors who worked for a time and left us. There are also medical men who received their training with scholarship hinds but left the medical services before the time was up.

"We cannot put the blame on them without finding out the real causes for their actions. Were they properly treated? Was the administration top heavy? These are matters which must be constantly on the Government mind.

"If we want to have an efficient medical service the administration must be efficient and the staff fairly and adequately treated".

Mr Chong also said that clinics or outdoor dispensaries should be set up in rural areas, particularly in bigger bazaars for fanners unable to travel long distances to get treatment "because they cannot afford for lack of money and having to lay off their work".

'Change outlook' plea

Mr Stephen Yong also of the Supp, then rose to make his comments on the Plan and said that the success of the Development Plan greatly depended on the people for whom it was designed.

He added: "We, the people of Sarawak, must realise that we cannot live in isolation and let the world go by as the old regime tried to put us in that frame of mind.

"Those days are over. In other words there should be a change in outlook. Unless our ulu people are prepared to adopt this attitude and to adjust their old habits and old ways of life to suit modern trends, we cannot hope to catch up with others and will be left behind.

"No amount of planning, good intentions or encouragement which are found in this Plan, will bear any results. It is obvious, as the Plan says, we must make the countryside a pleasant place to live in. But I think the mere provision of electricity, water and other amenities without uprooting of causes of poverty will not take our people very far".

He warned of the danger of wasteful efforts and suggested that there should be "an overall land utilisation scheme to ensure that every farmer who is able to farm the land shall have land to farm".

Mr Yong went on: "Even now I have fanners coining to me, telling me that the leases they obtained from indigenous people

are about to expire and are very concerned about the availability of the land for farming purposes.

"These people have contributed to the economic wealth of the country by their products. Surely they must be assured of the land being made available to them and must be assured of the land without having to pay exorbitant rents for it.

"I have heard the Chief Minister mention that this Plan will benefit all sections. I take his word for it.

"This Development Plan must aim at improving the lot of the rural people and secure for them a fair standard of living as a whole, without distinction being made as to race or colour".

Turning to pepper, Mr Yong then said there was no reason why such planting should not be encouraged "among our indigenous brethren".

Pepper growing, he added, fitted in very well with the policy of diversification of our economy" and he went on: "This is a crop which Sarawak has made a name and why not take advantage of it? I have in mind a marketing board to ensure a steady market and maintenance of the selling price".

He expressed disappointment "with the policy of not utilising development funds for increasing the acreage of pepper planting".

'Sago planters bypassed'

Referring to sago he said that many of the people in the coastal areas of the Third Division depended on it for their livelihood.

Sago was the cheapest form of industrial starch and sago palms could only grow in swamps which could not grow anything else.

Mr Yong continued: "Here we have national wealth which ought not to be ignored but the Development Plan seems to have bypassed these large number of people who, willy-nilly, are dependent on sago.

"I know that there is no great demand for sago at present and the price is low but I think it will not be impossible to explore the world market or boost its sale by governmental efforts or even to devise certain schemes whereby sago can be manufactured in some other forms either for home consumption or for the Malaysian market.

"My point is this: Government must concern itself with the sago manufacturers and their plight".

Report on Council Negri meeting

'GIVE DISTRICT COUNCILS GREATER FREEDOM OF ACTION'

A call was made by the leader of the Party Negara Sarawak, Abang Haji Mustapha, the Datu Bandar, who is also Chairman of the Kuching Rural District Council, to streamline some of the regulations and procedure in dealings between local councils and the State Government, in order to provide greater freedom of action for district councils.

The Datu Bandar, speaking on the adjournment in Council Negri last week, said that he felt the time had now come when the main function of local government was no more its assumed role of educating the people to know more about self-government and politics than it was to strive to improve their social and economic well-being without which major development would not bear fruit.

It was essential in his opinion, that local councils should therefore receive as much assistance as possible both financial and technical, and be given greater freedom of action than ever before in the fulfilment of their true role.

The Datu felt that the channel of communications as provided in the Local Authority Terms of Service regulations, between the local council and Government, was a devious one.

Council correspondence, he said, first passed through the District Officer, then through the Resident who either took up the matter at issue direct with the State Secretary or the Permanent Secretary for Local Government or forwarded the correspondence to the Ministry of Local Government. The process was reversed when Government replied.

He suggested that all communications, correspondence and matters requiring final approval of the Ministry of Local Government be referred direct to the Ministry to enable decisions to be made with greater despatch.

Financial control

In the matter of financial control, he added, it was found that contracts must again receive the prior approval of either the Resident and the District Officer.

He failed to see the necessity for this control as all local councils had their own

tenders' committee appointed under the Financial Regulations (and the Finance Committee) that was responsible to meet and open and select tenders, and the Council was now required by law to register contract agreements with the Registrar of Deeds in the Judicial Department.

The Datu Bandar added: "Revision of written regulations takes time, but administrative direction could relax much of the rigidity that is holding up progress".

Replying, the Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawie, said that local government bodies had been delegated those functions which they were best suited to undertake.

He explained that to avoid the waste of personnel, resources and money which would result from unnecessary duplication of effort, it was important that the respective fields of action of district councils and the State Government should remain clearly defined.

This had already been done in the form of a directive and it was the policy of his Ministry to ensure that these arrangements were kept constantly under review and revised if circumstances so warranted.

The present development proposals of district councils represented an important complement to the State Government's Development Plan, he went on, and their present powers and degree of freedom of action was considered adequate for them effectively to discharge this commitment.

In this partnership with the State Government, local authorities enjoyed a degree of autonomy far exceeding that of similar bodies in the other states of Malaysia.

Mr Endawie then pointed out: 'It is sometimes not sufficiently recognised that by far the largest portion of the revenue of district councils accrues to them in the form of recurrent and capital grant-in-aid from the State and Federal Governments and this is particularly so in the case of primary education.

'In these circumstances, the State Government has a duty to ensure that these funds are used in accordance with the terms and conditions under which they are granted and, for this purpose it is necessary to rely

upon the guidance and advice of the State Government's officers in the field — Residents and their District Officers".

Direct correspondence might mean delay

He said that to short-circuit this channel of communication, by corresponding directly with his Ministry, might very often mean added delay while any necessary reference was made to Residents.

Very often, these officers were sufficiently briefed regarding Government policy, or had been delegated the necessary authority, to enable them to deal directly with District Councils and to make reference to the Ministry unnecessary.

Mr Endawie said he was not convinced that expedition would necessarily result by dealing direct with the Ministry. Neither could he accept that the Local Authority Financial Regulations were not adequate.

He also stressed the need for ensuring that the ratepayers' legitimate interests were adequately safeguarded by requiring that the financial transaction of District Councils were properly regulated.

The current Local Authority Financial Regulations, and their complementary Instructions, were redrafted only two years ago. In their provisions, they followed closely State Government practice and procedure — modified only to ensure that procedure remained as streamlined as possible.

He would not dispute that there might be scope for minor improvement and would be prepared to consider any specific amendments considered warranted, subject to maintaining that essential safeguard over public moneys for which the Regulations and Instructions were originally devised.

Regarding the Datu Bandar's reference to the Local Authority (Terms of Service) Regulations, Mr Endawie said: "It has need recognised for sometime that these stand in urgent need of revision. But, bearing in mind

the need to maintain similarity of treatment between State and Local Government staff as a result of the extension of the provisions of the Pensions Ordinance to the latter and the principle of interchange of these two categories of staff which this implies, revision of these obsolete regulations was not possible until revision of General Orders had been completed.

"Now that an interim edition of General Orders has been accepted by the State Government, the task of consequential revision of the Local Authority (Terms of Service) Regulations will be given priority.

"However, I do not envisage that the present safeguards relating to selection and recruitment of staff will be substantially modified.

"Where selection is left entirely to local decision, considerations of qualification and experience are sometimes subordinated to other preferences. In the case of senior administrative or executive appointments, it is important that selection is based upon the candidate's record and that, in the ratepayer's interest, minimum standards of qualification are maintained in the Local Authority service.

"For this reason, the Public Service Commission is likely to remain the approving authority for senior appointments and present machinery for delegating this authority to Residents in the case of junior appointments unlikely to be modified.

Reassurance

"For the reasons that I have already explained, I do not consider that vesting this authority in the Ministry would lead to any greater expedition in the present arrangements.

"It has been customary for legislation affecting Local Authorities to be referred to District Councils for study and comment prior to enactment and I would reassure the Honourable Member that this practice will continue".

ELECTION OF DEFEATED CANDIDATES AS MPs CRITICISED

An attack on the Sarawak Alliance for selecting candidates defeated in the last elections to be members of the Federal Parliament was launched by Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) in an adjournment speech.

Mr Chan drew the attention of the House to a protest made to the Speaker by the Sibuan Urban District Council on the subject and said: "Some of us, being members of this House, would like to endorse fully our support of the protest".

He contended that a principle of democracy had been abused and that those who had failed in the elections did not command the confidence of the people and should not represent them.

Mr Chan then called on the Sarawak Alliance to withdraw such "persons in question without hesitation" adding that if the Party was unable to find suitable people, the Supp would be "too happy to render our help in this respect".

Mr Chan's speech drew an angry retort from the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, who pointed out that there was nothing in the legislation which disbarred defeated candidates from being nomination for election by Council Negri to the House of Representatives.

It was up to the Sarawak Alliance to choose their Representatives and it was "none of the business of the Opposition to say this or that".

Mr Ningkan added that if the Opposition had been forced to elect Alliance candidates that would give Mr Chan grounds for protest.

But Mr Chan had gone "too far".

Here Mr Chan protested at the Chief Minister's "aggressive manner" of reply, but Mr Ningkan said that this was not the first time the question had been raised.

Mr Chan then explained that he had done so because he wanted to know the reason why defeated candidates had been so elected. He had a right to ask such a question in the House which, he added, was not fully controlled by the Sarawak Alliance.

The Chief Minister jumped up stated that if the House was not controlled by the Alliance, why was it that the Opposition Party had not formed the Government.

'Where the line must be drawn' - Yong

Another Supp member, Mr Stephen Yong, then stated that while he did not wish to criticise the indirect election of members to the Parliament "a line must be drawn on the appointment of a person, defeated in the local council elections, as a minister.

He contended that this was making a mockery of parliamentary democracy and went on to instance the Federal Government's appointment of a defeated candidate as Assistant Minister for Rural Development.

He then asked whether the State Government had agreed to this or had been consulted.

The Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, said that he wished Mr Yong would take the matter up in the House of Representatives. He disclosed that he had been consulted about the appointment during his last visit to Kuala Lumpur.

LONG AKAH AIRFIELD 'NOT VERY SAFE'

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, said he understood that the airfield at Long Akah (Baram District, Fourth Division) was not now considered to be "not a very safe landing place for Twin Pioneer aircraft".

He said that unless the airstrip was surfaced with stone the Twin Pioneer could not land there. Flights to Long Akah were now being re-directed to Long Semado.

Inche Taib was replying to an adjournment speech by Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau (Alliance) who spoke of the difficulties being faced by the people of Long Akah because of the cessation of the service. He also asked for a resumption of Borneo Air-

ways flights.

Inche Taib explained that the Sarawak Government held a share in Borneo Airways and that any decision taken on the services would have to be "talked over" with the airline.

He promised that the Government would not only bring up the matter of restoring the service to Long Akah but would look into the question of air communications for the people of the Interior.

The control of airfields, he further explained, was now a Federal matter.

The Minister finally said that he would convey the Temenggong's views to the development authorities.

QUESTION TIME IN COUNCIL NEGRI

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) raised the question of "opening certain branches of Government Service to students from Chinese Middle schools with sufficient knowledge of the English language in view of the fact that many vacancies remain unfilled in some departments because of local lack of suitable candidates from the English-medium schools".

Replying, the State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw, said: "I do not know who informed the Honourable Member that there is a lack of suitable candidates from English-medium schools for filling vacancies in some Government departments. On the contrary there is

every probability that all vacancies will be filled with suitable candidates from English secondary schools during the next few months.

"Nevertheless branches of Government service, which normally require of an entrant the possession of a Cambridge School Certificate, are open to persons educated in the Chinese Medium who have obtained a Senior Middle (Common Examination) Certificate and a pass in English Language at the Sarawak Local Junior level.

"Advertisements to this effect may be seen in the Press from time to time".

PROMOTION OF LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Independent) asked whether there were any local police officers suitable for promotion to take up the positions vacated by the expatriate police officers who retired recently.

The State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw, replied: "In so far as this question affects the policy of Bomeanisation and in so far as it affects the interests of Sarawak State Officers who was seconded to Federal Service it is considered that there are local police officers who are suitable for promotion to gazetted

rank. But their appointment is a matter wholly within the discretion of the Police Service Commission.

"I am informed that there are twelve vacancies in the Division II posts in the Sarawak Constabulary and that it is likely that more than half of these will be filled by the promotion of local officers in the near future.

"No further detail is available. The Honourable Member will appreciate that such detail is also a Federal responsibility and not a matter for the State Government".

REGISTRATION OF CITIZENS

The organisation for the registration of citizens was being set up and would come into operation shortly though no date could be given at present, said the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, in reply to a question by Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp).

Mr Ningkan said that the question referred to a Federal responsibility and he was authorised to make a statement of reply for the purposes of information only.

He added: "The applicant (for citizenship) must satisfy the Federal Government that the facts on which he relies on are true. This is laid down by the Constitution.

"Where, however, knowledge of a language is required, the test will be made by a panel to be set up under the Citizenship Rules in every District".

He also said that was no provision for an "independent body" as asked for by Mr Ong.

BUILDING OF BAZAAR DRAINS

The building of drains in bazaar areas was a project falling properly within the scope of Town Development rather than under the direct control of the Public Works Department, said the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, answering a question from Mr Dagok anak Randen, (Panas) who specifically asked about Tebakang Bazaar.

Said Inche Taib: "It is the usual practice that before such a project is launched the Local Authority in charge of the bazaar area concerned must accept the responsibility to maintain the drains once they are constructed.

"In the case of the Tebakang Bazaar an assurance has now been obtained and the funds for the building of the drains have been included in last year's as well as this year's estimates. I will ask the Director of Public

Works to arrange for the work on the drains to be commenced as soon as practically possible".

Cost of Malaysia celebrations

The actual expenditure for the Malaysia celebrations in Sarawak has not yet finally known as all bills had not yet been received in headquarters but the latest revised estimate showed a total of \$377,784.

This was stated by the State Financial Secretary, Mr B.A. Hepburn, in reply to a question by Mr Charles Linang (Supp).

Mr Hepburn also stated, in reply to a further question, that as far as he was aware no leading Sarawak Alliance member was a contractor in connection with the supplies or buildings for the celebrations.

PLAN TO ISSUE LAND TITLES TO NATIVE FARMERS

A bill enabling Natives to secure titles to the land they are occupying and farming will come before the next meeting of Council Negri.

Explaining the objects of the Land Code (Amendment) Bill, the State Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, said:

"It will not, as was hoped, be possible to implement the recommendations of the Land Committee by legislation enacted before the end of this year. It is, however, considered desirable that the proposals for the recog-

nition of the right to title by Natives who can show the exercise of customary rights amounting to ownership for the purpose of agriculture should be given effect with as little delay as possible.

"This Bill will accordingly enable such titles to be issued free of all charges to Natives and will thereby anticipate the provisions of the new land legislation which it is now hoped will be enacted during the first half of next year and will come into force on July 1, 1964".

Council Negri

THE BUDGET DEBATE

The debate on the Budget in Council Negri on Wednesday, December 4, drew a total of 15 speakers.

Opening the debate, Abang Othman (Panas) strongly urged that rural dwellers should be given "priority in financial assistance" — "much more than what had been extended to them during the colonial rule".

He felt that the pattern of improving rural development in Malaya should be adopted in Sarawak, citing the Rubber Planting Scheme.

Abang Othman went on to say that the rural people should be given "equality, social justice and protection from the capitalists". There should be more roads to serve their needs so that they could bring then agricultural products to the nearest market.

The next speaker was Mr Dagok anak Randen (Panas) who made a special plea to Government to establish "farm schools" for those children who had failed their Common Entrance examination.

Instruction at such schools, he said, would not only be on modern agricultural methods but make the trainees realise that "kampung life has much to offer and that fanning could be profitable.

Mr Dagok then stated that farmers in Serian District (First Division) had told him that the present subsidies for planting high yielding rubber were inadequate, and suggested they be raised.

Finally, Mr Dagok spoke on the need to improve sanitation in the kampungs.

Taxation problem

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Independent) touched on the subject of taxation first.

He said that though it was a good idea to follow Malaya's pace of development, it might be unwise for Sarawak to catch up with that country's rate of taxation. He suggested that taxation in Sarawak should not be raised unless it was "really necessary" and until local taxpayers were able to pay increased rates.

Mr Mak took up the question of doctors and pointed out that many of them were soon leaving Sarawak. He understood that one of the main reasons for this was that they were not adequately paid.

He drew attention to the Federal Health Minister's recent announcement that there would be a substantial pay increase for doctors and dental officers, and asked if that

would apply to the staff of the State's Medical Department as well.

As to the Development Plan's provision of another secondary school in the Fifth Division in 1965, Mr Mak asked if construction could commence next year.

Mr Sim Boon Liang (Alliance), in commending the Budget to the House, said that people in his constituency (Mukah) were happy with the plans for development. He also praised the Government's policies as outlined in the Governor's speech.

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) referred to the Government's expressed determination to achieve the aims of the Development Plan but said that "fulfilment must not be on paper but in substance".

He said: "It is futile to show that all the money has been spent according to plan and the end result is that the people as a whole remain poor as ever.

"It is generally accepted that the farming community in Sarawak is conservative in outlook and suspicious of change. Government must convince the rural people that any change that may be brought about will not be detrimental to what they have got".

He thought that if it was proposed that wet padi should be cultivated instead of the traditional hill padi planting, the most effective way of persuading farmers to make the change would be for the Government to "underwrite the harvest for the first one or two years".

Whatever crops the people might get from the padi fields after the change, if they should fall below the quantity obtained in say 1960 or 1961, the Government would make up the difference.

If that assurance were given, he was sure the rural people would be willing to try to accept the change but he hoped that with proper planning and proper application of scientific methods and use of fertilisers it would not be necessary to underwrite at all.

Importation of labour

Turning to labour, Mr Yong said he did not see any reason for the Government statement indicating that it might be necessary to seek outside assistance in the form of skilled and unskilled labour, even on a temporary basis.

Mr Yong asked: "In what circumstances would it be envisaged that these labourers

from outside would help? As it is we have hardly sufficient to go round for all and because of the land policy of the Government in the past, there is hardly sufficient land for everyone of us.

"We have no industries to accommodate these labourers. In fact the Government's policy is so pessimistic in the establishment of industries in Sarawak, that there could be no industries to absorb these people".

He added that excuses in any form for getting labourers into Sarawak would not do. It would be a violation of the safeguards and it would be regarded as a breach of faith with the people of Sarawak and would expose the Government as being unprincipled and unreliable.

He dealt next with Government administration, the cost of which, he said, remained "very high".

There was criticism that it was high in spite of the reduced function of the State Government within Malaysia and felt that one of the reasons for this "phenomenon" was that Ministers leaned too heavily on expatriate officers and on the secretaries.

He added: "While I understand the increase of expenditure is a result of transfer of personnel who formerly came under Part II of the Budget for purposes of development, I think the old system of administration should be overhauled. I regret to say this is not done by this Government".

Referring to local government, Mr Yong said although Sarawak had a good set up, he doubted if "we could really pride ourselves in the progress made in this field".

There were still District Officers and the Residents having concurrent jurisdiction over the areas in which the local councils functioned, and Mr Yong continued: "How can we feel proud of local councils which cannot even have a complete say in matters such as issuing licences relating to trades and other matters pertaining to local councils?"

"Surely the Minister for Local Government and his staff can deal with local councils directly, thereby relieving the Residents and the District Officers of these duties so that they can carry out their proper functions.

"I may add here I think it is high time that the people be informed as to the exact functions of our Residents in the present set up. I have been told that there are cases of duplication of work between the District Officers and the local councils. When you have duplication, you have waste, and what is more serious is that you may have cases of inaction by both bodies".

Equalisation grant

On the proposal for an "alternative system of equalisation grant designed to correct the present imbalance between the relatively wealthy urban authorities and their less wealthy rural cousins", Mr Yong pointed out that it would be wrong to penalise the rate-payers in a local council who, being conscious of their civic duties, paid up the rates required of them and to give latitude to those who just refuse to discharge their civic duties by not paying the rates and assessments.

It was the duty and responsibility of the Minister to see that no undue favour was given to any local authority otherwise the local government system would break down and "it will be a sad day for Sarawak when all along we have prided ourselves on the system".

On the question of Natives sharing the benefits to be derived from the exploitation of hill forests, Mr Yong said that he would not like to see only a small section of the people benefitting.

He said: "I believe the colonial government had also the policy of giving benefits to natives to exploit hill forests, but I am sorry to say that the end result there was only a few top people got the benefits and not the rest.

"I think what the Governor has said about giving benefits to the natives in this regard was not of racial consideration. What he had in mind, I think, was to help these people because they are poor. Poverty is no respecter of persons or race.

"There are poor Chinese, poor Malays, poor Indians as well as poor Ibans and Dayaks. It is a question of raising the standard of living of all the people in Sarawak".

Turning to the reference made in the Governor's speech about dividing Sarawak into constituencies in preparation for new electoral systems, Mr Yong hoped that the Electoral Commission would also consider the views of the Opposition contending that "we, on this side of this House, and the Independents, represent a substantial number of people in this country and we have a right to be consulted".

Commenting on the fact that the Public Service Commission was now "generally speaking, independent of the Government," Mr Yong said: "We have urged this for a long time because we believe that unless there is an impartial Commission there would not be an independent Civil Service nor would there be any acceleration in the Borneanisation of the Public Service.

"It is our fervent hope that the Government will not interfere with the work of this Commission, nor will the Commission allow itself to be brow-beaten by anyone".

Detention of suspects

Mr Yong next turned to what he described as "arbitrary arrests and detention of persons suspected of being members of the CCO and contended that they were all "contrary to democratic principles".

He added: "I have been told and advised by friends that I should not say too much about this or defend people arrested in these circumstances because I may be in danger of being accused of being one of the members of the CCO. Here may I say that this experience of mine is not peculiar to this age or to this country".

Here Mr Yong was interrupted by the Speaker who reminded him to keep to the general principles of Government policy and administration as far as the Budget was concerned.

Mr Yong replied that his subject was in some ways connected with Government policy.

At this juncture the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, suggested that as the matter was within the jurisdiction and competence of the Federal Government, Mr Yong, who was an M.P. himself, should take it up in Parliament. The Speaker directed him accordingly.

Continuing his speech, Mr Yong turned to Indonesian confrontation and said he thought it was high time leaders in Indonesia and "on our side should cease being acrimonious and get down to the conference table and thrash out differences". The people of both territories should avoid being hysterical.

Speaking next was Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Independent) who said that in view of the big Development Plan "our recurrent expenditure would increase year by year".

He said the Council should take heed of the Financial Secretary's warning that the prices of primary products, especially rubber, would be much lower and agreed that "if we are going to expand we must contribute towards its expansion".

The new Development Plan, he then said, provided a wonderful opportunity for the people of Sarawak but the contribution towards its expansion by the people should be based upon their ability to pay.

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) drew attention to the "insufficiency of the revenue and said that the people are afraid that

various taxes will be levied to cover the deficit".

He pointed out that exports had decreased in 1963 and that trade had dropped. Furthermore the price of rubber had continued to go down. Since commercial prosperity depended to a large extent on agricultural production, the life of the farmers was also greatly affected.

He therefore considered that the budget should be studied "with due care", especially on the collection of revenue and on the ways of expenditure.

Mr Chong went on to argue that there was no need to establish a "Development staff in each Division," and contended that the Divisional Development Committees should take on the responsibility of implementing the Plan.

He proposed that the Resident, District Officer and officers of various departments concerned with development together with elected representatives of each district, should form the Development Committee in each Division.

First Government reply

First to reply on behalf of Government was Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, Minister of Communications and Works, who made a strong appeal for the co-operation of the people in assisting the Government to implement the Development Plan.

The people, he said, should speak out and express their problems to Government officers and the Ministers. They should also develop a spirit of self-reliance.

Inche Taib declared: "It is no use for us to achieve independence in the political sense if we never have a spirit of independence.

"Independence does not mean raising our own flag, having our own anthem and representatives in the legislature. It means that we should realise that we are now responsible for our own future — that everyone of us should now wake up and take it upon himself the duty to better his country and to see how to use and to make best use of the resources that Government is able to put at the disposal of the people".

Turning to the Development Plan, Inche Taib pointed out that it had been welcomed not only by members of Council Negri but by the Opposition.

He then spoke of the importance of its execution in order to bring progress to the country and said that it was in this context that the question of importing skilled and semi-skilled workmen should be viewed.

Inche Taib said: "We have very limited resources and we live in a country which is sparsely populated... We have our own deficiencies by way of skilled and semi-skilled manpower. We are bound, once we set certain goals, to seek the means of achieving these goals, even though sometimes we have to make sacrifices".

He said the Government would not ask people from outside to come into Sarawak unless "we have solved our own problem of unemployment", adding that Government would limit itself to asking for skilled and semi-skilled men. It might also have to ask for outside contractors in order to avoid inflationary prices.

Another attack

Mr Charles Linang (Supp) devoted his speech to the question of importing skilled labour into Sarawak.

He said that the large scale expenditure provided for development would create much-needed employment for school leavers who became 'victims of our wonderful system of education'.

The fear of being swamped by the more numerous and advanced people of Malaya and Singapore was one of the reasons why Sarawak hesitated in accepting Malaysia, and to allay such fears, control over immigration was given to the State, he said.

Mr Linang then referred to the statement by the Federal Assistant Minister for Rural Development (Inche Abdul Rahman Ya'kub) on the question of importing skilled labour into Sarawak and said: "I don't think we can honestly say that we would welcome an influx of people into this country to compete with us for much-needed employment for our young people under the guise of skilled or semi-skilled labourers".

He went on to remark on a recent speech by the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Welfare but was interrupted by the Chief Minister who said that he had already given an assurance about the question of importing labour. The Speaker agreed and directed Mr Linang to confine his speech to the subject under debate.

Mr Linang then ended by saying that he was reassured by the Chief Minister's statement and hoped that the Government would not give way to pressure from the Federal Government.

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) who spoke next, pointed out that even though the Federal Government had taken over

responsibility for two-thirds of the departments in Sarawak, expenditure on the Administration had risen for 1964.

He added: "With such a costly Government, the people of Sarawak expect the Ministers, including the Chief Minister, to do their work properly".

He went on to state that it would not do if they went on making irresponsible statements. Here he was interrupted by the State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw, who, on a point of order, questioned the relevancy of Mr Chan's remarks to the subject being debated. The Speaker called on Mr Chan to withdraw it.

Mr Chan then continued his speech but when it was noticed that he was carrying on where he had been stopped, Mr Shaw raised another objection. The Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, jumped up to say that Mr Chan was out of order. The Speaker reminded Mr Chan that he should confine his speech to the Budget.

However, Mr Chan seemed to persist in continuing with his speech and on this occasion the Speaker interrupted him to say that he had repeatedly ignored his warnings and would now disallow the speech. Mr Chan appeared to be confused until he was told by the Speaker to sit down.

'Our degree of dependence'

Speaking next was Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) who regretted that some very important heads of expenditure, such as Education, Medical and Health and Constabulary, had now become Federal subjects. They constituted a large part of Government expenditure within the State over which the House had no control, he added.

Referring to the State's recurrent expenditure of just over \$36 million and the proposals put forward for consideration of the Federal Government, which amounted to \$60¹/₂ million, Mr Ong said: "On these figures one can gauge the degree of independence that the State has attained and how dependent we will be in the future on the generosity or otherwise of the Federal Finance Minister once the interim period is over",

Mr Ong then said he was concerned over two matters. The first was that since Sarawak had become a state within Malaysia it had started to build up a machinery of Government that threatened to become top heavy.

He asked the Ministers whether permanent secretaries, assistant secretaries, and such staff were necessary and whether they could not deal direct with the heads of depart-

ments in their Ministries.

The other concern was over the socio-economic problem in the form of an increasing number of young children who left schools at the Junior Secondary level. He stressed the need for overhauling the system of education and said the sooner this was tackled, the better.

Mr Ong finally urged the Government to take up with the Federal authority the question of the financing of education. He said it seemed wrong that local authorities had increasingly to shoulder the financial burden of primary education.

Defaults in payments of school fees and their share of the capital costs of new schools, he added, were crippling some local authorities. In Malaya there was free primary education. Was there any reason why it should not also be free in Sarawak? he asked.

The Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Ningkan, replying to some of the points raised in the debate said the people need have no fear that there would be any influx of people from outside Sarawak.

Insofar as labour for the implementation of the Development Plan was concerned, the Government would not import any so long as local labour was available. Consideration to bring skilled or semi-skilled labour from outside Sarawak would only be given if and when there was a real need or shortage.

On the question of rural development, Mr Ningkan said members of the House could rest assured that as far as possible the Government would adopt the system of rural development as practised in Malaya. But certain modifications would in some cases have to be made in order to suit local conditions.

In reply to Mr Chong Kiun Kong who questioned the need for Divisional Development staff, the Chief Minister said Mr Chong must be aware that unless he wanted to bog down development programmes and lower the efficiency of the Administration, there must be additional staff to cope with the Development Plan.

The Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawie anak Enchana, referred to the comments made about local government and said that since these had already been answered (at the previous meeting) he did not propose to say any more.

Next to speak was the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, who replied to Mr Stephen Yong's remark that the present Government leaned too heavily on the expatriates.

He said the State Government had only been in existence for a few months and "we, like everybody else in this country, are learning the job".

Mr Wong continued: "We never pretend that we know all the answers. We shall make mistakes; we are conscious of our limitations. The tasks ahead are difficult but we can assure Members of the House and the people of Sarawak that we shall make an honest effort to deliver the goods and promises made by this Government.

On the subject of accelerated Borneanisation, Mr Wong said that was the declared policy of the Government which would 'borneanise' as fast as possible and as soon as "we have our own people to come forward — those who have the drive, the will, the ability and the willingness to take over".

'Nothing is free'

Referring to the complaint on the increase of taxation "year by year" Mr Wong said: "Unfortunately taxation, like everything else in life, is one of the facts of life". He compared it to a growing family which finds its expenses increasing yearly. Nothing was free in this world, services must be paid for and as the standard of living increased, so would rates and taxation increase.

Referring to the question of employment of Divisional Development staff, Mr Wong said that the Chief Minister had replied to this question, but he would only make one observation which was that in any business one needed a manager.

Added Mr Wong: "And as we have some businessmen on the opposite side of the House who realise that in the Development Plan which involves millions of dollars in each Division, it would be necessary to have a manager to supervise the show".

Referring to the advice given by one member (Mr Chan Siaw Hee) as to what Ministers should do, and not do, Mr Wong said: "We have been elected as ministers to serve the people and it is for the people, after our stewardship is over, to judge whether we have discharged our ministerial duties well".

Question of doctors

The State Secretary, Mr Shaw, rose to reply to Mr Mak Yau Lun's remarks about doctors and pointed out that this was a Federal responsibility. However, he said that he had been authorised to comment on one or two aspects of the matter.

First, there was no indication "that we are short of doctors now, than we were a few years ago".

There was, however, a shortage of Gazetted police officers and Superintendents of Land and Surveys and he added: "One can project the argument that you must pay more where we have shortages but I am sure it is an extremely dangerous one. It merely means that ultimately one is advocating a rise in pay all round.

"There is further criticism about extra payment; in fact extra payment is made, as has been our practice hitherto, and will continue to be for recognised higher qualifications providing, of course, they are of use in this country.

"In terms of pay increases I think it is right to say, without having had full details of what the Malaysian Government has proposed, that our basic salary scales in terms of doctors here are still higher than they are in the States of Malaya".

Mr Shaw then stated that much had been said about the extent to which people "whom we feel bound to serve us after training have continued on their own way and possibly done better for themselves".

The Sarawak Government, he said, was "really very lenient" in its approach of binding students. He understood that the Malaysian Government not only bound its students for the cost of the training which they had received over a period of years, but it also bound them for all the salaries they would expect to receive in the years during which they would serve their Government.

"That certainly is a very hefty deterrent, we certainly haven't gone that far," he commented.

Winding up speech

Winding up, the Financial Secretary, Mr B.A. Hepburn touched first on the question of taxation and said at present there would not be an increase in State taxation.

But this must not be taken to mean that there might not be increases and councillors must differentiate between Federal and State taxation. There were several sources of State taxation (petrol, for example) and it was not proposed to raise the level of these at present, he added.

He recalled that there was an assurance in the Inter-Governmental Committee Report that taxation would be brought into line gradually and he had every reason to believe that this undertaking would be honoured.

He pointed out that the gap between the levels of taxation in Sarawak and Malaysia was not all that wide, since adjustments were made in Sarawak in December last year and May this year. The only exception was personal income tax.

Referring to Mr Chong Kiun Kong's remark that the people of Sarawak had had to pay increased taxation "year after year", Mr Hepburn said: "This is true; no government service is free. There must be money to pay salaries of doctors and teachers and the wages of the many other workers who provide services in government departments. On the other hand one Hon. Member (Mr Mak Yau Lim) suggests that salaries of doctors should be increased.

"The money to provide the services comes from the tax payer, and unless productivity can increase so that revenue will grow, there are only two alternatives — you must either pay more in taxation or reduce services. I think that the people of Sarawak, if they had the choice, will always elect to pay more".

'Must increase productivity'

Mr Hepburn then referred to Mr Ong Kee Hui's remarks that he had not given a full picture about Sarawak because there were no details of the Federal expenditure available.

He pointed out that details of the Federal expenditure would be available to all members of the House of Representatives.

He added that many members had touched on Federal matters, such as education and health, and he would not refer to those except to say he hoped those who sat in the House of Representatives would pay attention to the remarks made.

Mr Hepburn said, however, that he joined issue with some members on the subject of education and repeated his remarks made in the debate on the Development Plan, that "we should probably change our educational system".

He felt that more emphasis should be placed on vocational training but he did not mean by this that more money should be spent on education.

He said: "We must increase productivity and I believe that in the context of Sarawak we should devote as much money to economic productivity as possible and that we should also divert some of the funds we now spend on academic education to vocational training. This will help the economy".

Question of industry

Replying to Mr Stephen Yong, who said the Government took a pessimistic view about industry, Mr Hepburn said he would disagree and would rather describe it as a realistic view.

There were limitations and difficulties about industry in Sarawak. He had said in his Budget speech that "we would all like to see industry" and he thought there should be some industry, but he did not think the economic stability and growth of Sarawak could depend on industry.

Mr Hepburn added that the development of the countryside and the agricultural potential was the key. It was true that industries in towns did create employment but suggested that they did create a lot of other problems as had been the case in other countries.

As for Mr Yong's remark that the people in Sarawak "are conservative and suspicious about change" Mr Hepburn commented: "I think this is quite true particularly about rural people, not only of Sarawak, but of almost every country. We have made bold plans for development but as more than one Member has said plans are not enough: unless they are executed we shall achieve nothing.

"I suggest that it would help national development considerably if all members try to convert the people to a better way of life. Unless the people respond, not all we set out to do will be achieved".

Touching on Mr Yong's suggestion that if people were to go from hill padi to swamp padi the Government should underwrite their losses, Mr Hepburn said he did not think such a venture would be practicable.

"It will be fraught with all sorts of difficulties. What the government does, of course, and has done for many years is to guarantee to buy from the farmer any excess padi he produces from the sawah and cannot sell," he added.

Answering Mr Ong Kee Hui's remarks that the State Government machinery threatened to become top heavy, Mr Hepburn

said that no closer examination it would be found that in fact there had not been all that expansion by setting up ministries.

He added that permanent secretaries had been created but there was only one new post — the rest had been found by either the break-up or break-down of the Secretariat.

'No loss of independence'

Mr Ong had also said that Federal expenditure was much greater than State expenditure and as a result of it "we had lost our independence".

Mr Hepburn replied that it was true that in joining Malaysia, Sarawak had not retained responsibility for everything. But this did not necessarily mean that "we had lost our independence".

The departments which fell to the Federal Government were the large spending ones, of Education and Medical, and for this reason Federal expenditure would be greater.

The Central Government had also taken on the responsibility for defence and internal security, and on account of conditions which existed today expenditure in that sphere had also increased. He thought that the councillors should look on Malaysia as a whole and not to isolate Sarawak too much as a State.

He added: "We have been given 24 seats in the Federal House of Representatives and there our Members should put forward their points. If any government does not serve the people well, the democratic process of elections will rectify that".

Finally, Mr Hepburn said he thought the Budget before the House was a good budget and that "we had been fortunate in being able to expand services and to provide a great deal of money for development" and "if all the estimates were approved by the Federal House we should have a lot of work to do".

He said that the aim of everybody in 1964 should be to see "if, for a change, we could spend all the money that had been provided".

The Budget was approved by the House after this.

COUNCILLORS MAY ASK FOR BOAT LOAN

All members of Council Negri, including the Speaker, are now eligible to apply for a loan to purchase a boat or outboard engine (or both) if they have not done so for a car.

This is the same privilege as that afforded to Division I officers in the Public Service.

In moving an amendment to the Sessional Paper No. 5, which provides for privileges of the Chief Minister, other members of the Supreme Council, the Speaker and Council Negri members, the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, said: "In parts of Sarawak a motor vehicle is of no use whatever since the rivers still provide the only means of communication. A number of Members of this Council live in such areas".

Mr Ningkan also successfully moved that Ministers in charge of Departments and Ministers of State be provided with a driver for their cars at public expense.

He explained: "This is in keeping with the dignity of a Minister. Furthermore there are numbers of occasions on which Ministers use their cars on official business when they cannot themselves be expected to drive.

"There are also Ministers who are unable to drive and there is no reason why they should be deprived of the practical and public advantage of being able to run a car nor should it be that appointment to a ministerial post should require the qualification of being the holder of a valid driving licence. The same principles apply in the case of any outboard driver".

When members of the new Council Negri were sworn in before Malaysia Day they took their oath of allegiance to the Queen. They should have, after Malaysia Day, taken an oath of allegiance to the Federation of Malaysia and Sarawak but did not. So at the opening day of the Budget Session of Council Negri, on Monday, December 2, they did so.

The Council also passed a Bill validating and confirming the proceedings and acts of the legislature and of the members which occurred prior to December 2.

Council Negri

QUESTION TIME

Mr Teo Kui Seng, the Minister of Natural Resources, replied to a question by Mr Ling Beng Siong (Nominated) as to whether Government would "step by step open up more land to farmers as soon as possible to meet the urgent requirements caused by the increasing population and to correspond with the 1964-68 Development Plan".

He said that in the Development Plan rural development and the opening up of land had been given the highest priority.

However, he sounded a note of warning on this by saying: "The genuine demand for land is very difficult to assess and tends to be exaggerated. For example, in Sibu District, to which the member who asked this question represents, land was allocated to 210 Chinese and 140 Malays selected on the advice of headmen, but so far only 33 of the 350 people have actually applied for titles.

"Similarly, nearly 10,000 acres of land in the Tanggi block, where the benefits of the

Rubber Planting Scheme are available to settlers, have been allocated to 500 Chinese settlers on the advice of Chinese area headmen and were selected by ballot from lists of names totalling 6,800.

"This figure of 6,800 suggests a grave land shortage, but examination shows that many applicants were not bona fide ones, being school children, infants, bazaar employees, wharf labourers, urban craftsmen who had no genuine intention of taking up farming.

"Nevertheless, Government will spare no effort to make land available to farmers of all races and those who wish to take up farming, as it is realised that agriculture is the mainstay of the Sarawak economy".

Forest offence

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) drew Government's attention to "some forest licence holders who are allowing outside or other

operators to extract timber from their concessions on payment of a flat rate calculated on the quantity of timber extracted".

He asked Government if it would take steps to stop such a practice.

Replying, Mr Teo Kui Seng said that the Government was not aware of this practice and would investigate any specific cases brought to its notice in writing by Mr Chan.

Mr Teo added: "This alleged practice is contrary to Section 2(2) of the Forests Ordinance which prohibits the holder of a forest licence, except by direction of the Conservator or a person empowered by him so, to direct to enter into an agreement with any other person, the effect of which is to enable the benefits conferred by the licence or permit to be enjoyed by any other person".

In reply to a question put by Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) as to whether Government would explore and consider the possibility of alienating part of the Stapok Forest Reserve (Kuching Rural District), the smallholders for cultivation, Mr Teo replied:

"Yes. In January 1958, an area of 788 acres was excised from the Stapok Forest Reserve, being all that portion lying south of the Batu Kawa Road.

"What remains (354 acres) of the original Forest Reserve is now used for research for the study of peat-swamp species and the Forest Department would like to retain it as such at least until the 788 acres already excised from the Forest Reserve in 1958 have been fully taken up".

Queries on Public Service

Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili (Panas) asked five questions relating to the Public Service.

Question No. 1: What is the target date for the localisation of post in the Administrative Service and other branches in the State Government Service?

Chief Minister: It is not clear what the Honourable Member means. Localisation of posts in all branches of the Public Service is a process which has been going on for some years and which will continue at an accelerated speed as time goes on.

A date for complete localisation of any particular service cannot be given and it is pertinent that in some services in Malaya full localisation has not come about in six years after Merdeka Day in 1957.

Minimum periods for the continuing services of expatriate officers have however been laid down and broadly speaking those are four years for Administrative Officers and

six years for professional and technical officers with effect from August 31, 1963.

Question No. 2: What arrangements have been made for local officers to understudy expatriate officers holding senior posts?

State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw: In the Administrative Service local officers are trained by doing a particular job under the supervision of a more senior officer.

It has been found that unless an officer is given direct responsibility for a particular task, his abilities are not fully tested and under-studying is not really appropriate.

Officers are given every chance to act in higher posts but it must be appreciated that the structure of the service cannot be too violently distorted and we are sort enough of qualified officers as it is.

In the Public Works Department there are supernumerary posts for newly qualified local officers who will gain experience under supervision before being put in sole charge of a Division or branch. Supernumerary posts have also been used as training posts in the Trade and Customs Department, and in the Treasury.

In all branches of the Government Service there are training courses for local officers leading to the particular qualifications required for particular posts.

Question No. 3: How many officers are Administrative Officers Class I, n and III?

State Secretary: There are no local officers holding substantive posts as Administrative Officers Class I. There are 32 local Administrative Officers in Scale A out of a total of 51.

There is in practice no distinction between Administrative Officers Class n and III, but officers with over 10 years' service are regarded as being Class II.

Question No. 4 (Supplementary): With the Borneanisation policy, would not the State Secretary agree that it is desirable to appoint a few local experienced officers to be Administrative Officers, Class n, which will enhance their chance of promotion to fill the higher posts in Division I?

State Secretary: I think that is precisely the process that is going on. As vacancies come about local officers who are being trained, will fill them.

From the question, it seems that there is an impression that local officers are being kept back. On the contrary, every effort is being made to push them forward.

Question No. 5: What steps have been taken to fill the vacant post of President of Majlis Islam?

Chief Minister: The filling of the post substantively is receiving the attention of Government. The present incumbent has been asked to continue to act for the time being.

Provided certain conditions are fulfilled it is intended to make a substantive appointment next year.

Retiring age

Government was prepared to consider any request that State Government officers should be allowed to continue in service until the age of 60 (instead of 55 as is the case of other States of Malaysia), said the State Secretary, Mr Shaw, in answer to a question by Mr Ling Beng Siong (Nominated).

Mr Shaw added: "It should be made plain however, that no such request has been made by either of the presently recognised negotiating bodies — the Sarawak Government Asian Officers' Union and the Sarawak Government Senior Officers' Association. Indeed, previous requests have been for the lowering of the retirement age".

Badges for school chairmen

The question of providing badges for chairmen of school committees as well as for Council Negri Members was raised by Mr Dagok anak Randen (Panas).

On badges for school committee chairmen, the Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawie anak Enchana, said: "In so far as the question relates specifically to Local Authority schools, responsibility for their running and management is vested in the appropriate District Council.

"Local committees are unofficial bodies whose responsibility is confined primarily to extra curricular matters and, where such committees exist, it is not considered that a badge of office would materially assist their relationship with the District Council".

'Not appropriate for legislators'

Replying to the second request, the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, said: "The Government does not propose to consider special badges for Council Negri Members nor does it feel that badges in this context would be appropriate.

Mr Dagok also wanted to know whether Government would provide free uniforms to village headmen "to encourage them in performing their duties and also as a token for their voluntary services".

The Chief Minister replied: "No, Sir. It would be difficult to devise a suitable uniform which would be acceptable to all those who may become eligible to receive them.

"It must be recognised that there are many categories and races of such headmen involved and that their status and responsibilities vary immensely.

"If, however, each Division can agree on a type of uniform which it is prepared to accept throughout the Division concerned, the Government would gladly give consideration to any agreed proposals which might consequently be submitted.

"However the practice hitherto has been not to issue uniforms below the level of Penghulu, Orang Kaya or the equivalent.

QUERY ON TRIP TO UN'

How much was spent on the Deputy Chief Minister (Mr James Wong) on his recent trip to the United Nations (as one of the Malaysian delegates to the General Assembly) and who foots the bill? This was the question put by Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp).

Replying, the Financial Secretary, Mr Hepburn, said that as a member of the Malaysian delegation, Mr Wong's expenses were payable by the Federal Government.

He did not know how much was spent but no State funds were involved.

STATE HONOURS

Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili (Panas) asked if Government would consider creating "State insignia, honours and decorations" and revive the old "Order of the Star of Sarawak" created by the last Rajah.

Replying, the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, said that consideration was being given to State honours. These would appropriately be awarded on the occasion of the Governor's official birthday which would be celebrated on the first Monday in October.

The revival of the Order of the Star of Sarawak was also being considered, he added.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Independent) wanted to know whether compensation had been given by any Assurance company or the Government to those passengers who were either injured or killed by bandit action in a bus on the Serian/Simanggang Road on October 25.

The Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, said he could not say whether an assurance company had done so and added that no money had been paid from State funds.

LAND LAW PASSED

Council Negri on Tuesday passed the Land Code (Amendment) Bill which will enable titles to land held by Natives under customary rights to be issued free of all charges.

The Minister of Natural Resources, Mr Teo Kui Seng, in moving the Bill reminded the House that the first major recommendation contained in the Report of the Land Committee was that provision should be made to enable existing customary rights in land, when they approximate to ownership, to be recognised as such without payment of survey fees, premium or rent.

This proposal had been accepted by Government and had attained a wide degree of support throughout the State.

Mr Teo went on to say that it had been hoped to implement by legislation, before the end of this year, all the recommendations acceptable to Government contained in the Land Committee Report.

However, in view of the great amount of legal work involved and also the opinions expressed in some District Councils that such important legislation should not be rushed, the full legislation will not be introduced this year.

It was now proposed to publish all the Bills which embodied the recommendations contained in the Report as soon as possible with a view to their being presented to Council Negri in June, 1964. This would enable the Bills to receive full public consideration throughout the whole State.

Mr Teo then said that he was anxious that the Development Plan should not in any way be held up, and that he had been told that the work of the Land and Survey Department would be facilitated and the issue of land titles speeded up if this Amendment Bill was accepted.

He pointed out that the relief from the financial burden of acquiring titles would naturally make farmers more willing to hold land under title, which was desirable for the orderly development of land.

The Bill provided that a title so acquired may be transferred or sub-leased to the owner's heirs without change of condition, but should the land be sold or leased to anybody else, premium and rent and other charges would have to be paid. It also had the effect of removing the restriction of "pesaka" land to four acres, now embodied in the Land Code.

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) said that the Bill was long overdue but he welcomed it for its aims. It would, he added, unlock some land for development.

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) hoped that with this legislation the "bottle-neck" would be removed and that the Land and Survey Department would be able to cope with the considerable backlog of applications.

Abang Haji Abdulrahim (Panas) asked if it would be possible to issue leases running for 999 years instead of 99 years.

Controversial question

Replying, Mr Teo Kui Seng said that the question of length of lease was a controversial one and he thought that "in order to keep up with the modern times we must change old-fashioned ideas".

As for the "bottle-neck", he reminded Mr Ong Kee Hui that this was "actually created by the previous Supreme Councillors who had to vet every alienation of land".

He also gave the assurance that his Ministry would see that work in the Land Offices was speeded up.

IMPORTED LABOUR: CHAN AT IT AGAIN

The question of importing skilled and semi-skilled labour into Sarawak was revived by Mr Chan Siaw Hee in an adjournment speech on Thursday, December 5.

Mr Chan contended that the Minister of Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud and the Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, had made conflicting statements.

The first, he said, had tried to make out a case for importation under certain circumstances and suggested that "if we are to attain the goals set by our Development Plan we may have to make the sacrifice and allow labour in".

The other had given a categorical assurance that only in the last resort would labour be imported.

He reminded the House that the Prime Minister of Singapore had made it conditional that if Sarawak advanced any money to the Borneo States, half of the labour used in projects financed by the loans should be supplied by Singapore.

He added that it was not clear whether the \$300 million provided for the Development Plan could be found without raising loans from Singapore or whether the State Government might be pressured by the Federal Government into taking the loans.

Mr Chan then warned the Government of the political repercussions that would result from using outside labour "when we are going to be faced with finding enough work for our own people," and urged that the trade unions be consulted on the availability of labour before any decision was made.

Replying the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib, said that Government had been entrusted to carry out certain tasks and was determined to do them properly.

If in the process it could not rely on local labour because of insufficiency, it would become necessary to have outside assistance, and he added:

"Whether we will be in a position to recruit labour from outside will be left to the circumstances we will be facing in the future and that is where my statement is very consistent with the Chief Minister's statement.

"The Chief Minister had said that no outside help will be taken unless the internal resources of labour are fully used. And I myself stressed that only in necessary circumstances will the Government take steps to get people from outside".

Inche Taib ended by urging that the

relevant part of the Governor's address be read again — word by word.

In his adjournment speech, Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili (Panas) argued that the 14-day period prescribed for additions to and deletions from the registers of voters was inadequate.

He pointed out that the Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawie, had in his recent broadcast on the subject mentioned about "the scattered nature of the electorate and poor communications". In view of this he did not see why it was necessary to tie the whole exercise down to 14 days.

The difficulties of travel and the cost involved should be taken into consideration otherwise many would-be voters would be left out of the registers.

Abang Othman said that when the work of registering voters was undertaken in 1962, it was done on the basis of house-to-house visits and he suggested that the same be adopted with any revision of registers.

Minister replies

Replying, the Minister for Local Government, Mr Endawie, said that the 14-day period was prescribed by law. Moreover his broadcast had explained fully why conditions in Sarawak at present precluded full revision of procedure each year, involving touring teams.

He added: "I cannot accept that adequate notice was not given to eligible voters seeking inclusion in the register. Apart from my own broadcast advice, the matter received the widest advance publicity in the press and over radio and Registration Officers similarly made local arrangements to ensure that the public was properly informed".

Mr Endawie then said that Abang Othman's fears that many eligible voters had been denied an opportunity for inclusion in the registers did not appear to be borne out by initial reports from Registration Officers.

A uniformly high percentage of the national electorate was, in fact, registered at the time the register was originally compiled and settled prior to the recent general elections.

Full figures were not yet available regarding the numbers of voters originally omitted and who had subsequently taken advantage of the opportunity for inclusion in their registers, but the indications were that these

were quite satisfactory.

He finally said: "I am sure the Honourable Member will agree that it is an important part of training in the art of democratic government that the electorate should realise that the primary responsibility for ensuring that they are properly included on the voters register must be with them".

An appeal to Members of Council Negri to refrain in future from making personal attacks and "to exercise more restraint and tolerance so as to preserve the high standard of decorum in this House," was made by Mr Mak Yau Lim (Independent) in an adjournment speech.

Mr Mak said that certain questions asked by a Member (Mr Chan Siaw Hee) had inferred that there was "some impropriety in a certain member of the Supreme Council (Mr James Wong) going to New York on an official mission and there they might have been some failure on the part of Ministers to comply with the State Constitution".

He went on to warn of the danger of indulging in personal attacks.

Mr James Wong then rose to thank Mr Mak for bringing up "the regrettable trend that the questions had taken".

'Generated by envy?'

In a speech of biting sarcasm, Mr Wong

referred to his attendance at the recent meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, and asked whether Mr Chan was "unhappy because a loyal son of Sarawak had the honour and privilege as a Member of the Malaysian delegation to help man the barricades' in the United Nations".

He added: "I am sure that Mr Chan as a loyal citizen of Sarawak and Malaysia, which he has demonstrated at the opening of this Session by swearing loyalty to Sarawak and Malaysia along with the rest of us, that there are forces within and without the country was to frustrate and destroy Malaysia and our peace, harmony and prosperity.

"This being so, one would have thought that he should have been proud that a member of this House has, I hope, helped to strengthen our position in the United Nations".

In issuing a reminder that External Affairs was a Federal subject, Mr Wong went on to ask if anyone had ever thought it necessary to enquire about Mr Chan's expenses-paid trip to Canada in 1962 — as a representative of Sarawak.

Mr Wong next asked if Mr Chan's questions had been "generated by envy" or were they "manifestations of admiration of one capitalist for another".

Finally Mr Wong said that Mr Chan's questions were "unworthy and a little below the belt".

COUNCIL TRIBUTES TO MR HEPBURN

Tributes were paid by Government and Opposition members and the Speaker of the Council Negri to the State Financial Secretary, Mr B.A. Hepburn, just before the Budget Session ended on Thursday, December 5.

Mr Hepburn left Sarawak on Thursday to take up the appointment of a Deputy Chairman of the Malaysian Tariff Advisory Board in Kuala Lumpur.

The Speaker, Dr M. Sockalingam, said that Mr Hepburn had been a member of Council Negri since 1952 and had given it invaluable service. He had known him for 14 years and said that he had always found Mr Hepburn to be "calm, cool and calculated and fair even in difficult circumstances".

The Chief Minister, Mr Ningkan, asked on behalf of the Government and people of Sarawak to put on record "our appreciation of Mr Hepburn's services".

Describing Mr Hepburn as a man of many

parts, the Chief Minister said: "As an official member responsible for guiding the fiscal



Mr Hepburn

policy of this State he has not only played an invaluable part in helping to solve the many intricate problems connected with the production of balanced budgets, but has also taken an extremely active part in the affairs of important organisations such as the Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation and the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation, as chairman of both".

Great energy

He added that it gave him pleasure to state that Mr Hepburn during his stay in Sarawak had identified himself in many ways with the labours and aspirations of its people. His great energy and his knack of mixing easily with all those he came into contact had earned him many friends in Sarawak who would all be sorry to lose him.

Mr Ningkan said: "However, we are glad that his labours will now benefit Malaysia as a whole, and we hope that he will always be able to maintain his contacts and his interests in this part of Malaysia".

The Chief Minister went on to say that Mr Hepburn had for years devoted many of his off-duty hours to the cause of social welfare. He had taken a deep interest in the Red Cross Society, and as its Director had been the architect of many projects.

"The moulding of our youth and its moral and intellectual welfare," added Mr Ningkan, "has been another of Mr Hepburn's concern and as chairman of the Scouts Council his advice had always been sought after".

Ending his tribute, the Chief Minister said: "He has therefore made his kindly influence felt among men of all walks of life, including the youth of this country, and it gives me great pleasure, on behalf of this House and people of Sarawak, to wish him all success in his new appointment".

The leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui, on behalf of his colleagues, associated himself and Opposition members with the tributes paid to Mr Hepburn by the Speaker and the Chief Minister.

He also endorsed what the Chief Minister had said and wished to put on record the Opposition's appreciation of the signal and invaluable service that Mr Hepburn had rendered to the people of Sarawak.

Mr Ong then mentioned Sarawak's first Development Plan which was produced by Mr Hepburn and went on to say that Mr Hepburn's sterling qualities as an efficient and enlightened administrator was recognised and when he was promoted Financial Secretary it was conceded by all those who had known him that the Governor had made a good choice in this very important appointment.

Mr Ong recalled that in his budget speech Mr Hepburn stated that 1962 was the first year since 1949 that Sarawak had a deficit.

"This simple statement shows more eloquently than anything else the extent of Mr Hepburn's success as Financial Secretary," Mr Ong said. "It is not easy to achieve this happy state of affairs over a period of years in a developing country with rapid expansion of the services, and subject to fluctuating world prices over primary produce on the export of which we are largely dependent for Government revenue".

Mr Ong then spoke of Mrs Hepburn who, he said, was very active in various fields of community service such as the Red Cross and she would be much missed in Kuching.

'Deeply moved'

Replying to the various speakers, Mr Hepburn said he was deeply moved by the kind words spoken about him and his wife.

He said: "I feel that I am not worthy of all the kind remarks made about me. I am particularly cheered, however, by the fact that I still have so many friends after having to say 'No' so many times to so many people.

"I have enjoyed every minute of my time in Sarawak and shall take away very pleasant memories of a truly generous country. Hardly a day goes by when myself and my family have not been touched by the kindness and courtesy of the people of Sarawak".

Mr Hepburn added that it was only when he looked back on the changes that had taken place since he had been here that he realised how long he had been here. He said that not until the Chief Minister had recounted his various jobs did he realise that he had "so many fingers in so many pies".

He thanked members of the Council for 'the co-operation and courtesy which he had always received in the House.

Mr Hepburn concluded: "I am glad that I shall still have the opportunity to continue to help Sarawak and that I will not be severing my connections completely just yet. I wish Sarawak continued prosperity in the years that he ahead".

Farewell parties were given in honour of Mr and Mrs Hepburn, by the Sarawak Red Cross Branch, Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation, the Secretariat staff and Scouts Council.

The farewell party given by the Sarawak Red Cross Branch was also in honour of Dr W.E. Thom (Branch Medical Officer) and Mrs Thom and Mr S.E. Corby (Branch Treasurer) who will shortly be leaving Sarawak.

Loyalty Pledge

Council Negri Approves Motion To Resist Aggression

A motion supporting The Federal Government's policy of resisting Indonesian aggression, and opposing subversion in the state was fully approved by The Chairman and Secretary-General of Sarawak United Peoples' party at The Council Negri meeting held in Kuching on April 1964.

The chairman, Inche Ong Kee Hui, who is the leader of the Opposition, and the Secretary-General, Inche Stephen K.T. Yong, however, said that the motion had been "sprung" on them by surprise, and that the Government had failed to consult them on matters of national importance.

The resolution, moved by the Chief Minister, Inche Stephen Kalong Ningkan, and seconded by the Minister of State, Inche Awang Hipni bin Pengiran Annu, was passed with two abstentions.

The abstainers were Inche Chan Siaw Hee and Kapitan Chong Kiun Kong of the Supp, who declared their stand after a division was called for by the Deputy Chief Minister, Inche James Wong.

All three members of Party Negara Sarawak, Abang Othman bin Abang Moasili, Abang Haji Abdul Rahim bin Abang Haji Moasili and Inche Dagok anak Randen also supported the motion.

The Independents who voted in favour of the motion were Inche leong Ho Yuen, Inche Mak Yau Tim and Inche Racha Umong.

The motion

The motion introduced by the Chief Minister reads:

Be it resolved that this Council unreservedly supports the Government of the Federation of Malaysia with regard to its policy of resisting Indonesian aggression against Sarawak and taking strong and positive action against the Clandestine Communist and other subversive organisations in Sarawak which support the Indonesians in their aggressive acts against Sarawak; and in furtherance of such support -

- (a) proclaims Indonesian aggression against Sarawak as constituting a blatant example of hostile design on the territorial integrity of an independent State;
- (b) Unequivocally condemns members and

supporters of the Clandestine Communist Organisation and all others in Sarawak who, by act or mission, give traitorous aid or encouragement to Sarawak's enemies who have taken up arms against the State;

- (c) records warm gratitude to all sections of the Security Forces in Sarawak for their ready response in coming to Sarawak's aid in time of need and for their untiring and selfless efforts in safeguarding the State's integrity against treacherous attacks;
- (d) calls upon all communities of Sarawak, irrespective of race or creed, to unite at this time of danger in loyal support of the Governments of Sarawak and of Malaysia and to exercise constant vigilance in the preservation of their independence;
- (e) declares its determination to oppose by all means in its power any attempt to overthrow lawful government in Sarawak by violent or unconstitutional acts, whether by means of armed attack or insurrection or subversion; and
- (f) resolves to maintain the democratic way of life in Sarawak and to exert its utmost endeavours to secure an early return to the conditions of peace and harmony which is the heritage to its peoples.

The resolution was seconded by Awang Hipni, Minister without Portfolio.

Spoke for itself

Moving the resolution, the Chief Minister said that it spoke for itself. It did not ask the House to support all the policies of the Federal Government; nor did it ask for support to all the policies of the State Government.

The resolution specifically sought an expression by the House on Government policy of resisting Indonesian aggression.

Said the Chief Minister: "There can be no more doubts as to the intentions of the Jakarta regime. By words and actions, President Sukarno has made it abundantly clear that he wants to place Sarawak, Sabah, Singapore and Malaya under his Guided Democracy. He wants to build an Indonesian Empire to include us. He wants to apply his tyrannical rule

over the people of Malaysia.

"There are also enough evidences to show that the Clandestine Communist Organisation and a small number of disloyal Malays, like Ahmad Zaidie and Kifli, are collaborating with the Indonesians in their aggressive acts against Sarawak.

"In the hour of peril, when we are fighting for our survival and our right to live our own way of life and to remain free, it is incumbent and vital that we in this House should show our determination and unity in resisting the aggressors.

"Some Hon'ble Members may disagree with the Government on certain policies, as indeed they are entitled to have different opinions in a Democracy. We may have quarrels over domestic problems.

"But, on the question of whether or not we should stand up to resist the aggressors, on the question of whether we should unite and fight the defend our inherent rights to survive, and on the question of whether we should allow subversive elements to destroy our constitutional system, we must make our stand clear. On these vital issues, Mr Speaker, we cannot afford to be ambiguous.

"As all the Hon'ble Members in this House have in the past declared their belief in the constitutional system, and have sworn their loyalty to Sarawak and Malaysia, I sincerely hope that they will whole-heartedly support this resolution.

CM Has Sprung Motion On Us, Says Opposition Leader

The leader of the Opposition, Inche Ong Kee Hui, began his speech by saying that the Chief Minister had once again "taken the privilege given to the Government under Standing Orders and has sprung this motion on the Opposition without notice."

He added it was rather unfortunate, "that on a matter of this kind the Chief Minister has not thought it fit to take the Opposition into his confidence and appeal to the Opposition for unity on, what to my mind, is a national issue and something which neither the Government nor the Opposition should in fact be at variance."

Inche Ong said: "My colleagues and I in the Supp welcome this challenge although we must deplore the manner in which it is made and we will respond to the opportunity given to us to declare our stand on this motion. If what I am about to say, Mr Speaker, appears to be lacking in modesty, I crave the indulgence of Members. As I say, I had very little time to give the text of the motion very

careful thought as it was only tabled this morning.

"I regard this, not only as a challenge to our party but as a challenge to myself personally. I speak as one who has responded to the call before for the defence of Sarawak - it was against the Japanese in the last war - and as one of those who remained at their posts and were overrun by the enemy.

"During the Japanese occupation, there were some people who found it either profitable, expedient or necessary to work and collaborate with the enemy.

"There were many who had no choice in the matter but there were quite a few who took the opportunity to better themselves. I was more fortunate in being able to escape.

"I thank God that I was able to survive with my honour unbesmirched and that I had the good fortune to have the opportunity to succour those who were less fortunate and who became prisoners of war.

"My forebears and I have been in this country for more than four generations. Sarawak has always been our home and the object of our loyalty. We have served this country and its people for as long a time as we have been here and we are proud of our tradition of service to Sarawak and its people.

"And therefore, I can say without equivocation that I oppose any violation of the territorial integrity of Sarawak and any aggression against its people coming from whatever quarters, and I shall respond to the call to the defence of this country as I did when I was a much younger man on a previous occasion."

Continuing, Inche Ong said that as Chairman of the Party, he was speaking straight from the heart without notes. They had, on numerous occasions, declared the stand of not only himself but also of those whom they represented. On numerous occasions they had stated that they were loyal citizens of this country. They were pledged to seek what they sought for the people of this country, by constitutional means.

Inche Ong went on: "We have, at the time of the Brunei Revolt, made a clear-cut stand. We called our members to renounce the use of force, not to support those who seek to bring about changes by force and we have also, on numerous occasions, pledged ourselves to carry out our objectives by constitutional means.

"There are many who look at us and say 'when are you going to split?' To these people I would say that the parting of the ways has in fact taken place. Those who are with us today support the aims and objects which we have

set forth when we launched our party and our organisation, i.o. we seek to bring about changes by constitutional means. In other words we seek evolution, not revolution and we have pledged ourselves to set about our task in accordance with the law.

"As far as I could see on the terms of the resolution, there is nothing which, in fact, conflicts with the aims and objects of our party. The only point which I wish to make and which I think my colleagues will make too, is on the question of subversion, which we have from time to time - even before this - discussed and debated. There seems to be a very thin line between what we would call 'subversion' and what we would call 'seeking changes by constitutional means.'

"If you set out to evoke a change, if you set out, shall we say, to overthrow the Government, then you can be said to subvert the Government, a constituted authority, and therefore it is quite possible for various interpretations to be made to that word or term called subversion. Where does constitutional struggle begin and where does subversion start?"

"I would now leave it to my other colleagues to say their piece."

'We Are Bona Fide Nationalists' - Chan Siaw Hee

Next to speak was Inche Chan Siaw hee (Supp). He said: "The party in power may wish to secure a pretext for suppressing the legitimate activities of the Opposition, such as the Supp. Otherwise a motion of this nature would not be submitted without the usual notice if the Government thinks it is of such vital importance to the country."

Inche Chan went on to say that they had made their stand clear on numerous occasions in the past that they were bona fide nationalists. "Therefore we oppose most strongly any aggression against our country by any country, and this is why we had such strong reservations on Malaysia," said Inche Chan.

He added: "Before we can give our unqualified support to this motion I have a few points which require clarification from the Ministers on the other side of the House."

He then mentioned the following points:-

- * What does it mean by the 'Government of Malaysia's policy of opposing the Indonesia aggression.' Does this imply that we are going into war with the Indonesia? If so, I would urge that in a matter of such important nature, a mandate should be ob-

tained from the people before any decision is made, because I believe that we could hardly win the battles if we cannot get the support and approval of the people.

- * As a realist myself, I am anxious to know as to how many of the members on the other side of the House are prepared to defend the country with their precious lives in the event of war.

- * Whether it is futile for us to persuade the Federal Government to seek diplomatic negotiation instead of resorting to war for the purpose to end the disputes between the two countries. Even the great powers of the world today believe that war is not the solution of the disputes and difference among nations.

- * May I also ask what is the exact meaning of the word 'subversion.' Whether the activities of the Opposition such as our party can be regarded as an act of subversion by the party in power?

We have an unforgettable memory that a great number of our members who have been detained by the Colonial Government and even by the present so-called elected Government under the name of subversion without having been tried in a court of law. Is it not highly dangerous, in view of habeas corpus, if we try to support this sort of undemocratic ways in treating its citizens.

- * Finally, I want to know since our party is an Opposition party and we have declared that we would make every endeavour to achieve our aims and objects of the party through the constitutionally means, 'what sort of guarantee could be given to us if we would not be victimised under the term of 'subversive?'

Question of loyalty

Continuing, Inche Chan said that the whole context of the Chief Minister's motion hinged on the question of loyalty to this country.

He added: "Nowadays, loyalty is a word brandished about ever so often by those in authority as if it was a preserve of these people and their privilege, so much so it is used as a weapon against the Opposition or those who hold different views from the party in power.

"It seems to me that it is a common method employed by those in authority to label their opponents as disloyal, in order to discredit them and make it possible for them to be dealt with summarily either by arbitrary arrest, or detained without trial under the extra-

ordinary powers provided for under the emergency regulations.

"Needless for me to say, dictators and colonialists the world over have resorted to these methods "those who do not support us are disloyal." In other words they maintained that loyalty to the country is the same as loyalty to the party or the persons in power.

"We know that no government is infallible and no person or party in power can be perfect and therefore blind loyalty to them without question would not be in the interests of the people. Any critic of the party in power cannot be said to be disloyal.

"Any child reading history would tell you that there were regimes in the world claiming to be perfect and demanding loyalty from the people who were tyrannical and dictatorial and were in the end overthrown and suffered the fate they deserved.

"It would be ridiculous to expect the people to be loyal to this sort of regime while it existed. Those in authority can only expect loyalty and support from the people so long as they are devoted to their service and dedicated to the welfare of the State. They cannot expect blind loyalty just because they are in power.

"The Chief Minister in a recent statement criticised a community for not owing and displaying the Malaysian flag and their loyalty was suspect. It would appear from this statement that loyalty can be displayed by owning and waving of flags. We had this before, when the Japanese occupied this country, the people of the same mentality were ever ready to display and wave the flag of the Rising Sun and to shout "Tenno Heika Banzai" as a mark of loyalty to the conqueror. How far can you rely on the loyalty of such people.

"Even if we were to apply the test of loyalty as prescribed by the Chief Minister, I wonder how many of the members on the other side of the House own a Malaysian flag?

"There are, of course, hypocrites and opportunists who were prepared to jump on the band wagon of the winning side who at one time declared themselves as anti-Malaysia, but who later became champions of Malaysia. Now just because they wave Malaysian flags they are regarded as loyal citizens. To the people at large they could not be regarded as loyal in the true sense of the word.

Chinese loyalty 'second to none'

"We have heard of statements calling into question the loyalty of the Chinese community. I can only refer to the history of the country and say with pride that the loyalty

of the Chinese community to Sarawak is second to none and had been proved throughout the dark days of the Japanese occupation.

"Despite all the steadfastness and loyalty to the Government of the country as law abiding citizens, their loyalty has been questioned by such statement as that to which I refer but also by wholesale confiscation of their shotguns by the Colonial Government after the Brunei revolt.

"Although very few of any Chinese were involved in that unhappy episode in our history, the time may yet come when the Chinese community can once more prove their loyalty in defending this country and the object of their loyalty."

Finally, Inche Chan stressed that no one could be loyal to the country if he was prejudged and treated as an enemy and given no fair opportunity to show his or her loyalty. It was their resolute stand that they must preserve the territorial integrity of their country, and even to die defending in the event of foreign invasion.

'We will defend our Land' says Mak Yau Lim

Inche Mak Yau Lim (Ind.) speaking in support of the motion, said: "We have frequently heard from Radio and read from newspapers that there were or there are aggressions in Sarawak, by the so-called Indonesians or other sections of people.

"The Indonesians are wise enough to use the word "liberation", and that they are liberating the people.

"After all whom are they really liberating - the minority of a few persons?

"I think it is the duty of our Government and the people of Sarawak to unite together, to defend our own land, our integrity and sovereignty."

'I wish to see country's integrity preserved' - Leong

Inche Leong Ho Yuen (Ind.) who spoke next said that he had been taken by surprise. He thought that in such a big issue of national interest in which the support of the House is sought the members should be informed beforehand.

He as an independent member would have liked to consult his constituents.

Added Inche Leong: "Though I strongly supported Malaysia, my support emanated in the way the former Government carried out its negotiations concerning the terms and safe-

guards of Sarawak's merger into Malaysia.

"As a loyal citizen of Sarawak, I for one, earnestly wish to see the integrity of our country preserved. I deplore aggression in any of its forms but if such motion is seeking the support only of this House then there would be little or no meaning.

"We have also to get the support of the people outside the House within the State as well. The Chief Minister, I remember, had said on certain occasions that there are a number of fence-sitters and that the communists' influence are prevailing in certain sections of the people."

"Why is that so?" Inche Leong asked. He added he was sure the Government had all the facilities to tell the people and even then it appeared that they could not be convinced. So there must be something wrong somewhere.

Concluded Inche Leong: "Every race must have their own pride and if such pride is affected through certain propaganda an unfavourable situation would be created. Unless we are truly united, resistance to any aggression would not be truly effective. There I think that a kind of situation should be created to bring all the races together and without infringing the pride of any race."

'We are not taking partisan attitude' - Yong

Inche Stephen Yong said he was glad to hear from the Chief Minister that the support of the motion did not mean support of all the policies of the Alliance Government. This clarification was welcome.

Said Inche Yong: "The motion before the House in so far as it concerns the national interest and territorial integrity will, of course, have our support. In fact, as my colleague has already stated we have made public declarations to that effect time and again.

"As responsible Oppositions, we as our chairman has stated this morning, have not taken strong partisan attitude towards the matter which we regard as of national interest."

Inche Yong went on to say that the Opposition was alive to the seriousness of the situation which the country was now facing. He charged that the Government was taking advantage of the situation in making political capital out of this, and urged the Government to resist the temptation of doing so.

He said the motion consisted of two parts - one, the resisting of Indonesian aggression, and the other, taking a strong and positive action against the Clandestine Communist and other subversive organisations in Sarawak.

Inche Yong asked: "Were not strong and positive actions taken already?" continuing, he said: "I have had complaints made by many people, and I can assure this House that they were not C.C.O. members, that in the rural areas, they were unnecessarily beaten up when they were arrested."

Council Negri News

The subject of Borneanisation of the Public Service featured prominently in the questions and adjournment speeches at this week's session of Council Negri.

Many points were raised by Opposition speakers on the subject ranging from advertising of vacant posts to the appointment of the new chairman of the Public Services Commission.

The main Government reply came from the Acting Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, who stoutly defended Government policy in an adjournment speech lasting more than an hour.

No less than six speakers, including two from the Opposition Bench, three Alliance members and one Independent spoke.

While the Opposition members attempted to pressure the Government into accelerating the process of Borneanisation, the Alliance members argued that Sarawak still lacked qualified and experienced local officers to run Government machinery smoothly.

Mr Racha Umong (Ind) from the Fifth Division agreed with the Alliance views and urged the Government to retain the services of the expatriate officers.

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) Leader of the Opposition said that his sentiments were "not prompted by any animosity towards expatriate civil servants, but by our sense of duty towards the people of this country. . . ."

He was supported by Abang Othman (Panas), but Senator Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau (Alliance) warned, "We must not go too fast or the boat will capsize. Do not aim too high for we in Sarawak are still inexperienced. Only when we have the experience can we run the country efficiently."

Penghulu Tawi Sli (Alliance) who supported Senator Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau said Borneanisation might be of some advantage to civil servants, but it could be disadvantageous to the ulu people.

The Acting Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, in his reply compared the position in Malaya six months after independence with the present position in Sarawak, and said, "Our degree of Borneanisation in Sarawak on a percentage basis, department by department is very similar now to what was the position then in Malaya."

Many supplementary questions asked

Six Bills, including the Supplementary Bill (1964) was passed by the Council.

Fifteen papers were laid on the table and 37 questions were asked and answered during the three-day sitting.

The passing of revised Standing Orders at the beginning of the first day's session was the signal for members to ask supplementary questions, and many such questions were asked and answered.

Speaker Warns Press Of Breaches Of Privileges

The Speaker of Council Negri, Dr. M. Sockalingam, on Monday warned the Press that breaches of privileges of the Council might get them into serious trouble.

He was referring to an article published in the editorial column of a certain Kuching Chinese newspaper last December.

The Speaker said: "As Speaker, I am the Guardian of the Privileges of this Council and its members. Accordingly it is my duty to draw the attention of this Council to an article published in the editorial column of a certain Kuching Chinese newspaper last December.

"This editorial contains certain comments which to my mind constitutes a Breach of Privilege of the Council.

"In a free country such as ours there is of course complete freedom to criticise, but when such criticisms go beyond the limits, there is always the danger that there may be Breaches of Parliamentary Privileges.

"It is the duty of the Press to get fully acquainted with the Standing Orders of this Council and the Council Negri (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Ordinance 1963.

"I have made reference to this matter, as I have said, as part of my duty as a Speaker, and also as a reminder to those who find cause to criticise this Council and the editors of newspapers who choose to publish such criticisms, that great care should be taken to ensure that such criticisms do not constitute Breaches of Privileges of this Council and its members. I would like to take this opportunity to warn the Press in general that any further Breaches of

Privileges of this Council may get them into serious trouble."

The Datu Bandar remembered

Earlier, the Speaker called on the House to rise and observe a minute's silence in memory of the late Hon'ble Abang Haji Mustapha, the Datu Bandar who had been a member of the Council since 1941, and had rendered valuable services to the Council.

The Datu Bandar died suddenly on January 19 this year and the Speaker said his sudden death was a great loss to the Council.

He then intimated that the Chief Minister had notified him of his inability to attend the meeting of the Council as he was away on Government business.

The Speaker added: "I have also received notification from the Hon. Mr Chong Kiun Kong that he will not be able to be present here in time because of floods in Batu Kawa."

Welcoming three new members - the Hon'ble Mr John Pike, the State Financial Secretary; the Hon. Mr G.V.C. Young, the Acting State Attorney-General; and the Hon. Pengarah Sibat, the Speaker said: "I also take this opportunity to welcome the new Clerk to this Council, Mr Peter Chong."

He added: "On the recommendation of the House Committee of this Council seating arrangements for the Permanent Secretaries for Ministries have, as you will see, been made. They are here merely to provide the Ministers the information they may require during the course of the proceedings of the Council.

"It is important to note that they are not present here as members and will not take part in any proceedings. The copy of the minute of the meetings of the House Committee is before members now."

Council Unanimously Passes Revised Standing Orders

The Council unanimously a resolution approving the revised Standing orders of the Council Negri.

The motion was moved by the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, and seconded by the leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui.

The revised Standing Orders were prepared by the Standing Orders and Business Committee of Council Negri with the assistance of the Fourth Clerk at the Table of the House of Commons in London, Mr Charles Gordon.

The Committee included not only members of the Government but also the leader of the Opposition.

On Monday's meeting the Opposition members agreed that the Standing Orders as amended were "in many aspects better than the old", and said that if members understood the propose for which the Standing Orders were provided, they would make parliamentary democracy work.

In introducing the motion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Standing Orders laid down the Rules of Procedure for the Council and emphasised they were non-party in nature.

He added: "The large majority of the proposals were circulated last year to ail members. The Revised Standing Orders incorporate these amendments with the existing Standing Orders plus a few other amendments, mainly consequential, and it is hoped that the result will give this Council a procedure which will facilitate the orderly despatch of its business.

"In order to assist Honourable Members in following the Standing Orders, a note on the Standing Orders has been prepared for Honourable Members on the lines of that prepared some years ago by the substantive Attorney-General. It is hoped to be able to have this note translated into various languages for the assistance of members."

Opposition leader seconds

Seconding the motion, Mr Ong Kee Hui said that although appropriate amendments were made after Malaysia day the Standing Orders now in use were made in the days when Sarawak was still under a colonial administration.

He said: "With Malaysia and the resultant division of powers and responsibilities between the State and Federal Governments, we found that a strict interpretation of Standing Orders precluded matters of public interest which have become Federal subjects from being raised or discussed in this house.

"While it is obviously difficult and not in order for the State Government to answer on matters which is not within its purview, it is obviously desirable that honourable members should be able to raise any matter of public interest here and to obtain an answer through the State Government from the authority responsible. Only thus can this House preserve or retain the confidence of the people of Sarawak in their elected representatives.

"The provision of the new Standing Order No. 19 will enable this to be done. The other amendments to sections of Standing Order governing questions (Standing Orders 19 to 23) will it is hoped make question time more lively and useful."

Mr Ong went on to say that it might be argued that "federal subjects should be raised in the Federal Parliament by our M.P.s but from what I have been able to gather from our honourable M.P.s, matters of Sarawak interest appear rather remote and attract very little attention in the rarified atmosphere of Lake Gardens in Kuala Lumpur.

"Sarawak's 24 M.P.s' voices have as yet made little impact in that vast chamber of the Federal House."

He emphasised it was "most important in this early stage of the development of parliamentary democracy in Sarawak" that the members won and retained the confidence of the people of this country in this system of government

Continued Mr Ong: "Standing Orders should enable the proceedings of the Council to be conducted in such a manner that freedom of speech is ensured, while the dignity and decorum of the House is preserved, that freedom does not become licence, and debate deteriorates into mere wrangling."

While thanking the Attorney General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, and the Acting Attorney General, Mr G.V.C. Young, for the good deal of work they had put in, Mr Ong also thanked Mr Charles Gordon, Fourth Clerk at the Table of the House of Commons, "for the considerable assistance and advice he has given in the revision of the Standing Orders."

He concluded: "It may well be that in the light of experience further amendments may prove necessary. For the present the Revised Standing Orders should enable the proceedings to go on more smoothly.

"The Ministers have, as honourable members will notice, taken the precaution to reinforce their ranks with their Permanent Secretaries who are now sitting behind them in a special gallery provided by the House Committee.

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"I hope that they will no doubt be of considerable assistance to the Ministers and the House."

'Must not restrict expression of views'

Speaking next, Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) suggested that the Standing Orders "must be

framed in such a way as not to unnecessarily restrict the expression of views of the elected members of the Council.

He added: "It is important that Standing Orders should be such as not to preclude debate and freedom of speech and amendments to our Standing Orders should have been made long ago.

"It is however equally important, that the interpretation of Standing Orders in this House should be reasonable and use should not be made of these orders to stifle the voice of the Opposition."

Quoting instances, which he said have "given much dissatisfaction to us on this side of the House," Mr Chan recalled that at the previous meetings, certain ministers attacked the Opposition, giving the latter no chance to reply. This, he said, give the people "a very bad impression."

Continuing, Mr Chan quoted remarks made by the Chief Minister in his speech during the last meeting, and said, "This was an unfair statement and seems to be a pretext to prevent the voice of the people from being heard in this House."

Raising the question of language used in the House, Mr Chan said: "It is stated in the Standing Orders, 'The proceedings and debates of the Council shall be in English and Malay language, but a member may address the Council in other Native languages.'

"Mr Chan thought it was "unfair" to a certain section of the community which forms a prominent part of the plural society of Sarawak."

He said: "It is important that a member of this House should be allowed to speak or address the House in his or her mother tongue. This was in fact practised in the Singapore House of Assembly. It must be realised that however proficient one may be in other people's language, there is bound to be certain handicap in speaking a language other than your own."

Finally, Mr Chan said it was necessary that some provision should be included in the Standing Orders to prohibit members giving vent to anger by banging on the table and shouting names at each other.

'Better than the old'

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) thought that the Standing Orders as amended were in many aspects better than the old. The amendment went some way towards adopting the procedure and practice prevailing in the Federal Parliament or even in the House of Commons,

at Westminster, Mr Yong said.

He added: "I understand that now it is permitted to debate the Governor's speech. This is something that I have been trying very hard for a long time in the colonial days to introduce, but unfortunately without much success; because, apparently the Governor in the colonial days was supposed to be infallible.

"Of course the debate on the Governor's speech does not in any way reflect on him personally but merely a debate on Government policy."

Mr Yong said he also noticed that "more laxity is now given to asking of supplementary questions." "This is to be welcomed," he said, "because this is one way I feel of really getting the Government or Ministers to know their jobs properly and to be able to answer questions asked of them within their Ministries."

Continued Mr Yong: "I think the Standing Orders are no more than a guide to a rule of conduct of members in a parliamentary democracy.

"In this system, as I understand it, the cardinal principles are that the Government shall not spend public funds without a close and careful scrutiny of the elected representatives in this House, and that the acts of Ministers are called to question whenever there is occasion to do so.

"We in the Opposition are, therefore, charged with the responsibility of criticising the Ministers and the Government and to question Ministers concerned in matters which we and the public feel call for an answer or an explanation.

"If we are afraid to discharge our duty for fear of incurring the displeasure of the Ministers, then, I feel, the system of parliamentary democracy will have to be called into question."

Mr Yong felt that so long as they understood the purpose for which the Standing Orders were provided, they would make parliamentary democracy work.

He added: "To follow the letter and the plain words of the Standing Orders without adhering to the spirit thereof, in my view, is not enough.

"Perhaps, here I hold somewhat differing views from my colleagues, that is to say that words should be written, that one should not bang on the table and shout councillors' names.

"I accept that the Standing Orders must be framed so as to give the Government more room to manoeuvre. This is understandable.

"But to my mind it will be wrong for the

Government to take advantage of this and abuse the provisions thus given."

'Not to cast aspersion'

Referring to the Chief Minister's statement in the last Council Negri meeting, Mr Yong said that the provision in the Standing Orders for the Government to make a statement was essential, because members must hear from the Government matters of public importance first hand.

He commented: "It was never intended that this provision was given to the Government to raise controversial matters and to cast aspersion on the Opposition without giving it any opportunity to reply.

"I say this because it is entirely contrary to the principle of parliamentary democracy.

Concluded Mr Yong: "As I have said the Standing Orders are necessarily a guide to the rule of conduct and practice in this House, in order to make parliamentary democracy work.

"We cannot overlook the spirit inherent in that system and this is, whereas the Government must have the right to govern, the Opposition must be given an opportunity to voice their views and to criticise, no matter how strong, without fear and without undue restrictions, so long as this is done without malice."

'Wider scope to debate'

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Independent) said that the Standing Orders as amended gave wider scope to debate on matters but many members in the House knew it only too well to entertain doubts.

As the Opposition members had already pointed out, the Chief Minister's statement made in the last Council Negri meeting contained controversies and allegations made against the Opposition who were not given chances to reply.

Mr Leong referred to the Speaker's warning concerning the Press, and said that unless the Opposition was treated with fairness the Press would continue to criticise and would be prepared to meet the consequences when criticising such unfairness.

'Question of procedure'

The Acting State Attorney-General, Mr G.V.C. Young, said he would likerto comment although he was not in the House on that occasion.

He added: "As regards the statement made by Ministers, although it is not right to start a debate by a motion without notice, it could have been opened to any member of the Opposition who so wished to ask the chair for permission to make a speech on the adjournment without notice."

Mr Young said that would have been a proper method by which to approach it, but as he understood it, it was a question of procedure.

"If I may be permitted to use another saying which we have: 'There are more ways of killing a cat than choking it with butter,'" said Mr Young.

Mr James Wong, then thanked the Leader of the Opposition for seconding his motion on the Revision of Standing Orders. He said that one Opposition member had declared he was not quite happy with the framing of the Standing Orders because they "tended to favour the Government" and had doubted whether the Standing Orders did give the freedom of speech that he required to speak in this House.

Mr Wong added: "I do not wish to elaborate very much on this as the third speaker (Mr Stephen Yong) has already spoken on this subject and replied to him.

"But I do wish to say that these Standing Orders have been prepared in conjunction with the leaders of the Opposition and it is not meant to be one-sided Standing Orders which favour the Government, although as the member said there must be a right for Government to make certain provisions or rather for this House to give Government the right to make statements which are of public interest."

Mr Wong then assured the members of the Opposition no one would be debarred of their right to speak in the House and if any Opposition member felt that he had been restricted, he could appeal to the Speaker, provided it was consistent and within the Standing Orders.

He added: "But I do wish to point out one rather important thing to the second speaker (Mr Chan Siaw Hee) and that is that one does not question his bona fide credentials of being in this House and one does not even question his right to speak freely in this House.

"I do, however, beg all members that matters relating to debates, questions and subjects which have been discussed in this House would be confined to the precincts of this body and that it is not taken out of this House and published in a newspaper in the Third Division.

"In so far as the question of language is concerned, there is provision laid down for this in the Federal Constitution so I shall not go into this matter further.

"I notice that the third speaker has spoken with some glee over the amendments which we made to permit supplementary questions."

Finally, Mr Wong hoped that was all in the right spirit of democracy and he had no doubt that the Opposition would make full use of it. He then thanked Mr Yong for answering for him some of the questions raised by the second speaker.

Information sought on councillors' travelling allowances

On Tuesday's sitting of the Council Negri, Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked the Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawie what was the total amount paid to local councillors by local authorities in the form of subsistence and travelling allowances, and the amount so paid by each local authority for the years 1962 and 1963.

Mr Endawie replied that information sought regarding the total amount paid to local councillors by local authorities would have to be secured by separate enquiry from each local authority, and the very short notice given of this intention to raise this question had not permitted such reference to be made in time for an answer to be given.

He assured, however, that if Mr Yong of the view that the information was of sufficient importance to warrant local authorities being requested to undertake the considerable research which would be necessary, he would undertake to approach District Councils accordingly and provide a written reply as soon as the facts became available.

Question Time In Council Negri

Sgaou Request For Advances Discussed

Fourteen questions, including three concerning the request for Hari Raya and Chinese New Year advances made by the Sarawak Government Asian Officers' Union, were asked on Monday.

Supplementary questions were also asked on most of the questions.

Three members, Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp); Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Ind.); and Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasli (Panas) wanted to know why sympathetic consideration was not given to the SGAOU request on behalf of its members for advances against their salaries for Hari Raya and Chinese New Year.

The Financial Secretary, Mr John Pike, answering all the three questions said that the request of the Sarawak Government Asian Officers' Union for advances against their salaries for Hari Raya and Chinese New Year was given the most sympathetic consideration by Government.

He added that the reasons why Government was unable to comply with the request, "as it would have wished to do, were fully explained in a Government statement published in the Press on Saturday, February 15.

"In that statement," said Mr Pike, "the Government explained that the basic reason why it was debarred from making advances was because the provisions of the New Constitution give the people full control, through their elected representatives in this Council, of the use of public money, and it is no longer possible, as it was under the old Colonial Constitution for the Government to spend public money without the prior sanction of the legislature."

No formal request for public enquiry

With regard to the question of a public enquiry, Mr Pike said that no formal request had yet been received from the Sarawak Government Asian Officers' Union and the Government had not yet, therefore, considered that question.

Mr Pike, however, pointed out that "the proceedings in this House and the questions that are being asked are by their very nature a public enquiry."

Mr Pike said that members would be

aware from a perusal of the Supplementary Supply (1964) Bill, the Government was seeking "legislative sanction for such expenditure at this meeting of Council, and as stated in the announcement issued to the Press, will be seeking the approval of Honourable Members to amend that Bill so as to adopt the more generous practice followed in the State of Malaya, as is appropriate now that Sarawak is part of Malaysia.

"In view of Opposition members' evident concern over this question of advances, I hope I may be confident of their support when the Bill and the amendment thereto come under consideration."

In a supplementary question, Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked why it was not the intention of the Government to help its officers and why other ways were not thought of. For instance he thought it was within the Constitution to pay them their full month's salary instead of advances.

Mr Pike reassured Mr Yong that "every possible way in which Government might be able to comply with the request was most carefully and anxiously examined.

As stated in the announcement published on Saturday: "The Government naturally considered if there was any other way in which they could legally make advances of pay available to members of the public services."

Continued Mr Pike: "As the Hon'ble member quite rightly pointed out the only other way in which this could be done would have been by paying the February salary.

"Owing to the centralised accounting system which is used in the Treasury here in Sarawak whereby the pay sheets are prepared centrally in the Treasury rather than in the departments, I am sorry that this is one of the disadvantages of progress.

"It is physically impossible to prepare and despatch such pay sheets to the departments and outstations before about the 21st or 22nd of the month, and as you know on these occasions the festivals fell in the first half of the month and it simply could not be done. It is quite impossible and would be quite impossible in the future.

"It is for that reason that an amendment is to be moved to the Supplementary Supply (1964) Bill. The hinds which are provided in the Bill drafted at the moment would be enough to give half a month's advance of pay but they would be not enough to give 3 whole

month's advance of pay.

Machines versus clerks

"Now if Hari Raya or Chinese New Year falls after the 21st of the month, then it is physically possible to pay everybody their actual pay, but if it falls in the second half of the month, but before about the 21st, then regrettably it is physically impossible to pay and it would have to be done by means of advances and it is for that reason that Government will be moving the amendment to seek a substantially larger sum from this Council, to be voted into the personal advances public officers' fund."¹

Mr Ong Kee Hui referring to the accounting machines asked: "Do we understand that these machines are less efficient than the old clerks and that this House will therefore be called upon to help the machines?"

Mr Pike - The machines are less adaptable shall we say than the human beings. I would not say that they are less efficient. It is quite correct that this House has got to be called upon to assist the machines.

Added Mr Pike: "It is, if I may say so, a great deal cheaper to vote an additional sum, which after all is going to be recovered in the Personal Advances Account, than it is to spend large sums of money either buying a great many more machines or alternatively going back to the old ways and employing a great many more clerical officers.

"The Hon'ble member is quite correct in saying that the House is being called upon to assist the machines, but it is the cheapest way of doing it.

Abang Othman - "We understood from the Financial Secretary just now that the Government was sympathetic but there were difficulties in the consideration of giving advances to Government employees.

"It appears that the Government is taking advantage of the fact that the SGAOU was making the approach for advance only one week before Chinese New Year and Hari Raya."

Abang Othman went on to ask Government why it was too "short-sighted" and could not foresee the possibility of SGAOU members asking for advances for the festivals.

He said that this matter could have been dealt with three months ahead. He then asked the Financial Secretary whether he was aware of the danger of the Government officers staging a strike, and whether the Financial Secretary had realised that the machinery of the Alliance Government might be crippled by such a strike.

Mr Pike - "For the past ten years (I have full details of every Hari Raya and every Chinese New Year for the last ten years) it has been the practice where these festivals fall in the first half of the month to make no advance at all. But where they fall in the second half of the month to make half a month's advance unless naturally they fall after pay day when a full salary is paid.

"There has been numerous occasions in the past ten years when Hari Raya or Chinese New Year has fallen about the middle of the month, but in the first half of the month, as they did on this occasion, no advances have been requested by the Sarawak Government Asian Officers' Union.

Brains racked

"The Government therefore had no reason to suppose that the practice of ten years was suddenly, as the Hon'ble member points out, at a week's notice, to be totally upset and changed, and what is more that a demand would be received from the Union not for half a month's salary, because it was in the first half of the month, but for a full month's salary, and for that salary to be limited only to the members of the Union.

"The Government is fully appreciative of the danger of strike. The Government, as I have said on this occasion, racks its brains and the brains of very many officers of the Government as to how to get out of this difficulty.

"If any Hon'ble member opposite can think of a way in which we could have done it while keeping to our oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the State of Sarawak, I would be most relieved to hear of it.

"While one may be aware of the danger of a strike, one must expect those who threaten to strike to give some thought to what they are doing.

"It is quite correct, had they come to us and said at the end of November last year, or even up to the time of the Committee stage of the Supply Bill in December Budget meeting, that they wanted advances next February, we could then, in committee of Supply, had moved an amendment into this Personal Advances Fund.

"But they did not do so and as I say, with ten years' experience the other way and with no indication that any advance was going to be requested and plenty of dates when there have been similar dates and advances have not been received, there was no reason to suppose that this special request would be received."

Abang Othman then asked that since Hari Raya fell on February 15, was it not the first half of the month or more than half.

Mr Pike pointed out that it was the Hon'ble members of the Majlis Islam who tried to sight the moon and not the members of the House. He added that he had to follow the calendar and the calendar provisionally allocated Hari Raya Puasa to the first half of the month, 'unfortunately as we now know the moon was obscured (laughter) and as a consequence Hari Raya Puasa fell half in the first half of the month and half in the second half of the month' said Mr Pike amidst more laughter.

Abang Othman then asked "the Financial Secretary in particular and the State Government in general" an assurance that such incidents would not recur.

Tebekang/Mongkos Road

Mr Dagok anak Randen (Ind.) asked what was the target date for the completion of the Tebakang/Mongkos Road, and would Government give it priority "in order that, apart from the strategic point of view, the people in the border area who are suffering from the effects of Indonesian aggression will be able to benefit from the Development Plan more easily and quickly?"

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, said that the survey of the road was well in hand, and actual construction work would begin in June this year. The road would be completed about August 1966. The total length involved in the construction of the road was 22 miles and this included seven miles of the Tebakang Road to which improvements would be made: all the work would be finished by the completion date.

Added Inche Taib: "This road has been given top priority by the Divisional Development Committee within its Development Plan. I sympathise with the Member's view, but if further plant has to be diverted to speed up on the present completion date, it will mean that other, and equally important, road projects will have to be delayed.

"It is Government's policy that as many people as possible should benefit from the overall Development Plan, and it is therefore necessary to ensure an equal distribution of the work capacity amongst the various Divisions.

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp), in a supplementary question wished to know whether the road would receive top priority in the First Division, or get top priority of all the roads in the construction programme?

Inche Taib replied that the plan had been carried out in various Divisions by the Divisional Development Committee. The particular road was given top priority and that was the reason why it would be undertaken this June.

Silantek Coal Mine

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) wanted to know what the present situation was with regard to the Silantek Coal Mine, and whether the Government would invite operators other than the Japanese interests to operate it.

In reply, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Teo Kui Seng, said that negotiations were proceeding between the Nippon Coal Mining Co. Ltd. and the Federal and State Governments. It was the desire of the Nippon Coal Mining Co. Ltd. to mine the coal and natural coke at Silantek in conjunction with local participation.

Mr Teo added: "However, the financial negotiations relating to royalty, road toll, duty on fuel and other tax matters to ensure that Government receives a fair return for the work that will have to be undertaken to enable the coal to be shipped and also the question of marketing Sarawak coal in competition with coal from other countries is extremely complicated. In consequence negotiations will continue for some weeks yet."

Mr Teo went on to say that it was not the intention of Government to invite operators other than the Nippon Coal Mining Co. Ltd. to work the Silantek coalfield at present. There had been no indication that any country other than Japan wished to buy Sarawak's coal. The Nippon Coal Mining Co. Ltd.'s proposals for local participation would give ample scope for local investors. Indeed it was probable that more shares, would be offered than could be taken up locally.

Mr Teo added that negotiations could not continue indefinitely and Government would have to consider the question of other operators if nothing was settled by the time that the prospecting licence granted to the Nippon Coal Mining Co. Ltd. expired at the end of this year.

In a supplementary question to the above, Mr Stephen Yong asked whether only after the expiration of this prospecting licence at the end of this year Government would consider offering or inviting other operators than Nippon Coal Mining?

Mr Teo Kui Seng replied Government would allow Nippon Coal Mining to parti-

cipate in this project until their licence lapsed, before it would explore other possibilities for other operators.

Unnumbered plates provisions explained

Mr Stephen Yong then asked the State Attorney General under what provisions of the law certain ministers' cars were allowed to carry unnumbered plates, contrary to the provisions of the Road Traffic Ordinance.

The Acting Attorney General, Mr G.V.C. Young, explained that provisions regarding number plates were not controlled by the Road Traffic Ordinance but by regulations made by the Governor in Council under that Ordinance. Unnumbered licence plates were only used by two Ministers, one on an official Sarawak car and another on an official Federal car, he said.

Mr Young added: "It is not normal for legislation to bind the Government, but it is conceded that the proviso to regulation 23 of the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles and Trailers) Regulations, 1960, would appear to do so in this case.

"I would, however, inform Members that approval for the use of unnumbered licence plates has been given in respect of the two cars concerned, and steps are being taken to have the proviso to regulation 23 amended at an early date to cover this point and also to cover the case of Federal Government vehicles including civilian, military, and police vehicles, as technically these do not at present comply with the regulations though in fact all their present numbering has been approved by Supreme Council.

"I would mention that special ministerial number plates are used in other parts of Malaysia. I am sure that on careful consideration, the learned Member will realise that as a result of Malaysia there are a very considerable number of technical legal 'odds and ends' to be tied up, but these must be dealt with in a reasonable order of priority and that there are other modifications of very much greater legal importance which must be dealt with before such minor technicalities as this."

Serian to Pending/Kuching Port Trunk Road

Mr Yong then asked the Minister of Works and Communications, Inche Abdul Taib, when Government would begin work on the new trunk road from Serian to Pending/Kuching Port.

In reply the Minister referred Mr Yong to paragraphs 193 and 196 of the Sarawak Development Plan for 1964-1968.

He added: "This road does not form part of the general road programme, but it is a scheme linked to a particular productive activity, namely mining coal.- If the coal at Silantek is to be mined, then the road will be constructed; if the coal is not to be mined, then the road will not be constructed."

Mr Yong then wanted to know whether the Serian to Pending/Kuching Port Road was in fact not considered as important, "because unless - as I understood just now from the Minister - the mining operators are going to Silantek then the road will be made, otherwise it shall not be made?"

Asked Mr Yong: "Was it not a fact that the trunk road from Serian to Pending should in fact be part of the Development Plan, but because of the possibility of the Japanese Coal Mining going into Silantek then it was put off from the Development Plan?"

Inche Taib asked Mr Yong whether the word "importance" meant "giving preference."

He said: "The importance of the road lies in its being useful for Silantek Coal Mining, other than that I don't think it is very important at the moment because we already have the Serian/Simanggang Road."

Land: facts and figures asked for

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) asked the Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Teo Kui Seng, for the number of applicants for land in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Divisions; the acreage of land available for alienation to farmers in each Division and the situation of such land; the acreage of land in each Division which has been so alienated since August 1963 to farmers who have applied for land; and whether any premium was payable and if so, how much per acre.

In reply, Mr Teo said that Mr Chong (who was absent) would understand that the question he raised was so wide that it was not possible to quote the figures he required for a precise answer in the short time available. However, Mr Teo said that he would make available to Mr Chong the land alienation statistics for 1963 as soon as possible for all Divisions.

He added: "Shortage of staff in the Lands and Surveys Department will prevent the figures being re-cast to fit the form of the question.

"As the old Application for Land system is

now in the process of being abolished it is not possible to say how many persons wish to apply for State land which is presumably what the Honourable Member has in mind.

"Until schemes for the systematic alienation of Land are published it is not possible to call for applicants. The report of the Land Committee which was accepted by Government recommended that no longer would sporadic application for land and settlement of Native customary right be considered.

"The Land Adjudication Bill and the Land (Native Dealings) Bill were published last week. My short radio talks and explanations by Mr Richards to District Councils have explained the changes which are being made in the present land laws.

"At present the premium on agricultural land is \$3 per acre and on land used only for padi cultivation \$1 per acre. Such titles in future will be granted not for 60 years, nor for 99, nor for 999 years but in perpetuity.

"Government will publish shortly details of further changes which are to be made in the payment or premium, rent and fees on new alienations of land."

A supplementary question on the above was asked by Mr Stephen Yong as follows: "Since the Minister has said that invitation for applications will not be made until the system of land alienation has been worked out, may we be informed as to when such system will be completed? Then, I think there are questions which have not been dealt with. I wonder if, perhaps, he could not do it now, he could do so later in writing?"

Mr Teo - "I would like to make some explanation on the situation of the applications for land. The Hon'ble member will appreciate that it is not possible and wise for the Government to accept applications for land scattered all over the country.

"With the Development Plan it is the duty of each Divisional Development Planning Committee to select a certain spot or a certain acreage for development, and when that area is decided it would be advertised, and applications would be received. In the meantime those applicants who had applied for land all over the country will have their names recorded, and when an area is earmarked for development they will be advised."

Mr Yong - "So far, up to now, no development area has been earmarked for this purpose."

Mr Teo - "They are still under the consideration of the Development Committee and I hope it will be announced in the course of the next two or three weeks."

Query on advertising vacant posts

Mr Ong Kee Hui then asked the State Secretary whether Government advertised vacant posts in the public service in the local press before advertising in foreign press "to give local officers or other local people an opportunity to apply for such posts and compete for them?"

In reply, the State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw, said: "When the Public Service Commission orders that a post should be advertised both locally and abroad the time factor alone ensures that the local advertisement is done first. The mechanics of placing advertisements in the foreign press requires time.

"In any case where selection and appointment is to be done on behalf of the Public Service Commission by a recognised agency abroad, that agency is informed not to make any final offer until reference back to Sarawak has been cleared. This ensures that local candidates shall have first opportunity when vacancies occur."

Mr Ong then wished to know whether indents were still sent to the Secretary of State whenever vacancies were required to be filled.

"Could the State Secretary give us the present procedure regarding indents?" he asked.

Mr Shaw replied he did not think the present would be the appropriate time to give details of what the procedure was. He added that within the terms of the London agreement indents were still sent to the Secretary of the Department of Technical Co-operation, and there were, as far as he could recall a number of outstanding indents.

On Borneanisation

Mr Ong then asked the State Secretary whether Government would not consider it desirable that the post of Establishment Officer should be held by a local officer "to ensure that Borneanisation is carried out more rapidly?"

Mr Shaw replied: "The Government does not accept the inference implied in the Honourable Member's question that a Bornean officer would carry out Borneanisation any more rapidly than an expatriate officer charged with the same duty.

"In any case the final responsibility for Borneanisation rests with the Public Service Commission."

In a supplementary question Mr Ong asked whether it could be understood that the

answer was "no."

Mr Shaw said that it depended entirely on what the Hon'ble member meant by "no" in this case. The answer to the question was the answer as he had given: there was nothing equivocal about that. He added there might well come a time when there would be a local officer entirely fitted to take over the post of Establishment Officer.

Another question by Mr Ong asked "for clarification of the position of those designated officers who having received compensation expressly for loss of career have been promoted or confirmed in a higher appointment."

The State Secretary replied: "The first main purpose of the arrangements for the Public Service made by the Inter-Governmental Committee was to provide for the proper functioning of the Federalised and State Departments in the Borneo States when Malaysia comes into being, while preserving the existing terms of service of serving officers.

"With the coming of Malaysia permanent and pensionable officers were granted compensation for normal career prospects following the handing over of the responsibility of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for their future and the change of sovereignty.

"These officers are entitled to consideration for promotion as will be seen by the provisions of the last sentence in paragraph 8 of Annex B to the IGC Report which states that the Public Service Commission should be instructed that 'when a local candidate is in sight no vacancy will be filled except on a temporary or contract basis or by promotion of a serving officer.'

"Furthermore Article 38 of the Sarawak Constitution provides that 'All persons of whatever race in the same grade of the Service of the State shall, subject to the terms and conditions of their employment, be treated impartially.' Paragraph 14 of Annex B sets out similar principles in respect of designated officers seconded to Federalised departments.

Borneanisation not lost sight of

"The Honourable Member may rest assured that sight has not been lost of the vital need for Borneanisation, and Article 56 of the Constitution makes provision for the compulsory retirement of established officers to facilitate the appointment to, or promotion in, vacant posts in any grade of the Public Service and, if necessary, to decide which of

the entitled officers in that grade shall be required to retire.

"This, however, is subject to the proviso in the Constitution that a designated officer cannot be 'Borneanised' during the minimum period of service which has been specified for him.

Mr Charles Linang (Supp) asked the State Secretary "why a local officer who is well experienced in service and establishment matters should be removed from the important post of PAS Establishment?"

Mr Shaw replied that no officer had been removed from the post of PAS Establishment.

"All PAS posts are amongst those which are filled by the cadre of officers in the Administrative Service. It is not considered that any one PAS post is necessarily any more important than another," said Mr Shaw.

He added: "Officers of the Administrative Service are expected to have wide experience in all branches of the administration of Government and they are therefore liable for posting at any time to a variety of posts carrying substantially different duties.

"The experience gained in these different posts provides a background for a proper appreciation of the needs of the administration and for a balanced judgement in satisfying those needs.

"This background of experience is equally desirable for Administrative officers serving in the Establishment Branch as it is in any other post allocated to the Administrative Officers are considered for promotion."

Arising out of the above, Mr Stephen Yong asked the following supplementary question: "Does the State Secretary then admit that there is this well experienced local officer in the service and establishment, and if so does it not then contradict his earlier statement that there was no local officer who was eligible to take on the post of the Establishment officer?"

Mr Shaw - "I certainly not denying that there is or may have been an experienced local officer in the Establishment Branch. As far as the posts in that branch are concerned, they are both filled by officers whom Government considers the most experienced and the best for the job. I would draw the Hon'ble Member's attention to what I have said in the latter part of the answer to the original question that experience is not made up of experience in one branch only.

No famine in Sarawak, says Minister

In reply to a question by Mr Chan Siaw Hee, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mr

Teo Kui Seng, said that there was no famine in Sarawak. Mr Chan asked whether Government was aware of the fact that the padi crops in many areas of the First and Second Divisions had failed "and farmers are facing possible threats of hunger." He wanted to know what steps were being taken to deal with this situation.

Mr Teo said: "In the First Division the only area where damage to padi was reported is at Kampong Selampit near Lundu where approximately 70 to 80 acres of padi have been affected.

Council Negri News

Moving the second reading of The Supreme Council (Members Oaths) validation Bill, the Acting State Attorney-General, Mr G.V.C. Young recalled that at the last meeting of Council Negri, an Ordinance was enacted to validate the acts of the members of Council Negri which were done before the members took the oath under the new Constitution of Sarawak.

Further examination had revealed the fact that the members of Supreme Council should probably also have taken a fresh oath after September 16.

"The matter is arguable in view of the wording of certain provisions of the Constitution, but it is felt desirable to place the matter beyond all doubt and to pass of further validation Ordinance in respect of the oaths of members of Supreme Council," said Mr Young.

He added: "I might say that the possible \$200 a day penalty which was referred to at the last meeting in regard to members of the Council Negri does not apply in respect of members of Supreme Council.

"You will note that special provision has been made in the case of the Substantive State Attorney-General and the then State Financial Secretary, as the former was on leave on December 23, and the latter had, on that date ceased for good to be a member of the Supreme Council. Let us hope that after all this we can proceed upon our lawful occasions without undue swearing."

The State Financial Secretary, Mr John Pike seconded the motion.

'Be tolerant and forgiving'

Before the motion was passed Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) commented:

"I have some little doubt whether or not there may not be other matters which perhaps require this sort of validating bill to put matters right.

"As the Attorney-General said on Monday

there are different pieces of loose ends to tie in this big venture we have launched ourselves into.

"I hope that other people might be forgiven particularly Honourable Members, for sometimes not being able to interpret Standing Orders."

Mr Yong then asked Members of the Government side to be "more tolerant and perhaps more forgiving" when some Members on the Opposition side made points which might not be "strictly legal", but nevertheless sensible.

Aided schools could continue to borrow money THE LOAN (SCHOOL MANAGEMENTS) BILL PASSED

Aided schools in Sarawak could continue to borrow money for building or reconstruction of schools or for school equipment.

Moving the second reading of The Loan (School Managements) Bill which was passed at the Council Negri session on Tuesday, February 25, the State Financial Secretary, Mr J. Pike said.

"Under the provisions of the Loans to Aided Schools Regulations, 1956, the Government of Sarawak has hitherto given loans to Aided Schools, which require to borrow money for building or reconstruction of schools or for school equipment.

"In adopting the 1964-68 Development Plan this Council has agreed that this practice should continue, and a sum of \$3 million has been included in the Plan for that purpose. Since education is a Federal subject, one would expect that the Federal Government would make such loans direct to the various school managements which are in need of them.

"However, it was felt, both by this Government and by the Federal Government, that

this might lead to delay and might impose an undue burden upon school managements. The Federal Government is therefore prepared to lend the \$3 million in question to the State Government, so that Government in its turn may deal expeditiously with the requests of school managements."

Mr Pike added: "Since education is a Federal Subject, it would not be appropriate for the proceeds of this loan to be paid into the State Development Fund. Indeed, it is probable that when the proposed new Federal Development Funds Act is passed by the Dewan Ra'ayat probably later this year this would be ultra vires the purposes of a State Development Fund.

"Clause 5 of the Bill now before the House therefore provides that all monies borrowed under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be paid into the Loans to School Managements Fund to be established by means of the Bill amending the Financial Procedure (Contingencies and Trust Funds) Ordinance, 1963.

"The Bill therefore seeks statutory authority in accordance with Article HI of the Federal Constitution as modified by Section 49 of the Malaysia Act to enable this Government to borrow the money for the purposes I have just mentioned."

'Right and fair'

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind) commenting on the Bill said that it seemed that the Aided Schools were quite different from Government or Council's schools, as the latter schools were completely financed by either Government or the Councils.

He agreed it was "right and fair that Government should have a proper scheme to allow loan-making to the aided schools which require borrowed money for building, reconstruction of schools, or for school equipment and so on."

Mr Mak Yau Lim added: "The numerous private schools which are doing equally well and properly managed should also be encouraged and given assistance."

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp): "Although we have the whole mechanics of how this money has to be obtained by the Bill, I feel sure there is some little difference which was originally envisaged with regard to funds coming from Development funds - from the funds now being borrowed from the Federal Government.

"As I understand it, if you take the money out of the Development Funds appropriate to this case, then no interest will be payable.

Whereas now, when we pass the Bill and raise a loan of \$3 million from the Federal Government, then it looks to me that interest will be payable.

"I refer to Clause 4 unless, of course, the Financial Secretary can tell to the contrary.

"If interest in payable then I think we are losing out because if the funds were given to us under the Development Scheme that money can be utilized by our State for this purpose without interest.

"Whereas now you take it out, exclude the \$3 million from the Development Fund and borrow it from the Federal Parliament and if interest is chargeable, I think that must be remedied. Otherwise we may find other bills which are coming up for consideration and find ourselves in a rather disadvantageous position."

F.S. explains

Replying, the State Financial Secretary, Mr John Pike said: "On the question of interest, I think Mr Yong has not recalled that in the Development Plan which came before this House and was approved by it, there is set out in a table at the back, the various sources of the funds allocated. They are basically in four groups.

"Firstly, there is state expenditure, i.e. we use our own state Government funds. Secondly, the opposite to that as it were, direct Federal expenditure, e.g. all matters that are purely Federal and where it would be inappropriate for the state to spend money such as the Police.

Thirdly, there are Federal grants and these are by far the largest part of the source of fund of the Development Fund and those special grants are used for what would otherwise be State expenditure. Fourthly, and this is a relatively small element in the whole picture, there are Federal loans and those are made available for such projects as it is appropriate should bear interest.

"This is in accordance with the practice in the States of Malaya. And of course, so far as interest charging on loans to school managements are concerned, it is, as I have said, the intention to continue past practice, that is to say interest is charged.

"I think it is fallacious to say that if we take this out of the Development Fund and pay it into the loans to school management funds that it makes any difference at all to the question of interest. As I say, the question of whether or not interest is payable is determined by the table at the back of the Develop-

merit Plan showing which things we have to pay and which we do not."

THE LOAN (WATER SUPPLIES) BILL PASSED

Explaining the Loan (Water Supplies) Ordinance 1964 Bill which was passed by the Council Negri last week, the State Financial Secretary, Mr J. Pike said:

"In order to meet the demand for the provision of piped water supplies to as many places as possible, a sum of \$10 million has been provided in the 1964-68 Development Plan.

"Of this, \$5 million is required as a subsidy to the rural water supplies and that money will be given out as grants to enable a greater proportion of the rural population to have a supply of pure water, State fluids have been allocated for that purpose.

"There are however, existing water supplies in the larger towns of the State, which need to be extended and improved and for this kind of supply Council has agreed in adopting the Development Plan that funds should be provided as loans instead of grants.

"For this purpose, it is necessary to borrow a sum of \$5 million from the Government of the Federation, which has provisionally agreed to lend the money. As stated in Clause 5(1) of the Bill, all monies thus borrowed will be paid into the Development Fund and be applied for the purpose of providing water supplies or for purposes ancillary thereto.

"But if for any reason, the funds are not required in full for water supplies Clause 5(2) will enable such funds to be applied to any other purposes of the Development Fund as may be specified and approved by a resolution of this Council."

Plea for rural water supply

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind) speaking in support of the Bill said that Government had been generous in providing the larger towns with purified piped water, and the people in these towns were, of course, happy.

He added: "But those in the small towns and villages seemed to have been neglected, as Government had not provided them with such utility. Although some had made representation to Government demanding for it, no action had yet been taken by Government.

"As it is the present policy of Government to help raise the standard of living of the rural people and to improve their way of living, I think, one of the best ways to help them is to

provide them with water supply as water is most essential in our daily life. This will not only facilitate improvements, but will also save their time and improve their health.

"However, I am delighted to note from the 1964-68 Development Plan that \$5 million is allocated for implementing the policy for rural water supplies, and that the State Government is planning to make a loan from the Government of the Federation for the purpose of implementing this policy which is an excellent one. We hope that it would be implemented promptly and successfully."

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) commented that water supplies "should be very much on the fore in the Development Plan insofar as it is essential to health."

He added: "But the point I must make here is that so far the policy of the Government has been to charge higher rates for water supplies to towns, which has the effect of getting money from the urban areas to subsidize the ulu areas, therefore, I would like to make the point clear, and that is at any time when a scheme has been put through, the water rates in towns must be reduced."

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud said "It is not true that the towns are asked to subsidize the water supplies in the ulu areas, though this from the point of view of social justice - would be a very desirable thing to do because the people in the towns are generally speaking richer than the people in the ulu.

"I will quote one example: the charges in places like Kapit, Kanowit and Binatang are much higher than the rates charged in Sibul and Kuching.

'Case for some form of grants'

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) said: "My learned friend (Mr Stephen Yong) had made his point quite clear. I think he has in mind a set-up like, for instance, the Kuching Water Board or the Sibul Water Board where you have got quite an urban population which has already has its supply.

"Where an extension is needed to supply a rural area, then, of course, the capital works involved in such an extension would, therefore, fall on the urban part of the community which is also served by that particular statutory body.

"Therefore, it means that the existing people who are already having supplies have, in fact, subsidized those who have not got it because of the large capital works involved and in such cases there is, I think, a case for some form of grants so that people who are

already enjoying additional amenities are called upon to pay for capital works which really benefit someone else.

"I think this is the point my learned friend wishes to make but he has not made it so clear. Although we here would agree with him that those who have should, of course, help those who have not and therefore to some extent we, in the urban areas, do not grudge helping our fellow brethren in the ulu areas as we have done.

"In fact, in certain cases, for instance in the case with electricity, we, in the towns, are called upon to pay rates which, in fact, make up for losses in turn in some of the remote areas where electricity is given but where the power stations do not if fact pay their way.

"I do not think we grudge the rural areas subsidy in that form. I think the point my learned friend wishes to make is that where you have got big capital expenditure, there is in fact a case for some grants so that the burden is not unduly heavy on existing rate-payers."

TWO FURTHER TRUST FUNDS ESTABLISHED

Moving the second reading of the Financial Procedure (Contingencies and Trust Funds) (Amendment) Bill, passed by Council Negri on Tuesday, February 25, the State Financial Secretary, Mr John Pike said: "The purpose of this Bill is to establish two further Trust Funds in addition to those already established by the Principal Ordinance.

"The first of these Funds is the Sinking Fund, and the object of creating it is to have a Fund in which account can be kept of the public debt charges of the State.

"When the Principal Ordinance was originally moved in this Council, it was thought that such a Fund was unnecessary since the various laws authorising Sarawak to raise money themselves provided for the creation of Sinking Funds.

"Further examination, however, suggests that it would be more in keeping with current Malaysian practice formally to establish a Sinking Fund under the Financial Procedure (Contingencies and Trust Funds) Ordinance.

"The second Fund which it is sought to establish is the Loans to School Managements Fund. In moving the second reading of the Loan (School Managements) Bill, I have already explained to Honourable Members

Mr James Wong (Acting Chief Minister): "The point which the leader of the Opposition has just made on the question of heavy capital expenditure on water works will be noted by the Government.

"I am glad to note that members of the Opposition do not bear a grudge regarding the subsidising of rural areas by the urban areas because I feel there is a standing grievance by the rural people in Sarawak all along these years and until recently. We are trying to remedy it since we have attained independence.

"But the rural areas have all these years, during the Rajah's reign and the subsequent Colonial rule, been subsidising the urban areas, especially places like Kuching.

"I think it is only fair now that the capital and interest should be paid back to the rural areas. I am glad to note that the Hon'ble Member has voiced that sentiment as a matter of social justice."

the reasons why this Fund is necessary. I will not therefore take up Honourable Members' time by repeating what has already been said."

What is "Sinking Fund?" asks Yong

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) then asked for an explanation of "Sinking Fund."

Mr Pike, in reply, said: "On the point about the creation of Trust Funds, it is not the mere creation of the Fund that enables anything to be done with that Fund unfortunately.

"Two steps are necessary - firstly we have by law, and this particular bill that we are now considering, to establish a Trust Fund.

"Secondly, if it is a Fund from which we wish to pay out money, then we must by another law, pay the money into the Fund.

"Now in the case of the Personal Advances to Public Officers' Fund, the money has to be paid in by a Supply Ordinance or a Supplementary Supply Ordinance, i.e. by a straight forward vote of this Council.

"But in the case of a Sinking Fund, for example, the money is going to be paid in by virtue of laws which this Council has already passed.

"Honourable Members will recall feat

there is provision there that there shall be contributed each year to the Sinking Fund so much by way of repayment of capital and interest. So that, in the second case, the mere establishment of the Fund by virtue of the Bill now under consideration is enough to enable us to pay monies into the Fund because we already have another law authorising that.

"As to the question of the propose of the Sinking Fund, the basic idea is this: We borrow, let us say, \$20 million from the Government of Brunei and you promise to pay it back in, say, 30 years' time.

"It may come about that you are not prudent and at the end of the 30 years there is no means of paying back to the Brunei Government. It would certainly be a bad thing for the credit of this State.

"So what you do with the Sinking Fund is that each year you set aside a little bit of the money for paying back. Having set that money aside, you will invest it so that it earns interest in its own term and the result of that, of course, is that you have to set aside each year less than you finally have to repay."

COUNCIL PASSED SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY (1963) BILL

The Supplementary Supply (1963) Bill moved by the State Financial Secretary, Mr J. Pike was also passed on Tuesday, February 25.

Mr Pike said: "I believe it is not normal practice to address Council at any length when moving the second reading of the Supplementary Supply Bill, since in contradistinction to the Principal Supply on which the Budget Speech is made and the whole policy of the Government is discussed, it is the case with Supplementary Supply Bills that in their very nature they acquire odd bits and pieces of expenditure, which are more properly discussed in Committee and cannot by their nature readily form the subject of a policy speech.

"Nevertheless since this is the first occasion on which a Supplementary Supply Bill has been considered under the new Constitution, I feel I should explain to Honourable Members how the new procedure differs from the old.

"Under the previous Constitution it was the practice for the Supreme Council to approve supplementary expenditure by means of Special Warrants, without the prior sanction of this Council.

"Since the composition of the old Council Negri comprised a large number of official members who, together with the unofficial members of Supreme Council, constituted a majority, the Government could be reasonably confident of receiving retrospective sanction for the action it had taken and, in any event, if such sanction were not forthcoming,

the Colonial Governor was still free to sanction the expenditure notwithstanding.

"The Special Warrants were then combined into a Schedule of Additional Provision which was then presented at the next meeting of this Council, when a resolution would be moved seeking approval for that Schedule. When the accounts for the year had closed and the final Schedule of Additional Provision had been taken, then - and only then would a Supplementary Supply Bill covering all the additional provision made in respect of that year be introduced into this Council.

"Under the new Constitution, the financial provisions of which came into operation on January 1 this year, by virtue of Article 52 of that Constitution, it is no longer possible for the Government to incur expenditure which has not had the prior sanction of legislature and been duly appropriated by State law.

"How then does the Government deal with urgently needed but unforeseen expenditure? Honourable Members will remember that at the last meeting, when they considered the Estimates for 1964, they agreed to vote a sum of \$500,000 to the Contingencies Fund, and by approving the Financial Procedure (Contingencies and Trust Funds) Ordinance at that same meeting they authorised the Chief Minister to make advances from the Contingencies Fund, if he were satisfied that an urgent and unforeseen need for expenditure had arisen and that no other provision exists for the supply of the money.

'Major constitutional advance'

"When the Contingencies Fund is exhausted, then the Government is completely debarred from spending further money, until this Council agrees by law to supply it. This is very right and proper, and is a major constitutional advance whereby it is ensured that the people, through their elected representatives, have full control of the use of public money.

"The Bill which we are now to consider relates to expenditure under the provisions of the old Constitution and, as Honourable Members will see from the first page of Command Paper No. 1 of 1964, the bulk of the funds for which legislative sanction is sought has already received the covering approval of this Council by means of resolutions adopting the Schedules of Additional Provision Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of 1963.

"The balance of the money sought is

money provided by Special Warrants which would, had the old Constitution continued, now come before this Council in the form of Schedule of Additional Provision No. 4 of 1963.

"But because we are now operating under the provisions of part III of the new Constitution, it is necessary for that authority to be sought in the form of Supplementary Estimates. These Estimates have been termed the First Supplementary Estimates 1963 although as Honourable Members will appreciate, had the new Constitution been in operation throughout last year, they would of course then have been the Fourth Supplementary Estimates. As soon as the question on the second reading of this Bill has been put and, as provided by Standing Order No. 66(4) this question is to be decided without amendment for debate, this Council will resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider those Supplementary Estimates."

QUESTION TIME IN COUNCIL NEGRI

The State Government has not yet consulted on the proposal to introduce the sale of Malayan Social Welfare Lottery tickets.

This was stated by the Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawie, in reply to a question by Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) at the meeting of the Council Negri on Tuesday, February 25.

Mr Ong asked whether the Government had been consulted on the proposal to introduce into Sarawak the sale of Malayan Social Welfare lottery tickets, "and if so, what arrangements will Government make in respect of existing Government commitment concerning the Combined Sweepstake run on behalf of the Social Welfare Council by the Sarawak Turf Club."

Mr Endawie replied that he was obliged to Mr Ong "for drawing the attention of this House to a matter which must be of interest to us all."

He added that no consultation of the sort envisaged by Mr Ong's question had yet taken place.

Said Mr Endawie: "There would, of course, be obvious merit in the extension of the Malayan Social Welfare lottery to Sarawak if this resulted in enhanced financial

assistance to our own Social Welfare Council and, indeed, the Council has already approached my ministry with exploratory enquiries along these lines.

"However, I am fully aware of the considerable financial implications in such proposal; not least the interests of the Sarawak Turf Club Sweep conducted on behalf of the Welfare Council.

"These implications are currently being examined and I can reassure the Honourable Member that no approach to the Malayan Social Welfare Lottery Board is contemplated before these have been satisfactorily resolved.

"In these circumstances, I have taken the necessary steps to ensure the appropriate Federal authorities understand the position and will take the opportunity of a forthcoming visit of the Minister for Labour and Welfare to raise the matter."

Further sale?

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) - Could the Minister enlighten this House whether the present arrangement between the Sarawak Turf Club and the Government representing the Social Welfare Council is satisfactory, it

so, then is it necessary to introduce further sale of the lottery tickets, which would in fact in some way affect that arrangement?

Mr Endawie: I cannot say very much about this matter. We have to be consulted by the Federal Government before we decide.

Mr Yong repeated his question and asked whether the Government felt the present arrangement between the Turf Club and the Social Welfare Council was satisfactory.

Mr Endawie hoped that it was satisfactory. Mr Yong replied that if it was satisfactory then the move by the Federal Government to extend the Social Welfare lottery here should be a mistake. Mr Endawie retorted that it would be "more satisfactory."

Monthly allowances for local Councillors

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) and Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Ind) sought information on the subject of fixed monthly allowances for Local Councillors.

To Mr Yong, Mr Endawie replied that the information sought regarding the total amount paid to Local councillors by Local Authorities would have to be secured by separate enquiry from each Local Authority, and the very short notice given of this intention to raise this question had not permitted such reference to be made in time for an answer to be given.

To Mr Leong's question he assumed that Mr Leong was referring to the reply given to him by the then State Financial Secretary during last September Council Negri meeting on this subject.

Mr Endawie added: "I regret that I am unable to discover in the Official Report of the proceedings of this House on that occasion, any reference to approval, in principle or otherwise, of the payment of fixed allowances to District Councillors as a charge to their own revenues."

Mr Yong - Was it not a fact that the State Financial Secretary did mention that this payment of allowances to local councillors was a matter for the local councils.

Mr Endawie: It is a matter for Local Councils, but we know now most of the Councils cannot afford to run their own Councils. They have to apply for recurrent grants from the State and Federal Governments and I think that they cannot act independently.

Mr Yong then sought an assurance from the Government as to whether there would be any objection to a Council paying fixed allowances if it had the funds. Mr Endawie

refused to commit himself and said he had nothing more to add.

Mr Yong then contended that the Minister was not answering his question. The Speaker stated that the Minister was not bound to answer Mr Yong's question. Mr Yong retorted by saying that this was a matter of public interest and asked what was the principle the Government was adopting in this case: was the Government saying that allowances could not be paid because the small Councils would have to fall back on the Central Government for funds?

Mr Yong went on to reiterate his question as to whether Government had any objection to Councils paying fixed allowances if they could do so.

The Acting Attorney General, Mr G.V.C. Young, then raised two points of order. He agreed with the Speaker that the Minister was not obliged to answer any question. He then said that the question should not be put forward as a solution to a hypothetical proposition. He contended that Mr Yong's question was hypothetical.

Mr Endawie said: "It is not correct to talk about the ability of District Councils to meet the cost of fixed allowances from their own funds. Moreover, no local authority is yet financially autonomous.

"All rely heavily upon capital grant assistance from the State and Federal Governments. In these circumstances, additional expenditure commitment of fixed and regular remuneration to District Councils would, in practice, mean either an increased demand for further capital grant assistance or an increase in rates.

"In view of the many present commitments of Local Authorities in the field of social services, it is not considered in the public interest for funds to be diverted to Councillors' remuneration or for the rate-payers to be asked to bear this burden.

"The most that can be justified is a scale of allowances for reimbursement of transport and lodging charges and subsistence towards out-of-pocket expenses for actual attendances on Council business."

Mr Yong expressed his dissatisfaction with the Minister's answer and said: "We must know what Government policy is on this. We cannot have the Minister saying we will allow this, but we cannot do so because of funds not being available by the Local Council. If a Local Council like the K.M.C. can make funds available for the purpose, will that meet with any objection or approval?"

Mr Endawie pointed out that Local Councils were supposed to work on a

voluntary basis, and the payment of allowances was not the practice.

Mr Yong said that if that was so, all that had been said earlier on was "eye-wash." He then called for a definite statement. Mr Endawie reiterated what he had said earlier.

In answer to a further question by Mr Yong whether he was aware of the fact that fixed monthly allowances were paid to local councillors in the Malayan States, Mr Endawie replied: "Yes, sir, I am aware that such allowances are payable to some local councillors in the Peninsula States."

Kapit by-election

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) then asked Mr Dunstan Endawie whether a by-election at Kapit for the seat held by Datu Temenggong Jugah would take place, and why election of a representative from the Kapit District Council to the Third Division Advisory Council had taken place if a by-election had not been held.

Mr Endawie replied that no by-election was pending in the Kapit District Council "as no casual vacancy has occurred, as far as I am aware, in respect of this Council."

He added: "Regarding the recent by-election in the Third Division Advisory Council, the Honourable Member will be aware that, as required by the provisions of Article 43 (viii) of the Federal Constitution, Datu Temenggong Jugah resigned as a member of this House consequent upon his election to the Federal Parliament and appointment as Minister for Sarawak Affairs.

"The Minister also chose to resign from membership of the Third Division Advisory Council, although he was not required to do so by any provision of the Federal or State constitution or other electoral law. However, the Minister retained his seat on the Kapit District Council as, in fact, he is fully entitled to do.

"In these circumstances, the only by-elections required by law were those to fill the seats vacated by the Minister in this House and in the Third Division Advisory Council and, as the Honourable Member will know, these have now been held."

BICYCLE LICENCE PLATES

Mr Stephen Yong asked the Minister for Local Government why approval was not given to the proposal put forward by the Kuching Municipal Council for the introduction of the new type of aluminium licence plates for bicycles changeable each year.

Mr Endawie replied that this was not an issue with which he would have thought it appropriate to burden this House, "but a matter for simple enquiry from my ministry on the part of the Kuching Municipal Council."

He added: "If, however, the Honourable Member feels that weighty considerations of principle are at stake, I will willingly explain the position.

"The proposals submitted by the Kuching Municipal Council relating to changes in the present procedure for the licensing of bicycles coincided with alternative proposals in this respect from a number of other Councils, notably the S.U.D.C.; and with recommendations on the subject from the Commissioner of Sarawak Constabulary.

"In the interests of maintaining uniformity, there was obvious merit in seeking a satisfactory solution acceptable to all Councils and ensuring that any change in bicycle licensing procedure resulted in the adoption of the most practical arrangement

"The various - and sometimes conflicting - suggestions in this matter were submitted to the police and Land Transport authorities for their technical advice as well as to the Director of Audit for his opinion regarding revenue control in the event of adoption of any of the new systems suggested.

"In the event, as soon as their recommendations had been received, detailed examination of the merits of the various alternatives could not be completed in sufficient time to secure the agreement of all local authorities, enact the necessary amending By-law legislation of each Council and manufacture or purchase new licence plates and enable introduction of any new system on January 1 this year.

"It would clearly be unsatisfactory for any change to be introduced part way through a licensing period. In these circumstances, it is now proposed, subject to acceptance by Councils, to introduce any agreed revised procedure at the beginning of next licensing period on January 1, 1965."

Mr Stephen Yong - Is the Minister aware that his ministry gave an assurance that the matter could be looked into and completed by September 1963 - a matter of five months? For that reason the question was brought up in this House.

Mr Endawie - We would like to do it as soon as possible but we had to submit the proposal to the Commissioner of Constabulary and the Land Transport Officer for their comments as well as to the Director of Audit.

Chinese medium primary schools

In reply to a question by Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) whether it was Government's policy to convert Chinese medium primary schools into English medium schools, Mr Dunstan Endawie said that the question related to policy "in respect of subject included in the Federal legislative list-and does not, therefore, he within my competence to answer."

He added: "The question would be more appropriately asked in the Federal Parliament, where the responsible Minister would be present to reply and where the political party to which the Honourable Member belongs is adequately represented.

"This course is the one most likely to result in an expeditious response and, for this reason, I have not treated this question as falling within the proviso to Standing Order 19 and I have nothing to add to my reply."

Mr Chan - Is the Minister aware that the present education policy is the policy laid down by the Colonial Government Officer who is now running the Education Department of Sarawak.

The Speaker said that this question did not fall within the Minister's official functions, and ruled it out of order.

Free primary education

The next two questions, by Mr Charles Iinang (Supp) and Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasli (Panas) concerned free primary education.

Mr Iinang wanted to know what action had been taken by the Government to urge the Federal Government to provide free primary education and Abang Othman asked: "When will the State Government consider implementing free primary education in the State of Sarawak as stated in the manifestos of the Sarawak Alliance in order to satisfy the pressing demand of the people?"

Mr Dunstan Endawie replied that the subject was one of Federal responsibility and should, more properly form the basis of enquiry in the Federal Parliament.

He added: "Nevertheless, I am in a position to state that appropriate representations on the question as to whether or not it may be possible to abolish fees in primary schools in Sarawak have been made to the Federal authorities and this is currently under consideration in the Ministry of Education.

"I am not in a position to say anything

further about this subject for the moment."

Abang Othman then asked if the Minister was aware that compulsory and free primary education was contained in the Sarawak Alliance manifesto.

Mr Endawie refused to answer the question and offered to make available his reply to his questions. The Speaker ruled that the question was a political one.

Abang Othman asked when the State Government would consider implementing free primary education in the State of Sarawak as stated in the manifesto of the Sarawak Alliance in order to satisfy the demands of the people. He said that if his previous question was out, this one would not be.

The Acting Attorney General - "With great respect to the Hon'ble Member the Standing Orders make special provision in respect of questions on Federal subjects and to which the Hon'ble Minister has referred. The question as presented by the Hon'ble Member does not fall within the proviso of Standing Order No. 19."

Mr Young then objected to the question and Mr Yong said that the question asked was what action had been taken. As far as he could gather, the Minister had replied that this was a Federal matter and he was not dealing with it. He assumed that no action had been taken as this was a Federal matter.

Mr Teo Kui Seng then rose to quote from the Minister's reply as follows: "The question as to whether or not it may be possible to abolish fees in primary schools in Sarawak have been made to the Federal authorities and this is currently under consideration."

Mr Yong - "I take it then the action has been taken to prevail upon the Federal Government to give free primary education to the people here."

Answering another question on Free Primary Education by Mr Leong Ho Yuen, Mr Dunstan Endawie referred him to replies above saying: "I would repeat what I have already said, that representations on the question as to whether or not it may be possible to abolish fees in primary schools in Sarawak have been made to the Federal authorities and this is currently under consideration in the Ministry of Education."

Construction of new hospital

Construction of Sarawak's new \$13.5 million hospital would begin early next year, and it was anticipated that the hospital would be ready for operation and occupancy during the latter half of 1967.

This was stated by the Minister for

Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, in reply to a question by Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasli.

Abang Othman asked: "What concrete steps are being taken on the proposal to build a multi-million dollar General Hospital in Kuching which was mooted when Sarawak was still under Colonial administration; when will its construction begin and when will it be ready for use."

Inche Abdul Taib said: "It will not be necessary for this Government to request information from the Federal Government with respect to the proposed new General Hospital in Kuching.

"As-the Hon. Member will note from paragraph 257, page 53, of the 1964-68 Development Plan, already approved by this House, \$13.5 million has been set aside for the building of this new hospital.

"Design on the new hospital is now in hand, and has been since last year. Tenders will be let at the end of this year upon the completion of the necessary drawings and the preparation of contract documents.

"Construction is scheduled for early 1965 and it is anticipated that the new hospital will be ready for operation and occupancy during the latter half of 1967."

Textbooks for Chinese Middle schools

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp), in another question, asked the Minister for Local Government why certain Chinese textbooks prescribed for Chinese middle schools were not available when the common curriculum laid down by the Education Ordinance was implemented at the beginning of this year.

He also asked why the standard textbooks for mathematics and science subjects approved for use in the Chinese-medium schools in the Malayan States cannot be used in Sarawak.

The Minister replied that he was not bound to answer this question, or succeeding questions on the Order Paper in respect of educational matters which did not lie in his portfolio, "as they do not conform to the provisions of Standing Order 19."

He added: "I do, however, propose to rely upon this provision of our newly-adopted Standing Order as I believe the questions to be of particular local relevance. But I am replying to these, on this occasion, without admitting any precedent that questions lying within the purview of Federal responsibility should necessarily be answered in this House,

other than as required by Standing Orders.

"If, as the Honourable Member states, certain textbooks suitable for Chinese middle schools were not available locally in the shops last month, surely his enquiry were better directed to the shops concerned? The ordering of stocks for local bookshops is not the responsibility of my Ministry - or of any other.

"The Mathematics and Science textbooks used in Chinese medium schools in the Peninsula States do not accord with the new syllabuses have been specially designed to meet local needs and conditions and I am sure this principle will have the support of the Honourable Member opposite."

In a supplementary question Mr Stephen Yong asked: "Since this is a matter of public interest, will the minister bring it to the attention of the ministry concerned in the Federal Government? It was not a question a bookshops not selling the books, it was a question of the syllabuses and the curriculum."

Mr Endawie replied that a good deal of guidance had been given to Science and mathematics teachers in Chinese middle schools to help them follow the new syllabuses for these subjects.

The new curriculum and syllabuses were effective in Junior Middle I classes this year. The teachers were given copious notes, written in English and in some cases groups of Chinese teachers sat in with various Chinese translations of the note.

List of particular books were given to the teachers. In some cases there were books in Chinese produced in Malaya for some subjects.

GRANTS TO AIDED SCHOOLS

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) then asked the Minister for Local Government why the Government now paid grants to aided schools monthly "instead of every quarter as this has caused undue hardship to the management of rural schools and whether Government will revert to the former system?"

Mr Dunstan Endawie replied that Mr Chong appeared to be misinformed in the matter.

Said Mr Endawie: "Grants to aided schools are still paid quarterly in advance, although it is a matter for more than a little regret that this practice is abused by some Chinese school managements.

Mr Dunstan Endawie answered three more questions on education. The first referred to transition classes in converting aided

secondary schools; the second to aided schools and local authority school teachers, and the third to Sarawak born teachers.

The first question, by Mr Chan Siaw Hee, asked, whether Government was aware that, "with the discontinuation of the transition classes in converted aided Chinese secondary schools, Primary Six students from the Chinese-medium primary schools are unable to cope with the subjects in Form I in the converted Chinese schools."

Mr Endawie replied that Mr Chan had been misinformed. He said: "Transition classes are continuing to be held in converting aided secondary schools. There are 26 such classes in these schools during the current year."

AIDED SCHOOL AND LOCAL AUTHORITY TEACHERS

Mr Charles Linang (Supp) asked in the second question "why aided school and local authority school teachers should be given less favourable treatment than teachers in Government schools when all such teachers are in fact paid by Government?"

Mr Endawie replied that Mr Linang's question was "insufficiently specific" to enable him to reply. He added that if Mr Linang would submit to him, in writing, details of the differences in treatment which he (Mr Linang) had in mind, he would arrange for these to be looked into and give him a written reply.

Mr Stephen Yong, in the third question, asked how many Sarawak-born teachers were graduates of universities and how many had been appointed headmasters of Government Secondary schools.

Mr Endawie replied that there were about 19 Sarawak-born teachers who were graduates of Commonwealth universities. At present, two Sarawak-born teachers were headmasters of Government secondary schools.

Mr Charles Linang then asked the Minister, "How is that conditions of service and retirement benefits are different when all these teachers are paid from Government funds?" He was referring to his previous question on aided school and local authority school teachers.

Mr Endawie answered that he would give Mr Linang a written reply if he would furnish him with details so that he would be able to examine the matter.

Mr Yong, referring to his question on graduate teachers, asked whether it was not a

fact that a large number of graduate teachers were trained, and yet in the appointment of headmasters of Government secondary schools they had been passed over.

Mr Endawie replied that Mr Yong himself had for some years been in the committee of management of three secondary schools, not one of which has a Sarawak-born headmaster.

He added: "Mr Yong should know that a teacher must have some years of experience before he can become a headmaster."

In reply to further questions Mr Endawie said that it was the intention of the government to send teachers abroad for further training so that when they returned, they could be appointed as assistant to headmasters or principals with the intention of taking over from them.

30 POSTS BORNEANISED SINCE MALAYSIA

Mr Leong Ho Yuen then asked the State Secretary whether, in view of the present slowness of Borneanisation, the Government intends to speed it up by training those staff who are immediately below the expatriate officers so as to enable them to take over their posts?

Mr G.A.T. Shaw answered that the Government did not consider the pace of Borneanisation to be slow. Strictly speaking there was no need for him to answer the second part of the question.

Said Mr Shaw: "Staff immediately below expatriate officers are already under training by virtue of the work they do to gain experience to take over posts more senior to those they now hold."

"As a matter of interest there are in existence two posts which are understudy posts - Under Secretary (Finance) and Assistant Attorney-General."

"Normally one would regard deputy director, assistant director posts and their equivalents as understudy posts. It may be of interest to give some general figures in terms of Borneanisation and although this is not strictly relevant, it does give me an opportunity to answer a question which was left over from yesterday."

"Borneanisation is to some extent dependent on officers going on pre-retirement leave (and by no means completely) and those who went on pre-retirement leave in 1963 under the terms of the Compensation Scheme were 38."

"Those who are going in the first quarter of this year are 11, which gives a total of 49, and I am informed by the experts that is a percentage of 26 of entitled officers.

"As far as Borneanising of posts are concerned, leaving out the issue raised in the next question, it appears on a quick calculation that something like 30 posts have been Borneanised since the inception of Malaysia."

SUPERSCALE APPOINTMENTS FOR LOCAL OFFICERS

Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasli (Panas) then asked the State Secretary whether he would make a statement concerning a recent announcement by Government that in three months' time there would be 15 superscale appointments for local officers.

Abang Othman asked: (a) whether these posts are acting or substantive appointments; or (b) if they are substantive appointments, what are the posts.

Mr Shaw replied: "In respect of (a) the answer is "Both." "In respect of (b), for obvious reason, it would be improper to divulge what these posts are or, for that matter, who may fill them.

"As far as the three months' period is concerned, I can foresee no reason why the Chief Minister's statement should not be fulfilled.

"However, members must appreciate that promotion to superscale appointments involve a somewhat complex and lengthy process which is unlikely to be completed in less than two months.

"In the case of such posts in Federalised Departments the process may take longer, but I have the assurance of the Federal Secretary that delays will be reduced to a minimum."

PROMOTION FOR LOCAL A.S.P.S

The next question, by Mr Leong Ho Yuen, asked the Deputy Chief Minister "to urge the Government of the Federation to promote our local Assistant Superintendents of Police to fill the vacant posts of Deputy Superintendents in the First, Second and Fifth Divisions instead of engaging expatriate officers." Replied Mr James Wong: "I shall urge the Government of the Federation accordingly.

"The further engagement of qualified and well-experienced expatriate police officers on contract does not block the promotion prospects of qualified local officers in Division I.

"It is vital in this period of emergency that we have our full quota of Gazetted officers. As

it is we are very short despite the prospects of promotion of local men to gazetted rank in the near future."

CHAIRMAN OF STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr Leong Ho Yuen then asked the Deputy Chief Minister "whether the newly-appointed chairman of the State Public Service Commission is a Malaysian citizen and if not, why should he be appointed instead of a local man?"

Mr James Wong said: "The newly appointed Chairman of the Public Service Commission is contemplating becoming a Malaysian citizen and is in the course of making enquiries as to whether he is so eligible. He believes he is."

MONTHLY ALLOWANCES TO COUNCIL NEGERI MEMBERS

Mr Stephen Yong asked the Deputy Chief Minister: "In order to maintain the principle of voluntary service to the people, to consider withdrawing the payment of monthly allowances to Council Negeri members."

Mr James Wong answered: "The Council Negeri (Members Remuneration) Ordinance 1963 (No. 13 of 1963) was passed by the Council Negeri in September, 1963 without dissent from the Opposition, to which Mr Yong belongs. I see no merit whatever in varying this. It is found not consistent with principles that Government would consider repealing such a law or Ordinance.

Mr Yong - Is the Minister aware that when a law has been passed and if it is found not consistent with principles that Government would consider repealing such a law or Ordinance.

Mr James Wong - The Government does not consider repealing any law that has been passed by this House in this case. We do not make laws today and repeal tomorrow.

Mr Wong suggested that if Mr Yong felt strongly about this matter he should forego his customary Council Negeri and Parliamentary allowances.

Mr Yong - Sir, may I have the assurance of the Minister, that if I introduced a Bill to repeal this, will I have the Government support?

Mr James Wong - I think, Sir, if the Hon'ble member will bring this Bill before the House, he will find whether he has the support of the House or not.

Mr Yong - Have I the Minister's support on

that.

Mr Wong - We allow you to put the motion through, but we will let the House decide. After all this a democracy and we shall have democracy. I assure the member that we shall not be restrictive in this respect.

Mr Chan Siaw Hee - May I ask the Minister why Council Negri members cannot render voluntary service to the people?

Mr Wong - I have pointed out earlier that if a Councillor feels that he would like to render voluntary service and forego his allowances he is at liberty to do so.

Mr Wong - The question of the principle has been passed by this House. The Government cannot act alone without the consent of this House.

Mr Chan - Is the Minister admitting that he is not willing to render any voluntary service to the people?

Mr Young (Acting State Attorney-General): It is not in order to answer a question which has been already fully answered in view of the fact that it has been fully debated and passed without dissent.

The last question was asked by Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp). He asked the Deputy Chief Minister whether it was true that photographs of the Chief Minister have been sold to the public from the Chief Minister's office and if so where did the proceeds go to.

Mr James Wong replying in the negative, said: "The Chief Minister was approached by a commercial photographer in Johore for his permission to print his photograph for sale in Sarawak. The Chief Minister agreed but said he would like to see the photograph before printing. A perfectly reasonable precaution.

"The Chief Minister is not concerned in any way with such proceeds as this photographer may make from any sale there may be."

Mr Yong then asked the Deputy Chief Minister or the Chief Minister's Office to see to it that the photographer concerned did not misrepresent the fact to the public by printing the receipts obtained from the Chief Minister's Office.

Mr James Wong - We have no knowledge of that Sir, if that is the case we shall attend to it.

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Mr Wong - I have pointed out earlier that if a Councillor feels that he would like to render voluntary service and forego his allowances he is at liberty to do so.

Mr Yong again rose to say that it was a matter of principle, which the Government should consider in view of the fact that the payment of fixed allowances are not given to other councils.

Mr Wong - The question of the principle has been passed by this House. The Government cannot act alone without the consent of this House.

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Council Negri News

GOVT. POLICY ON BORNEANISATION DEFENDED

A stout defence of the Government's policy on Borneanisation was put up by the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, in the face of strong criticisms by Opposition leaders in the adjournment speeches made at the recent Council Negri meeting.

In his lengthy and comprehensive reply Mr Wong stressed: "Government knows that there is a certain amount of pressure which is trying to force the pace of Borneanisation. I would state categorically that the Government will carry out the pace of Borneanisation as fast as it can but as safely as it can.

"The Government will not accept any reduction whatsoever in the standards of our civil service. We have the whole country to serve, not one particular section of the community. We are not prepared to please just one section and see the whole machinery of Government grind to a halt.

"It would be the greatest mistake if we should knuckle down to this pressure to Borneanise faster than we are in a position to do so without reducing the standards of our civil service."

The first Opposition leader to attack the Government's policy was Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) who pointed out that the questions on Borneanisation directed at Government from his side of the House were "not prompted by any animosity towards expatriate civil servants but by our sense of duty to the people

of this country to see that their desire to run their government with their own people are fulfilled as soon as possible."

Mr Ong then said: "This natural aspiration of a people attaining self-government or independence was recognised by the British Government and the Malaysia agreement therefore provided the most generous terms yet given to colonial civil servants for compensation for loss of career as a result of Malaysia.

FURTHER SAFEGUARDS

"Those expatriate officers who elected to stay on and whose services are still required not only received the same compensation but their interests were further safeguarded. They become designated officers and are guaranteed a minimum number of years of service during which they cannot be compulsorily retired (except for misconduct) although they can leave the service if they so wish by giving six months' notice.

"According to his reply to my question, Article 38 of the State Constitution was cited by the State Secretary as preserving the promotion rights of expatriate officers vis a vis local officers. I must confess that it seems to me rather extraordinary that the State's constitution could be invoked in favour of foreigners against the rights of its own

nationals.

"As I am no constitutional lawyer I would not venture to take issue with the Honourable State Secretary as to whether that Article 38 applies or is meant to apply to Sarawak people (or Malaysians) of different races or include or extend to foreign nations.

"To my unlearned mind the situation is even more odd and extraordinary when we take into consideration the fact that these officers who are thus protected have already been generously compensated for any loss they might sustain by any of the contingencies against which they now also protected! They seem to enjoy double insurance against Borneanisation."

Mr Ong continued: "In considering the subject of Borneanisation the Opposition is realistic and takes due regard of human nature. It is too much to expect an ordinary human being to abolish his own job and that of his own friends. Any man should not be put in that very invidious position however devoted, dedicated and sincere he may be.

"In his reply to my question the State Secretary stated that the Government does not accept the inference in my question that Borneanisation may be accelerated by posting a local officer as Establishment Office.

"We must accept his contention as we do not wish to cast any reflection on any individual expatriate officers who may happen to occupy that post now.

"The point the Opposition wishes to bring home to the Government is that no expatriate officer should be put in that rather invidious position, particularly when as the State Secretary himself admitted in his reply to a supplementary question that there are local officers capable of doing that job. We put it to the Government that that post should be Borneanised immediately."

"In his reply to my question seeking clarification on the position of designated officers who had been promoted or confirmed in an appointment since Malaysia Day the State Secretary quoted paragraph 8 of Annex B of the Inter-Governmental Committee Report which stated:

"Instructions to the Public Service Commission will provide that when a local candidate is in sight no vacancy will be filled except on a temporary or contract basis or by promotion of a serving officer."

Referring to the new posts of Development Officers, Mr Ong said that he believed these had been filled by expatriate officers and asked for an explanation of the principles laid down in this case and whether local officers

were invited to apply for the posts before serving expatriate officers were given the jobs.

NOT MUCH CONFIDENCE IN GOVT.

Mr Ong next said: "In his reply to my question the State Secretary throws the onus, quite rightly, on the Chief Minister for Borneanisation of the public service by referring to Article 56 of the Sarawak Constitution.

"One must concede the fact that after all the State Secretary is only a civil servant and the initiative must come from the Ministers.

"So far what has occurred or failed to occur in the process of Borneanisation of the public service has not given people much confidence in the Government.

"The rather evasive reply given to my question has not inspired greater confidence. The mechanics of Borneanisation lies in the hand of the Public Service Commission.

"For this reason the local officers' unions of both Sabah and Sarawak have demanded that the Public Service Commissions of the Borneo territories should be completely Borneanised. Even in this simple but vital matter the Government has failed the people of Sarawak when the Chief Minister recommended the appointment of a retired expatriate officer to be Chairman of the Public Service Commission."

'PACE VERY SLOW'

The other Opposition leaders to speak was Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili (Panas) who, in referring to "press and public criticisms regarding Borneanisation", said: "The pace of localising key posts in the Administration has been very slow and there is no definite programme for these posts to be taken over by local officers.

"What had happened since Malaysia Day is that instead of relinquishing some of the less senior posts to local officers, we see the reverse happening. Young and inexperienced expatriate officers have been promoted, even overpassing senior local offices. (Here the State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw, interrupted to state: "I hope the Hon. Member is prepared to substantiate this").

Abang Othman continued: "This is highly unsatisfactory from the point of view of Malaysia. Malaysia has been looked upon by Indonesia as a neo-colonialist creation and far from being independent is still under British domination.

"It is very difficult to counteract this burst of enemy propaganda because it is a fact that

the administration is still in the hands of expatriates.

NO MALICE OR GRUDGE'

"We Sarawakians have no malice nor gmdge against expatriate officers. But we would like independence to carry some sort of meaning to us in our everyday lives, and we certainly would like to manage our own affairs in the way we would want it to, and from the Malaysian angle.

"Until we have local men to fill key positions in the administration this can never be done. The expatriate officers themselves, who are well compensated for loss of career, should try to be sincere with us.

"I would therefore urge the Government to produce a blue print for the speedy localisation of the public service. There will be no doubt be a slight deterioration in the efficiency of the administration as a result but this has been accepted.

"We know that Malaya has shown the world that localisation, far from being in a mess, has been a great achievement. We certainly would draw comfort from this."

Abang Othman went on: "There has been some attempts recently to rally local opinion against Malayan officers coming here to assist us in running our affairs. This is a dangerous move in that whilst we are trying for work for unity, this attempt to separate the peoples of the two regions of Malaysia is a despicable and wanton act of malice.

"We know very well Malayan officers do not want to deprive Sarawakians of their jobs, nor do they wish to work here except in the national interest or at the request of the Sarawak Government.

"We Sarawakians do not want to appear to be ungrateful, but the pronouncements made by Government to the effect that we do not want Malayianisation of Sarawak Public Service would put us in a bad shape.

"We are prepared to accept Malayan soldiers to defend us but not Malayan officers. I do not see this logic. But this point has not arisen and I have yet to see Malayan officers being sent here to occupy posts in the establishment of the Sarawak Public Service.

"I implore Government to take a serious view of any attempts by any section of the public or government servants to split the unity of the various races and regions of Malaysia. I would urge Government to stop recruiting expatriate officers but to try to get Malayan officers on secondment.

"This is essential in the light of the

Indonesian confrontation and the indignation of local officers against the slow pace of Borneanisation. The morale of the public service and the confidence of the public towards the administration, must, at all costs, be maintained."

TEMENGGONG'S WARNING

Next to speak was Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau (Alliance) who said: "I recall that when the Cobbold Commission visited Fourth Division to enquire of our views about Malaysia, I recall that the hope expressed by the people - the ulu people of the Division was that when Malaysia was established, the European officers would remain in Sarawak in order to instruct those who were inexperienced.

"I therefore do not support any proposal to revoke the London Agreement which had been blessed and signed by Datu Temenggong Jugah, the late Datu Bandar, Datu Abang Haji Openg, who is now our Governor, and Mr Ling Beng Siew.

"Expatriates may come and work here in place of Sarawakians who are still studying overseas, but when they return and are found capable of taking over from the expatriate officers, they should do so.

"We must not go too fast or the 'boat will capsize.' Do not aim too high for we in Sarawak are still inexperienced. Only when we have experience can we run the country efficiently."

Mr Racha Umong (Independent) expressed the view that expatriate officers should be retained until the local officers were ready to take over.

He contended that nothing should be done to alter the arrangements made in the London Agreement.

'IT WOULD BE FOLLY'

Penghulu Tawi Sli (Alliance) endorsed what Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau had said and reminded the House that the formation of Malaysia was actually brought about by the consent of the majority of the ulu people.

He thought it would be folly to start with Borneanisation now because it would depart from the arrangements made in the London Agreement.

Borneanisation, he said, might be of some advantage to civil servants, but it could be disadvantageous to the ulu people and added: "I do not think that we should be daring enough to venture into such a risk

because if we should be inefficient in the administration of Government, then the effects will be felt in the ulu.

"I do not think that we should feel so strongly about Borneanisation because we must bear in mind we have to face Indonesian confrontation.

"In a few year's time we should have more experience in running the Government and would have learned from the expatriate officers who have done so much in the past. By that time too, our troubles should be over. Then it will be the right time to steer our own boat."

'RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Mr Kadam Kiai (Alliance) warned that "we should not in our eagerness to fulfil our pledge, disrupt the present machinery of government."

He said: "Good and useful expatriate officers who are now serving in Sarawak should be allowed to remain until suitable local officers are found to take their place. Greater and more importance must be given to the training of indigenous people to equip to hold professional and executive posts in administration.

"It is our duty to uplift the present backwardness of the indigenous peoples, who form the majority of our population, so that over a period of years they would be at par with the more advanced communities.

"Proportional quotas in certain spheres of the public service must be introduced so that the indigenous people by reason of their backwardness are not deprived of their rightful place in the public service of our country.

"The point I am driving at is that in our eagerness to Borneanise the public service we must not forget the legitimate interest of the indigenous people.

"The balance of competing interests must be maintained and no racial preponderance of any group should be allowed to constrict the legitimate opportunities of the others."

STATE SECRETARY REPLIES

The State Secretary, Mr Shaw, then rose to reply stating that he would limit his comments largely to the observations made by the leader of the Opposition (Mr Ong Kee Hui) on the subject of compensation.

He said: "I think, although I was accused of evasiveness, it is difficult to see how a member of this House can really be evasive in answering questions when we have the full

power, wit and intelligence of the Opposition in front of us asking supplementaries. In fact in two cases I was not asked any supplementaries at all. I would have thought that that might have been indicative of the greatest clarity."

Mr Shaw went on: "The compensation is in effect limited as an officer may in the normal course of events be able to look forward to 15 years' service had there not been a variation in the constitution and a change in sovereignty.

"The compensation, in fact, does not cover very much more than three or four years. The officer is not really going to be able to live henceforth on the proceeds of that. He would have to find another job. He may have to go into some form of fairly lengthy training before he is acceptable elsewhere. There is not really an anomaly as far as compensation is concerned and continued employment.

"It has been found in the light of experience that if one does genuinely want to keep expatriate officers on, terms of the type which are in the compensation agreement for Sarawak have to be given. Otherwise they go."

DISCUSSIONS RECALLED

Mr Shaw continued: "When the terms of service for expatriate officers came up for debate in the House I do not believe that Mr Ong did in fact object in any way to these arrangements which were put forward then for debate in respect of the public service.

"In fact, if my memory serves right (we go back to some year ago, possibly more) when the terms of minimum guaranteed employment were considered for expatriate officers, the officials (possibly the evil geniuses) gave expatriates (this was in Supreme Council, Mr Ong must have been present) a certain term of expectancy as far as service was concerned which was in fact raised, not lowered, by the unofficial members of Supreme Council.

"There was the other contention that an expatriate officer is not particularly suited to be an Establishment Officer, and in some curious extension of that argument an expatriate might run the Public Service Commission which is responsible for Borneanisation in the final analysis.

"I cannot accept these aspersions that an expatriate Establishment Officer would not carry out Borneanisation as quickly as anyone else. Against the background of what I have just said, mentioning what had appeared in Supreme Council some year or so ago, there is

another angle.

"Some expatriates quite genuinely would like to leave but a sense of duty to this country keeps them here. It is arguable then that if a such-minded officer were in a position to influence Borneanisation, and that could easily happen, he might speed up Borneanisation even more than is reasonable, to salve his own conscience and justify his own departure before he should go if the interest of the country is to be paramount."

As to the references made to Divisional Development Officers, Mr Shaw said: "In general terms one can say that they are regarded as being administrative officers as much as specialist of any other variety. There are a variety of considerations when it comes to selecting Divisional Development Officers and the Government did give this matter the greatest attention.

"It has managed to fill four of these posts by transfer of existing officers and it genuinely feels that these four are the best available. The fifth has yet to be filled and applications have been sought.

"But it is not necessarily a matter or procedure to advertise for vacancies in posts particularly when they are timescale posts. None of the Divisional Development posts are more than timescale posts and following from that the effect of the transfer has been to create vacancies in the other parts of the service which these officers left. It may well be that that vacancy has been filled by a Bornean."

As to the appointment of the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Mr Shaw said: "I do not think it is quite fair to describe him as an expatriate. We have heard he is contemplating taking up Malaysian citizenship. He has bought a house here. He is married here and has spent a great deal of his life here. I should have thought that he has every claim to be regarded as a Sarawakian."

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 38

Mr Shaw concluded: "As for the application of Article 38 of the State Constitution I am advised that it is entirely in order to utilize that in terms of all members of the Service.

"Existing expatriate officers are in fact established officers though I may quote from another part of the State Constitution (Article 54):

"Subject to the provisions of the Federal Constitution and this Constitution, any person who immediately before the commencement

of this Constitution is in the service of Her Majesty in respect of the Government of the colony of Sarawak shall -

- (b) so long as he continues in such service, be entitled to terms and conditions of service not less favourable than those applicable to him immediately before the commencement of this Constitution."

The Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Wong, then made the main Government reply and said: "I must sympathise with the feelings of Sarawakians who, as individuals, may not be satisfied with the pace of Borneanisation, but the Government must take a broader view.

"Borneanisation is one of the many, and possibly the most important, tasks thrust upon this Government following the coming of Malaysia and independence.

"Merdeka came to Malaya in the middle of 1957 and taking a rough comparison with the position in Malaya six months after that date with the position here six months after Malaysia, generally speaking our degree of Borneanisation in Sarawak on a percentage basis, department by department, is very similar now to what was the position then in Malaya.

"That in itself is an achievement and it may be that more precise calculations will show that in some cases we are further advanced than Malaya was then.

"We must, however, not forget that in Malaya the first of the university graduates started appearing in the early and middle 1930s. We were never able here to get to grips with our educational problems until the middle of 1950s.

"Apart from this comparison there are other difficulties to be faced. Who is to tell whether or not a local man or woman on scholarship may fail or may be delayed before he or she qualifies?

"We are seeing the unhappy situation in which a number of Sarawakians who have qualified overseas have decided on their return to Sarawak or South East Asia to take up employment other than in the Government Service. This alone can slow down the process of Borneanisation by four years or more.

"I can assure members that the pace of Borneanisation is proceeding just as fast as it safely can - just as fast as is permitted by the rate at which local people offer themselves for appointment or for promotion. We have unfortunately even had instances where a local officer has been offered promotion and has refused it.

'DETERIORATION ACCEPTED? - NO'

"We are now told by one member that a slight deterioration in the efficiency of the administration has been accepted. Will the member who said, this tell us by whom has this been accepted?"

"I must say that there has been a tendency by the member and by some people in Sarawak to forget the terms and conditions by which we have entered Malaysia. I think they have been forcibly reminded by some members who have spoken.

"Borneanisation is coming at a time when we are faced with an emergency which (and I cannot over-emphasise this) is a matter of life and death to us. It means to us our survival, and our survival depends on how we equip ourselves and how the Government sets about its task.

"Surely this is not the time when deterioration in efficiency can be accepted. Malaya had the advantage of having solved its emergency problems by the time merdeka came. As far as we are concerned in Malaysia, it is the other way round. We are facing independence and emergency and Borneanisation and a 101 other problems simultaneously."

Mr Wong then drew the attention of the House "to the caution which was widely expressed at the time of the visit of the Cobbold Commission" and said he would particularly like to remind the Secretary-General of Party Negara (Abang Othman) what the view of his Party (Panas) was as expressed to the Commission.

The Cobbold Commission Report he read the following quotation:

"The party agrees generally with the reservations contained in the M.S.C.C. report. Points which were particularly emphasised to us were the following:

- (c) The Borneanisation of the Public Services should be accelerated, but the British officers should remain until they can be replaced by properly qualified local people. It is thought that this would be a gradual process which would not have been completed even in 10 years."

Mr Wong went on to recall that the evidence given by all races before the Cobbold Commission emphasised the need for the retention of the present expatriate officers and he drew attention to the recommendations made by the Malayan members of the Commission (paragraphs 231-233 of the Report):

231. "We would like to make some observations regarding the position of the present expatriate officials, including technical and professional officers in these territories after Malaysia.

"We have noted the high regard in which these officers are held and the unanimous expression of views that they should be encouraged to stay until they can be replaced by the local people.

"We are aware of the dangers that the administrative machinery and the various plans for development would suffer very considerably with the immediate departure of any substantial number of these officers.

"While we see no objection to the recruitment of officers from overseas to replace any vacancies which may arise out of the retirement of the present expatriate officers (and this answers the Honourable Member's point) we are reluctant to advocate the secondment of officers from Malaya or Singapore, unless there is a very definite request from the Governments of these territories.

232. In the course of the Commission's interviews, we have been encouraged by the responsible and reasonable attitude which expatriate members of the Public Services in Borneo have taken towards the Malaysia proposals.

"Their concern with any change in the terms and conditions of their service arising from the transfer of sovereignty with Malaysia is understandable and we note with satisfaction their willingness to consider serving in these territories provided satisfactory terms can be agreed upon, irrespective of the constitutional arrangements which may be devised.

233. In order to meet the concern of the present members of the Civil Service about their future we have attempted to provide for interim arrangement and for regionalisation. However, we recognise that we are not in a position to go further into the ways and means about terms and conditions which would retain the services of these officers.

"We would therefore strongly urge that Her Majesty's Government and the Federation Government should direct their attention specially to this problem, with a view to encouraging the officers to remain in service in Borneo."

Mr Wong commented: "I trust that the view in Kuala Lumpur has not changed in substance on this matter. I should make it clear that I am not being an apologist for the expatriates. I am just making the record clear."

Referring to the suggestion made that Malayan officers should come to Sarawak "to help in the running of our affairs" Mr Wong replied: "This we welcome on an exchange basis and provided we can send our officers to Malaya. This is a very necessary step in the process of the integration of the States of Malaysia and we have already embarked on specific proposals in this respect.

"You will see that such a process is covered by paragraph 31 of Annexe B of the I.G.C. Report:

"Page 29:

31. During the early years of Malaysia it is desirable that a limited number of suitably qualified officers from the Borneo States should be posted to other parts of Malaysia. The opportunity will also be taken of posting to the Borneo States a limited number of Federal officers or officers from other States."

He continued: "This follows a statement in the Report including the special arrangements for the Public Service by observing that those arrangements should go far to meet the representations made by the Sarawak Government Asian Officers' Union. This is important and I would like to draw particular attention to this.

"I think I am right in my view that one fear expressed by the Union was that the senior posts in the Government Service in Sarawak might well go to Malaysians and that the opportunities of promotion for Sarawakians would be blocked.

QUESTION OF SECONDMENT

"Hence the safeguards that have been provided by Borneanisation which was a word that was very carefully chosen although it was fully realised, and is still realised, by the Government that (and I quote from the Report)"in the longer term Malaysia will be an unreal creation unless the principle of Malayanisation is accepted. However, we are still in the early years of Malaysia."

Dealing with the suggestion that Malayan officers might come over on secondment, Mr Wong said: "I think this point has already been covered when I read the Malayan recommendation in the Cobbold Report but it might be pertinent for me to make an observation here.

"Secondment is not as straightforward as it sounds. Supposing an officer did come over on secondment on an agreed limited period. What would happen if and when he was due to return to Malaya there was no vacancy there for him to fill? There is in fact no

guarantee that secondment would not be prolonged.

"The provisions of the I.G.C. Report have been accepted by this Council and provide for all the safeguards which this country wanted. It would be criminal for this Government to embark on a course which led to any erosion of these safeguards which have been implemented by the London Agreement."

On the references made "to the slowness of Borneanisation", Mr Wong remarked: "Here again, one might make a comparison with Malaya. The position there was with merdeka in 1957 that a target date for complete Malayanisation was set in 1962. Now in 1964 complete Malayanisation has still not been achieved.

"As far as the Administration of Sarawak is concerned we have set a minimum period of three years during which there will not be Borneanisation by way of dismissing expatriates to make way for local men, but nevertheless every opportunity will be taken to promote local men not forgetting the remaining rights of the expatriates.

"We have allowed slightly longer periods in the case of professional officers and until very recently these periods were regarded as being all too short."

Commenting on Abang Othman's "references to malice" Mr Wong said: "In fact, his words are a completely unfounded allegation (and I quote him) - 'that this was a despicable and wanton act of malice.' These are strong words and I hope he realises just what they mean.

"There has been no attempt whatsoever, as far as the Government Service is concerned, to rally local opinion against Malayan officers. Such an allegation is malicious and mischievous in itself and appears to be an attempt to create dissatisfaction and ill-feeling, probably against expatriate officers."

NO LOGIC

Abang Othman's statement - "we were prepared to accept Malayan soldiers to defend us but not Malayan officers," - drew this comment: "He said he could not see the logic of this. He was quite right. There was no logic in it because it is not correct. We are certainly prepared to accept Malayan officers within the terms of the London Agreement.

"On the other hand, surely it is illogical to accept British officers to defend Sarawak but at the same time to attempt to push our British officers who are still wanted.

"Not only must we retain expatriate

officers, but we shall without doubt that to continue to recruit more expatriates and this again is provided for by the London Agreement which states that - "It will be possible for the Federal and State Governments, subject to agreement with the British Government each year about overall costs, to continue to recruit on contract from overseas to fill gaps in the Services while Borneanisation proceeds."

Mr Wong continued: "I feel it is my duty to state clearly as to where the Government stands on this. We have an agreement - an agreement implemented before Malaysia. It was an agreement that was drawn up after long consultations and discussions and finding out the wishes of the people through the Lansdowne Commissions and it is therefore an agreement which should not be treated lightly.

"In fact it was on the basis of all this finding out and the I.G.C. Report that the people of Sarawak have accepted Malaysia and they have accepted Malaysia on one condition - provided there are safeguards and that those safeguards were contained in the Agreement.

"Therefore it would, as I said, be criminal for us to disregard that Agreement because it is the basis of Malaysia and this Government here was elected because they fought on the Malaysia issue and the Malaysia issue was accepted by the people because the people have the guarantees in the Agreement.

"The Government feels and the Government is determined to see that the terms and conditions contained in the London Agreement will be carried out and honoured not only by Sarawak but by the Federal Government because unless we do that there will be complete loss of confidence by our people in Malaysia.

"That is our bible. It is a sacred document. And I would like to remind Honourable Members of that particular document, particularly my friend (Abang Othman), who also was elected on the Malaysia issue."

PRESSURE TO FORCE PACE

Mr Wong then declared: "Government knows that there is a certain amount of pressure which is trying to force the pace of Borneanisation.

"I would state categorically that the Government will carry out the pace of Borneanisation as fast as it can but as safely as it can. The Government will not accept any reduction whatsoever in the standards of our civil service.

"We have the whole country to serve, not one particular section of the community. We are not prepared to please just one section and see the whole machinery of Government grind to a halt.

"It would be the greatest mistake if we should knuckle down to this pressure to Borneanise faster than we are in a position to do so without reducing the standards of our civil service."

Referring to Abang Othman's "accusation of us of being neo-colonialists" Mr Wong commented: "I thought this term is only used by the Indonesians. I am most surprised to hear it levelled in this House. Just because the independent Government of Sarawak employs expatriate officers does not mean that we are neo-colonialists or that we are, as one member put it, colonial stooges.

"We are no stooges to anybody, least of all to the expatriates. We are the masters in our house. We will use anybody who will help us to see that this country progresses orderly and that the Development Plan and other schemes which are meant for the betterment of the people of Sarawak as a whole are carried out.

"Again an accusation has been made by the same member that the Administration is in the hands of the expatriates. I take great umbrage at this, and I would say the same thing for the absent Chief Minister, who would have resented it very much. If he had been here I am sure he would have shown it in more forcible terms.

"I can assure this House and the people of Sarawak that we are in control, that your Ministers here, although they are learning the job, are all the time in control and they are trying to manage the affairs of this country in the best interests of the people. You have my assurance on that. We would like to Borneanise as fast as we can."

On the reference made to "a blue print for Borneanisation" Mr Wong said: "It is no secret to say that this Government and the Chief Minister in particular has been racking his head to find a blueprint himself. In fact there have been projections after projections to see which local officer we could promote and to what particular post all the time. Practically everyday this has been the pre-occupation of this Government."

Mr Wong concluded: "I think the expatriate officers should be very much greatly assured by the assurance given by the first speaker (Mr Ong) that their services would be guaranteed.

"I notice that the first speaker has also brought up the subject of government

servants unions in Sarawak and Sabah. They have banded themselves to ask Governments to Borneanise as fast as possible. I would like to make it clear for the record that the Government here is to serve the whole of Sarawak. Of course the Union is there to serve Union members.

"May I express a pious hope that for quite a while, for one or two years, we shall not have this pressure of Borneanisation being forced upon us, because I can assure everybody in this House that we are trying our best to Borneanise."

'PAY ALLOWANCES TO COUNCILLORS' PLEA

The reasons why Government was not in favour of local authority councillors receiving fixed allowances for their services were outlined by the Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawie anak Enchana, in reply to a plea made by Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) in his adjournment speech.

Mr Endawie stressed that no local authority was yet financially autonomous - all relied heavily upon capital grant assistance from the State and Federal governments. While this was so, and with their many other pressing commitments in the field of social services, it could not be considered to be in the public interest "for funds to be diverted to regular remuneration for councillors which can result only in increased demands for government assistance or and additional burden on the ratepayers."

In his speech Mr Yong pointed out that he was sure Council Negri members were serving not because of the subsistence allowance of \$25 a day for attending meetings and the fixed allowance of \$250 a month.

However, it had to be accepted that "though the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak" and for that reason the House "in its wisdom" had voted the fixed allowance.

Mr Yong continued: "That understanding apparently stops short at this House because we are told by the Government that this principle does not apply to local councils although, they are similarly placed in the sense that they were elected to serve the country and the people.

"The Minister for Local Government has said that the principle of Councillor rendering voluntary and free services should be maintained. This is a laudable principle if one can afford to do so and at the same time keep his body and soul together. It is not a practicable proposition as now can be seen by the departure of this principle by the Government in introducing fixed allowance for members of

this House.

"While not advocating that councillors should be highly remunerated or make money from their position, I think it would be wrong and inequitable particularly when the principle of voluntary and free services has been broken, of all places, in the Council Negri, not to give a nominal fixed allowance to the councillors for the time and energy which they have lost in carrying out their duties as councillors.

"The Government must realise that many councillors are poor and can ill afford the time and the sacrifice they have made in the discharge of their duties as councillors and the subsistence allowance given to them when they leave their homes and the out of pocket travelling expenses reimbursed to them, do not in anyway compensate for the loss they actually suffered."

PRACTICE ELSEWHERE

Mr Yong went on: "It was said by Government quarters that in some Malayan states and in some Commonwealth countries, the elected councillors were not paid any fixed allowances. That is not correct.

"As far as I know, all the councillors in the Malayan states and in the Commonwealth countries do receive fixed monthly allowances of not less than \$200 per month. Perhaps it is only in colonial territories that councilors were not paid anything. It is the colonial system to make only the rich to be councillors. We are no longer a colonial state. Or are we?

"One of the arguments put forward by the Government for not giving fixed monthly allowances to councillors is that it drains heavily on the state's coffers. To this, may I say that no one has suggested that councillors should be paid handsomely other than being paid a nominal sum.

"If we were to fix a nominal sum of say

\$50 a month for each councillor, it will be a chicken feed in the context of the national economy or budget. To be fair, might I suggest that if the State finances could not bear this expenditure, the fixed allowance of Council Negeri members be reduced to \$50 a month and let the surplus of the money voted for the Council Negeri members' remuneration be shared equally among the local councillors.

"Furthermore, if this line were to be followed I would also suggest that nominated members in this House should forego the claim of their allowance of \$250 a month. At least, this would give the local councillors a few spare dollars which would be of good use to them.

"If the argument is advanced that councillors should not expect a fixed allowance because when they stood for election there was no promise of such thing, then I say the Council Negeri members ought not to be paid at all because there was no such payment at the time of the election nor should the Ministers be paid any allowance at all.

"One of the essential requisites for those at the top is that they must not be insensitive to the hardship experienced by the people beneath them and must realise that local councils can only function efficiently in the interest of the state when councillors are not plagued with financial difficulty.

"Just as we appreciate that Ministers must be well paid and given adequate allowances and other facilities so that they may carry out their duties efficiently, so also councillors expect at least a small token sum in recognition of their services."

MINISTER'S REPLY

Replying the Minister for Local Government, Mr Endawie, said that Government policy on the subject was fully reviewed by Supreme Council at the beginning of this year and its decision that the local government system should continue to be based upon the principle of voluntary service and any scale of allowances limited to remuneration of transport and lodging charges and subsistence allowance towards out-of-pocket expenses for actual attendance on Council business had since being communicated to all local authorities by circular.

Mr Endawie went on: "It has been pointed out that fixed allowances are paid to some local Councilors in the Peninsula States. The system of local government there differs in many respects from that in Sarawak and there

is no reason why we should follow identical practice.

Our local government system is more advanced in many respects than that in our neighbouring states and our District Councilors enjoy wider responsibilities and freedom of action. I am sure that no Honourable Member would wish any diminution in these powers and responsibilities purely for the sake of maintaining parity with the Peninsula States.

"It has been represented that the question of fixed allowances should be for each individual Council to decide, provided it can meet the cost from its own revenue.

"Here again, is the implication that Councilors serving on the wealthier urban Councils should be permitted to accord themselves privileges which Councilors serving the poorer rural authorities cannot afford.

"Apart from this consideration, it is not sufficiently acknowledged that no authority is yet financially autonomous; all rely heavily upon capital grant assistance from the State and Federal governments.

"While this is so, and with their many other pressing commitments in the field of social services, it cannot be considered to be in the public interest for funds to be diverted to regular remuneration for Councilors which can result only in increased demands for government assistance or an additional burden on the ratepayers.

"The time for Mr Yong, and those who support his arguments, to have put forward their proposition was when submitting themselves to the electorate.

"I do not believe that it would have received the support of voters; nor I believe that public opinion is sympathetic to the proposal now."

Mr Endawie concluded: "I find it a cause for some regret that the Kuching Municipal Council, which by tradition is regarded as having a responsibility to offer a lead to the younger authorities in the country, should be foremost in pursuing a principle so out of keeping with public sentiment and the spirit of voluntary service to which the local government system in Sarawak owes so much."

PRINCIPLE EXPLAINED

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, supported Mr Endawie and said: "Any scale of allowances which provides for out-of-pocket expenses in addition to reimbursement of actual transport and lodging charges

whie on Council business can hardly warrant Mr Yong's description of 'inadequate'.

"Such a system stems, contrary to his contention, from what I understand to be the practice in the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries where there is a highly developed local government system.

"It is to these countries that Sarawak owes the principles and practices upon which our own successful local government system is based and there can be no logic in following practices in the Peninsula States, merey in the interests of maintaining parity, if this means deferring to a less advanced system.

"It is clear that the present policy of excluding from the present scale of allowances for District Councillors, of any element to compensate for loss of earnings, is based upon-

the principal, that occasional attendance of Council meetings, at District or town level, cannot be compared with the loss of time involved in attending the State or Federal legislatures.

"There is one further important general principle. Any system of uniform remuneration, either additional to, or in lieu of the present scale of allowances, would be to the much greater advantage of urban councillors living close to Council offices, at the expense or rural councillors who have to travel great distances to attend meetings.

"Surely, no one in this House is prepared to support the argument that rural councillors should be placed at a material disadvantage to their urban colleagues?"

'A COMICAL MERRY-GO-ROUND'-LINANG

Criticism of the electoral system arising out of the appointment of a Council Negri member to Federal Minister was levelled by Mr Charles Linang (Kuching) in his adjournment speech.

In remarking that there were anomalies in the State Constitution, he said: "We know that we are operating under a three-tier system with local councils as sub-electoral colleges and Divisional Advisory Councils as electoral colleges for electing members to the Council Negri.

"So, when a member ceases to become a member of the District Council, that is to say, a sub-electoral college, his seat in the Divisional Advisory Council and the Council Negri automatically becomes vacant.

"Then in the case of a member in the Council Negri vacating his seat in the Council Negri either by resignation or becoming a Federal Minister, he would not be obliged to resign from the Divisional Advisory Council or the District Council.

"Surely this is a very peculiar situation. We would have a situation of a Federal Minister with powers and status bigger and higher than the Minister in the State Government still having to take part in the deliberations on markets, drains, street lighting, disposal of rubbish and night-soil in the district council.

"Again under the present Constitution take for example the Chief Minister and the Minister for Local Government (apart from the Ministers who are not elected but nominated) all are still required to attend the local district council meetings dealing with matters subject to the approval of the Resident who are subject of the control of these ministers. Thus we have a unique spectacle of a comical merry-go-round, each chasing the tail of another.

"Why is there no provision for a person who resigns from the Council Negri on being made a Federal Minister not automatically relinquishing his seat in the district councils?"

"The net result of this situation would be that if such a person were to resign from the seat of the Divisional Advisory Council only and waited for the seat in the Council Negri to be filled by an election in the Divisional Advisory Council and then relinquished his seat in the District Council, then the newly no chance whatsoever of being elected to the Council Negri to fill the place vacated by this person because the election of the member to the Council Negri had already taken place before the candidate's election.

"To my mind it makes nonsense of the Constitution and the sub-electoral colleges and electoral colleges system."

'MERITS WOULD OUTWEIGH DEMERITS'

In a reply, which drew laughter, the Acting Attorney General, Mr G.V.C. Young, said: "It can be very salutary for a Minister in the Federal or State Government to be taken back to the sanitary arrangements in his own kampong. It does ensure that people have their feet firmly on the ground and are not always kept at the seat of Government.

"One complaint which has been heard in very much more advanced states than Sarawak is that once you become a member of Westminster you do not go back to your local constituency half enough.

"By our method of the three-tier system and requiring people to still be members of local councils, it does give this advantage that from time to time they do take part in the daily affairs - in the very essential daily affairs of their local districts.

"Therefore, I would feel that there is more to be said in favour than against the present system that we have. I think if my Honourable friend from the other side of the floor weighed the two together he would see that the merits would outweigh the demerits of Ministers remaining members of local councils."

'SHOW LOYALTY TO MALAYSIA' - SUPP TOLD

A call to the Opposition members belonging to the Sarawak United Peoples' Party to give their loyalty to Malaysia and to work within the concept of Malaysian independence was made by the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, in reply to an adjournment speech by Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp).

In his speech Mr Chan declared his Party's attitude towards the Clandestine Communist Organisation and its political philosophy stressing that its members in Council Negri had "pledged allegiance to the State." He also expressed complaints at the accusations made against the Party and its leaders.

Said Mr Chan: "In the last Council Negri meeting, the Chief Minister took the advantage of the Standing Orders allowing him to make a statement which he did and attacked our Party and also challenged us to make our stand clear.

"Unfortunately, although we wanted to do so very much, we were not allowed to make a reply under the then Standing Orders. I would, however, now declare what we believe in and what we stand for.

"I wish to remind Honourable members of the repeated declarations made by our Party leaders on the question of loyalty to the State and on the sanctity of the aim and object embodied in our Party constitution. Nevertheless, our Party was subject to all sort of allegations and accusations to the contrary.

"I now again categorically declare that our Party is a party that seeks political changes by constitutional means. This has been well observed in the past and undoubtedly will be done in future.

"Although our Party is anti-Malaysia we did not have any connection with the Brunei revolt. However, when the revolt took place, there were mass arrests of our members and many of them were accused of being connected with the activities of the C.C.O.

"We, as leaders of the Party, have stressed that there is no room for the C.C.O. in our Party and also denounced the use of force. Furthermore members of our Party sitting in this House have pledged allegiance to the State.

"This shows that we are loyal to the country. What more should we do in proving ourselves to be loyal to the country? Should we show our loyalty by becoming stooges of the Government or condemning our members as C.C.O.? If we do, then we are no better than the members of the Special Branch in this respect."

Mr Chan continued: "Someone has suggested that there should be a "purge" in our Party. We take this as one of the tricks designed to split the Party by giving the people an impression that there are a lot of so-called subversive elements remaining in our Party.

"We should be credited with some intelligence that we would not like to see our Party split into pieces. Suffice it for me to say the so-called C.C.O. members or right-winged elements would not be able to stay in our Party, because they do not and can not subscribe to the aims and objects of the Party.

"Let me say this - we will not hesitate to expel any member who violates the policy and constitution of our Party. I wish to emphasise that the policy of our Party is to adopt the line of Socialism and not Communism.

'LEADERS ARE NOT STOOGES'

"The leaders of our Party have been accused of being made use of by the so-called C.C.O. in the Party, I say that this is not true. The leaders of our Party are not stooges. They

know how to lead the members to achieve the Party's goal and did not have to worry about anything, because they do not seek self interest. The leaders enjoy mass support, because they are guided by principle and by sense of integrity.

"The colonial government knew that we were the only national force which could stand up against them. For that reason we were marked and our work hampered in various ways. We were prepared for that and we were prepared to make sacrifices for the good of the people.

"Now, Sarawak is said to be independent, we should enjoy freedom and justice which are our due. But, the persecution and the prejudice against our Party still persist.

"When we tried to get our sub-branches going again in the various places, the members who dare to become active in the party work or members who are elected to carry out the work, are being called up by the Authorities and questioned.

"Such calling up and questioning are threats in subtle form against us and our Party. In some cases naked force has been used against our Party members.

In spite of all these, we have not given up hope of a constitutional struggle. We are exercising great patience and restraint. However, I must warn the Government that, if they are really working for the good of the country as they profess to do and not being colonial stooges, they must not behave as a colonial master but to treat us fairly.

"This is the only way that the Government can gain the confidence of us and of the people. If this warning is not heeded, I am afraid that there will be trouble for which the responsibility lies at the door of the present Government. As all know any suppression will naturally drive the people underground and to flee the country."

GOVERNMENT REPLY

In his reply the Minister for Communication and Works, Inche Abdul Taib, said: "It is very enlightening to hear someone from the Opposition now making a clear declaration that stand for democracy and that they will try to work for changes in Sarawak if changes are to be worked by constitutional means.

"We on this side of the Government are very comforted on hearing this stand, and I hope quite firmly against any use of force in bringing about political changes.

"We, the Government, never deny that there will be changes in the future as changes

are bound to be worked at a stage when a country is evolving from a colony to a fully independent state.

"We hope that if we were to work changes for the benefit of the people, and I hope you are speaking of the same people - the people of Sarawak as a whole - we would get the co-operation from the side of the Opposition.

"We on this side of the Government are very glad to hear that the official declaration through the Honourable member of his party, the Supp, of loyalty to Sarawak. I was waiting for him to mention loyalty to Malaysia as well, but I was disappointed that he did not mention the word 'Malaysia.'

"I wish that what he meant by the word 'State' here did not refer to the State in a technical sense used in our Constitution but also used in the political scientist's sense of the word, that is to say a political entity separate from any other political entity in the international world.

"But to make the Party's stand unequivocal the Government would very much like to learn from the Opposition that it is not only standing loyal to the State of Sarawak but also loyal to Malaysia as a whole, particularly when we are now faced with aggression.

"It would be of great help that if the Party were to declare that it was loyal to Sarawak and to Malaysia and that it will accept the verdict of the wishes of the people as shown by the implementation of the Malaysia concept.

"I know it is very hard to change one's stand. The Government does not want to blame the Opposition for having opposed the concept of Malaysia because the Government is well aware that politics always has its own different ideals. Now that the Malaysia issue has gone, we hope that the Opposition will stand up and say: "We will oppose the Government as an Opposition in a democratic state. Now that the State of Sarawak is already in Malaysia, we will be loyal to Malaysia as well and we will work within the concept of Malaysian independence."

"This is the role that any Government that declares itself a democratic social government would do and we hope that we will see proofs of the Opposition's sincerity in being loyal to Malaysia and being keen to help the people and working changes beneficial to the people in the near future.

"If ever Opposition become stooges of the Government then we will not have a really constructive democratic government. What we would like to get from the Opposition is not

some violently worded criticisms, which sometimes are farfetched from realities in Sarawak, but rather some form of constructive criticism aimed at some real fault the Government overlooked.

"The Government is not going to be angry at being criticised because it is only fair that the Government should receive criticism where it is really valid. Now I am very glad to hear that the Opposition has declared its stand as a socialist party, but the term is rather ambiguous.

"There is a very thin line between socialism and communism. I would not like to elaborate on that but it is only the future that can show what socialism as interpreted by the Opposition will mean. But we do really wish that the Opposition would have a socialism that is consistent with the peace loving sentiments of the people of Sarawak and consistent with having freedom under democracy as it is right now.

"We do deny that we have used any naked force on members of the Opposition because they belong to a Party different from ours. If members of the Party to which the Opposition member belongs to have been subjected to some force or have been detained it is not because they belong to the Opposition Party but because of some connections which the Government has evidence of being subversive."

Council Negri also approved two Supplementary Supply Bills - one for 1963 involving recurrent expenditure amounting to \$13,013,170 and capital expenditure totalling \$14,523,092, and the other for 1964 providing for contributions amounting to \$14,525,000 to Statutory Funds created by the Financial Procedure (Contingencies and Trust Funds) Ordinance and a sum of \$88,424 additional expenditure on various Government services.

The contributions to the Statutory Funds include a sum of \$1,200,000 to be paid into the Personal Advances (Public Officers) Fund.

"The pitiful part of it is that many of these people were innocent. Now don't we call these strong and positive action? On the other hand, I think it is inevitable that some excesses might at times take place and in time of emergency I would accept the fact that many innocent people would run the risk of being arrested on suspicion but to terrorise the population on suspicion by brute force would to my mind be most undesirable. In fact, I think that would be the best way of recruiting C.C.O. members."

A TWO-WAY TRAFFIC

He went on to say that to gain support and confidence of the people was a two-way traffic. "You cannot treat a man shabbily and then expect him to give you his support," said Inche Yong. He added: "I say this, not to try to demoralise the Government nor the effort that has been put in but because I realise the tremendous responsibility now being shouldered by the Government at this time of need and stress.

"Firm actions have to be taken. Yes. Particularly at this time, not only have we to tight with arms, but to think in terms of winning over the hearts and minds of the people in an ideological context. One must be very conscious and to go about it very tactfully as to the way by which firm actions have to be taken."

Stressing that he was not making a political propaganda, Inche Yong said people had gone to see him making complaints which he rechanneled to the authority, but the answer always was 'There is no such thing.'

As Inche Yong went on to say that he had evidence of assault, the Deputy Chief Minister, Inche James Wong, interrupted to say that he hoped that Inche Yong would substantiate his statements of accusation.

Inche Yong replied that if he made a statement here, he would be doing it as a responsible person and as a responsible Opposition Party member. He was not making wild allegations and was disappointed by the Minister's questioning at his veracity in this matter.

Touching on the Clandestine Communist Organisation, Inche Yong asked: "Why do they strive and why should there be there at all?"

He added: "There are causes for it and I am inclined to say that we must now not only see that we maintain order and try to keep peace within our territories, but also find out the causes for it. If we can remove them, then success is ours."

Finally, Inche Yong said that in times of emergency one should not grudge too much arbitrary powers being vested in the Government, but they must be used in a careful manner so that they would not be abused.

PANAS SUPPORT PLEDGED BY ABANG OTHMAN

Supporting the motion, Abang Othman bin Abang Moasili (Panas) said that it was quite appropriate for Government to seek the

support of the House to declare its stand on Indonesian aggression and the menace created by subversive elements.

He added that it was the practice of all democratic Governments to seek the support of the Opposition in national emergencies.

He, on behalf of Panas supported the motion which was of national interest.

YOUNG REPLIES TO LEGAL POINTS RAISED

The State Attorney-General, Mr G.V.C. Young, speaking on the motion, referred to a legal point raised during the debate and said that the first point raised was regarding the fact that the motion was "sprung" on the Opposition.

He added the Chief Minister would have been only too willing, if any member had asked him, to have the debate adjourned to the afternoon, "But I must say that they have spoken with such brilliance and at such length that I am led to believe that they must have anticipated this debate before hand," Mr Young said.

Referring to the question of the return of the shotguns, raised during the debate by one of the Members, Mr Young said that he would like to inform the House that guns had been returned to Chinese where it was found necessary to do so in order to provide them with means of self-defence against terrorists.

As regards the statement by a member from the First Division on the subject of allegation of excesses by certain persons, if he had details of these together with evidence he would be grateful if he would let him have them.

Mr Young, however, reminded the member and the House, that unfounded allegations were not uncommon as anyone who had regularly prosecuted in the courts throughout the world would be aware. It was easy to make such an allegation but very often the evidence which was subsequently brought to justify was not proved to be correct.

Mr Young went on to say that the member was trying to make a mountain out of a molehill. He added: "Just because one instance may possibly have occurred, let us not think that every single member of the Security Forces is the same. Let things be treated in their proper perspective.

"Another member from the First Division referred to 'war' in his speech. I cannot understand what was the reference to this unless it was his intention to draw large red herrings across the floor of the House. There

was no mention of war whatsoever in the motion. The motion referred to the existing aggression and to suppressing subversion, neither of which is warlike by its terminology or nature.

"I now come to the point raised by an Opposition backbencher mainly the question of detention without trial. I would remind members of the statement which I made in this House on November 2, 1961, when I drew the attention of this House to the decision of the Court of Human Rights, in a trial, where that court decided it would not be contrary to the charter of human rights to detain people without trial in times of national danger.

"We in Sarawak, are going through such a time at this present moment and in my submission we are fully justified in cases where it is not possible to bring persons to trial and detain them without trial under the Detention Regulation."

Subversion defined

Referring to the question of subversion, raised by the leader of the Opposition, Inche Ong Kee Hui, who said the word was not easy to define, Mr Young said that according to the dictionary 'subversion' meant 'to undermine the character, loyalty of faith of corrupt or pervert any person'.

"I should have thought those words were clear and without any possible ambiguity," he said, adding: "Let us apply them to the C.C.O. I think no one in this House or in Sarawak will deny that the C.C.O. are here to undermine the loyalty of all Sarawakians to Sarawak and Malaysia; to undermine their faith in democracy and to corrupt and pervert them for their own uses — and their uses are to try and make Sarawak a satellite of Communist China.

"I think that this motion before the House is one of loyalty and nothing else. It is the duty of every member of this House, whatever race, creed or political belief, to vote in favour, otherwise I submit he is a traitor to Sarawak and Malaysia.

'A SIMPLE QUESTION OF LOYALTY,' SAYS DCM

The Deputy Chief Minister, Inche James Wong, speaking first for the Government, said he was somewhat dismayed "to have such a withering fire from the Opposition on the simple question of loyalty to Malaysia and Sarawak".

Inche Wong said he did not know the

motives that had generated the amount of criticisms from the benches opposite. "All sorts of allegations have been made," he said, and added: "The Government has been accused of 'springing' a motion without notice.

"Another member has said that it was a trap. All Opposition members, with the exception of the Panas group, have deplored the manner in which it was made".

He went on to say that like the leader of the Opposition who said that he spoke from the heart, he too was doing so. He was not only speaking as a citizen of Sarawak, but also as a loyal citizen of Malaysia.

Inche Wong added that the motion was a challenge to all Sarawakians and true Malaysians who had the courage of their own convictions to declare their stand.

He said that he would not stir up the Malaysia controversy, but would like to remind the House that without Malaysia, they would not have been able to sit there in that democratic atmosphere and debate.

"All those who have eyes to see and ears to hear would know that but for Malaysia we would not have survived one month as an independent nation," Inche Wong declared.

Referring to the case of an Indonesian terrorist caught recently in Sabah and his statements, Inche Wong pointed out that Azahari's rebellion was a long-planned affair by Indonesia.

He added that Sukarno had planned, as long ago as 1945, that Sarawak, Sabah and Malaya would be included in a Greater Indonesia.

"Wake up and realise"

Urging the people of Sarawak and Malaysia to wake up and realise that Sarawak could not have stood alone either politically or economically, Inche Wong said that it was due to Malaysia that today they were able to enjoy the way of life that they were used to. It was therefore their bounden duty that they should support Malaysia.

Declaring that he did not doubt the loyalty of the Opposition members, Inche Wong went on to say that responsible Opposition party leaders should now come forward and declare their stand.

Added Inche Wong: "The Opposition should now declared: In as far as the future of the country is concerned, in as far as those who wish to subvert this country, we will have no truck with them. We will not provide them with an umbrella".

Referring to the Chinese youths who had gone across the border, Inche Wong remarked that they had gone across "with the naive belief that they had the support of Supp in Sarawak.

"If the Party had said, quite clearly, undeservedly, unequivocally and categorically 'we will not support you. We condemn the things that you do and we hope you will turn on a new leaf and take what the Chief Minister, on behalf of the Government, has offered you. Come back to Sarawak and surrender yourselves' — 'then one could sympathise with the Party'.

Referring further to remarks made by Inche Ong Kee Hui that there had been a split in his Party, Inche Wong said that this was a thing which they were not prepared to admit in the past. He hoped that this split would mean that the leaders of the Opposition would take the opportunity to show that they had no truck with the C.C.O.

Inche Wong then referred to the case of the former Vice-chairman of the Lundu branch of Supp, Sutong bin Ahmad (here Inche Yong interrupted to say that Sutong was one of the Vice-chairmen of the Lundu Supp branch in 1961). Continuing Inche Wong said it was up to the Party leaders to make sure that those who were not loyal to the Party should be sacked.

The people of Sarawak, he said, had the right to look forward to the leaders of the Party to sack those who were disloyal.

There were also Chinese members of the Party, who had given sustenance, food and help to Indonesian terrorists, said Inche Wong.

He stressed that at this time when Sarawak was fighting for its survival there must be no place for terrorists to hide to subvert the country.

On question of 'war'

Referring to a statement by a member of the Opposition, he would support the fight against Indonesian aggression, Inche Wong said that they welcomed such unequivocal statement.

He then referred to remarks by Opposition members about war and arbitrary arrests. On the question of 'war' what the motion said was that the people of Sarawak had the right to defend their integrity and sovereignty.

He pointed out that the Sarawak Government had followed a strict policy of being on the defensive, and had never even chased the Indonesian terrorists across the border.

He added: "We don't want a war with the Indonesians and we would like to live in peace with them. We shall make diplomatic representations and negotiations".

On the question of detention of Supp members, Inche Wong said that they had been detained for acts which the authority considered were not in interests of the State. He said there could be no guarantee that all the Party members were innocent.

Anyone belonging to any party, if he was disloyal, should be detained in the interests of the country. There was no question of victimisation at all and the Government deplored such statements.

Regarding the question of "blind loyalty" raised by an Opposition member, Inche Wong thought that no one should support any government blindly. He cited the forthcoming elections in Malaya as an example of democracy, and not "blind loyalty". What they would like to hear is for the same member to say that they gave 100 percent loyalty to Sarawak and to Malaysia.

Inche Wong then referred to the question of the return of shotguns "quite a number have already been returned to the owners. Shotguns are, however, useless at a time of rebellion," he said.

He pointed out that during the Azahari revolt, especially in Limbang, where many Chinese had shotguns, not one of them had the courage to make use of them.

Moreover, shotguns might be stolen by terrorist elements if they were allowed to be held by ordinary civilians. Where the situation warranted, the shotguns would be returned to the people. A shotgun in a house served no useful purpose because if one made use of a gun to defend his wife and family, the whole family would be eliminated.

Referring to a statement made by Inche Stephen Yong that the Government was trying to make a political capital out of the issue, Inche Wong said that the Government would be the first to deplore these acts of aggression which had diverted Sarawak's resources and energy, and which could have been devoted to more useful and advantageous ends.

Inche Wong stressed that all they wanted was the unanimity of the House.

CCO and aggression

Answering a remark that the resolution was in two parts — one against external aggression and the other against the C.C.O. — he said that the two were more or less

synonymous. He did not know how the Opposition could make such distinctions because members of the C.C.O. from Sarawak had gone across the border and were now helping the Indonesians in their aggressive intentions.

Referring to the accusation made by the Opposition that the Security Forces were beating up people, Inche Wong drew the attention of the House to remarks already made by the Attorney-General.

Inche Wong said that the Government deplored such accusations because they gave the impression to the people that the Security Forces were going about beating up people like the 'Kempitai'.

Finally, Inche Wong said that the Government deplored unnecessarily acts of violence and the impression it gave that through such acts of violence the Government hoped to stifle the voice of the people.

He assured the House that there was no intention of stifling the Opposition. He hoped that in this hour of danger to the whole country the Government would have the unanimous and categorical assurance of the Opposition that their loyalty was for Sarawak and Malaysia.

'AN ELABORATION OF THE OATH', SAYS TEO KUI SENG

The Minister for Natural Resources, Inche Teo Kui Seng, who spoke next, said he was just as surprised as the previous speaker that such a straightforward resolution should draw such a lot of squeaking noises from the Opposition (laughter).

He added: "This resolution is just a resolution pure and simple and an elaboration of the oath which each and everyone of us had to take before sitting in this House.

"A resolution calling for the loyalty of each and every citizen of Sarawak is a thing which I would have thought would received spontaneous acclamation from everyone in this House. To my disappointment the Opposition seem to be hedging around on this point of loyalty.

"The leader of the Opposition took exception to the fact that this resolution was put up as a surprise and that no time was given to them to study it. Surely a resolution calling for loyalty need not have to be thought about!

"I am disappointed that as an old hand in parliamentary procedure he (Opposition leader) did not at the beginning request the

permission of the Speaker to postpone it for another day. I am quite sure the Government would be quite happy to let him sleep on it so that he can make up his mind whether to be loyal or not.

"The leader of the Opposition is well known for his eloquence: he had made a number of beautiful speeches in the past, he speaks most eloquently, emotionally and he had all along said that his party would fight constitutionally.

'Evolution not revolution'

"His party, we had heard in his own words, would fight for evolution and not revolution. We have heard that his party was not prepared to be anti anybody; we have heard also that his party would not stoop to subversion. We have also heard that one of his party members in Lundu consorted with intruders by supplying them with provisions and brought them round to show where they could shoot down our innocent people. We have yet to hear that he condemns such actions publicly

"Another member of the Opposition seems to have been bitten by the 'war monger bug'. Speaking on this motion he was talking about war. If he had studied this resolution carefully he would have found that no mention of war was made in it. We are just asking this House to support the Malaysian policy of resisting Indonesian aggression".

Continued Inche Teo: "We are not asking you to be an aggressor. Surely after having been slapped on one cheek, and after having turned the other and been slapped by Sukarno again, you are not asking us to turn our back, bend down and offer our behind to be kicked by Sukarno! It is more than anyone can stand, and if we do that we would not be able to go back and face our forefathers.

"Another member expressed criticism that certain members on this side of the House were at one time anti-Malaysia, and that some of them took the opportunity to jump on the bandwagon. I would like to remind some members of this House that to err is human.

"I am quite sure that in everyone's lifetime sometime, somewhere, one had to make a mistake. But it takes a brave man to have the courage to go about and admit openly that he had made a mistake, and then do the right thing.

"I would also like to remind this member that rather than jumping on the bandwagon some members on this side of the House had to give up much more lucrative careers in order to serve the country.

"Turning again to this resolution I repeat it that it is a call for loyalty from everyone in this House. In this time of national crisis party politics should be forgotten and one and all, no matter what he belongs to, should stand shoulder to shoulder and face the enemy who is intruding into our land and killing our innocent brothers and sisters.

"The question of subversion was brought up by another Opposition member. He seems to be trying not to split hairs, but to split the atom. Surely he must know that what is subversion and what is constitutional opposition.

"There are people who have been going around trying to belittle a government scheme which is trying to help the rural people to a better living. They went round telling the rural farmers that the government scheme was no good, that when they had planted rubber, the government would let them down and levy a heavy tax on rubber. This to a certain extent had discouraged a certain section of the Natives from participating in this scheme. Well that is subversion if you would like to know".

Finally Inche Teo appealed to ask members of the House to give a spontaneous and full-hearted aye to the resolution which needed no second thoughts.

TO FORTIFY NATIONAL POLICY'— INCHE TAIB

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Taib bin Mahmud, in his reply to Opposition speakers, said there was no doubt that the intention of Government when putting forward this particular motion was to fortify the national policy of the Central Government at a time when they are facing a national emergency.

He said: "It is a very encouraging sign that when members from the other side of the House stood up to speak one of them admittedly said that he was approaching this particular question with a non-partisan view.

"The leader of the Opposition had encouraged us further by assuring us of his loyalty and that his party would not resort to violence but rather respect the constitutional means to bring about changes.

"He bravely admits that there is a split in the party which may, I presume, be the attempt by the leaders of the party to purge the undesirable members from the party".

Inche Taib went on to say it was also a good sign to see one of the speakers from the other side of the House recognising the seriousness of the situation in Sarawak and

Malaysia and that at a time when there was a national emergency they were bound sometimes to use methods not normally resorted to during peace-time, namely, the detention of some elements which the Government suspected to be not very safe to be left at large.

He added: "One member went so far as suggesting some very constructive ways, in my view, with which the Government could secure the loyalty of the people of Sarawak. This particular member asked the Government to think in terms of winning over the hearts and minds of the people.

"In this connection I would like to put it across to the House that the Supp being the party that has the support of quite a great number of Chinese, has a very very important role in helping the Government to win the hearts and minds of the people of Sarawak.

"Until the last elections most of the politics in this country took the line of very aggressive antagonism against each other. There are times after the election, particularly after the independence, that at least the leaders on the side of the Opposition were trying to work a very moderate line.

"The Government is very happy to see and note the change and hopes that they will, on the question of national policy, see eye to eye with us although they may defer from us in our other party policies.

"I would like to make an appeal to Supp, especially in view of the dangers we are facing from across the border, that the party, with its efficient organisation, should try to win over the Chinese, and educate those Chinese who have been misled into seeing how bright their future would be in this new Federation of Malaysia".

To win over parents

Inche Taib suggested that it would be a very good idea if the party would use its organisation in winning over those parents, whose duties would be to look after their children to prevent them from being subverted by unlawful societies and by some undesirable elements.

He continued: "I also understood, that the Supp is very powerful among the farmers and the areas that are affected by the confrontation, and infiltration of Indonesian forces are mainly the rural areas'.

"If the members of the Supp can be taught that it is not enough for them to declare then-loyalty by words of mouth, but rather by being brave enough to report any bad incidents occurring in the rural areas and bring them to

the notice of the Security Forces, it would be a very good gesture on the part of the members of the Supp if they would go further, and that is to collect themselves together, protect themselves in small groups and refuse to lend shelter under compulsion to some Indonesian infiltrators.

"There is, however, in the argument on the other side of the House as to the doubtfulness of the word loyalty. One suggests that the Government intends to get from the members not from the Alliance Party, blind loyalty. I don't think it is the intention of the Government. The intention as can be seen by the last paragraph of our present motion, is to have loyalty within the context of democracy".

Inche Taib pointed out: "Government today has shown how it tries to practise democracy by leaving over one seat for the Federal Parliament to be decided after the by-election at Bintawa.

"This can be looked upon with some sympathy by the leaders of the Opposition. It can be an indication of how we, while we defer, can work within the context of democracy with some sort of understanding and fairness".

Finally, he emphasised that loyalty did not mean that they would like the Opposition to keep quiet: "in fact we would welcome any suggestion "by the' Opposition to better the living condition of the people of Sarawak".

However, Inche Taib stressed that if any of the leaders of the Opposition had any suggestion which they believed to be good they should put it forward in the House, and should be brave enough to implement it at party level.

He remarked in conclusion, that since the leaders of the party were declaring unequivocally their loyalty to Malaysia and Sarawak, they should pass their sentiments down to the rank and file of the party, and if possible to those on whom the party had any influence.

NO CONFLICT WITH SUPP'S AIMS, SAYS CM

The Chief Minister, Inche Stephen Kalong Ningkan, winding up the debate, said: "I was very happy to hear the Hon'ble member, who is Chairman of Supp, declare that there is nothing in the resolution I have put forward which conflicts with his Party's aims, and that he would support this motion.

"The question posed by the resolution which I have put to this House, is indeed a challenge to all those who believe in seeking

social and political changes by constitutional means, because our very rights to do so is now threatened by Indonesian aggression.

"On the other hand, Mr Speaker, Sir, in upholding our belief in peaceful evolution by democratic and constitutional means, we have to make it very clear to the deluded ones who have taken up arms against their own people and country that we will not tolerate or condone their unconstitutional struggles.

"I hope, therefore, that Hon'ble members in this House will show their determination to resist aggression and their belief in seeking changes by peaceful and constitutional means by supporting this resolution.

"At the same time, I would like to thank the Hon'ble member, a leader of Panas who spoke on behalf of his party that they support the motion. I dare say without fear of contradiction that it is evidently clear that Panas members are loyal citizens of Malaysia.

"One Hon'ble member raised a few questions. He asked what does it mean by 'resisting Indonesian aggression'. It means just what it says: we will resist Indonesian aggressors who violate our territorial integrity, as they have been doing all these months. The question before the House is clear and it should be easy for the Hon'ble member to decide whether he supports the policy of resisting the Indonesian aggression, or otherwise.

"He wanted to know whether it means war with Indonesia. That depends how he interprets the fighting that has been going on along the border in the last few months.

"The Hon'ble member asked how many members on this side of the House are prepared to defend our country in the event of war. I can assure him that everyone on this side of the House is prepared to defend Sarawak and Malaysia in the event of war. I am sure, the Hon'ble member knows that in the event of war it is as important to guard the frontline as it is to keep the Government machinery running and public services, such as buses, going.

"To all those who are honest, sincere and

loyal to the country, it should not be difficult at all to see the meaning of the word 'subversion'. Those who have joined our enemies are not only subversive but also treacherous. Those who support these traitors in act or by giving encouragement to them, are also considered subversive.

"We have never asked the Opposition to be loyal to the Party in power, nor to any Ministers. This resolution, as I said this morning, only seeks an expression of loyalty to the country in the face of Indonesian aggression.

Indicate clearly

"The Government has the support of the large majority of the people. The Government expects the Opposition to indicate clearly that its supporters are also loyal to the spirit of the resolution.

"The leader of the Opposition said that 'some people ask when the Party (Supp) is going to split. I say the paths have already divided'.

Finally, the Chief Minister asked: "What are the leaders of the Supp going to do about those branches which are C.C.O. controlled? What about some effective action?"

He concluded: "The Secretary-General of Supp contends that effective action has been taken. I beg to differ. It certainly has not yet. Let him take some firm action. Let him start with the Lundu Branch. Let us see some expulsion from the Supp of persons who should be expelled. What the Government wants to see is fair and reasonable action by the Supp leaders in the context of the present emergency. The Government has no intention whatever of suppressing the Opposition".

When the motion was then put to the House, the Deputy Chief Minister, Inche James Wong, asked for a Division which the Speaker allowed after pointing out the majority were in favour.

The Division revealed 38 'Ayes' and two absentions: no one voted 'No'.

Council Negri Re-Elects Members To Federal Parliament

IN

Inche Chia Chin Shin
(Alliance)

Inche Ong Kee Hui
(Supp)

Inche Khoo Peng Loong
(Supp)

OUT

Awang Daud bin Matussin
(Independent)

Inche Dagok anak Randen
(Panas)

Inche Charles Linang
(Supp)

Inche Song Thian Chiok
(Supp)

Twenty-three Members of Parliament — 18 from the Sarawak Alliance, three from Supp and two from Panas — were elected on Tuesday by Council Negri to sit in the Federal House of Representatives.

Seventeen of the former Alliance Members of Parliament were re-elected: The new Member is Inche Chia Chin Shin of Miri in the Fourth Division.

The three Opposition Supp Members elected were Inche Ong Kee Hui, the Chairman and Opposition Leader; Inche S.K.T. Yong, the Secretary-General (re-elected); and Inche Khoo Peng Loong, Chairman of the Sibn Urban District Council.

The Panas MPs are Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili and Inche Ikwan bin Abang Haji Zaini.

No Independents were elected.

Another seat is left vacant. The election of the remaining Member of Parliament will be held after the result of the by-election of Bintawa Road. This request by the Opposition was agreed to by the Council.

The Sarawak Alliance Members re-elected were: Inche Abdul Rahman Ya'kub, Wan Abdul Rahman, Che Ajibah Abol, Pengarah Banyang anak Janting, Inche Edwin Tangkun, Inche Edmund Langu, Penghulu Francis Umpau, Penghulu Jinggut, Inche Jonathan Bangau, Datu Temenggong Jugah (Federal Minister for Sarawak Affairs), Inche Kadam Kiai, Inche Ling Beng Siew, Inche Sandom anak Nyuak, Inche Sim Boon Liang, Inche Sng Chin Joo, Haji Su'ut Tahir and Inche Tan Tsak Yu.

Question Time In Council Negri

Government intended to introduce a new system of calculating grants to Local Authorities which would give greater assistance to those authorities whose resources were poor in relation to their responsibilities.

In stating this, the Chief Minister, Inche Stephen Kalong Ningkan, said that this was in accordance with the Government's policy of giving priority to the improvement of the prosperity and conditions of life of the rural people.

He was replying to a question by Inche Leong Ho Yuen (Independent) who asked what plans Government had to promote further better financial standing to local councils "which have in the past been relying too much on the State Government for financial grants".

In his reply the Chief Minister said:

"The principal source of local authority finance, other than grants, is the levy of rates. The Government is, therefore, taking early steps to secure a re-assessment of rateable values throughout the State on a fair and uniform basis so that the basic material for the calculation is available.

"Local authorities will continue to rely largely, but in varying degrees, on Government grants for the financing of those services for which they are responsible and which experience has shown are best administered by local councils under proper guidance and control".

He replied to another question by Inche Leong Ho Yuen as to whether the Government would surrender some of these resources to local councils. The Chief Minister said Government had not planned to do this.

He said: "Such revenue comes from taxes which are levied for the benefit of the population as a whole and the Government will see that it is fairly distributed. This will not be achieved by passing it straight back to the people who happen to be living in the local area where it is levied".

Equitable system of rates will be introduced

Inche Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) asked when Government would revise the capitation grants to local authorities "as the amounts paid to date the each council was based on the 1948 census population figures and not on the 1960 census which shows a substantial increase in population".

The Chief Minister in reply said that he had already answered that the Government intended to introduce a new and more equitable system of grants when a re-assessment of rateable values has been completed. No change in the capitation was therefore being considered at the moment.

In reply to supplementary questions, he said that the new system will come into operation, as a great deal of work has to be done, largely by central and local officers who were already fully occupied. However, he gave the assurance that the Government would pursue the project "with determination and energy".

Inche Chong also asked whether the Government would consider paying various grants to local councils at the beginning of the years, so that their projects would not be held up due to lack of funds.

The Chief Minister said in reply: "Capitation grants are fixed in amount and Residents have recently been asked whether they see any difficulty in paying them at the beginning of the year in every case.

"Rate grants are variable and cannot be paid until the adjustment in respect of the previous year has been calculated. The calculation depends on returns by Local Authorities which are in some cases not made until the year is well advanced.

"The delay should not cause serious difficulty since a council which is short of funds pending payment of a grant may apply for a temporary transfer from its reserve fund".

FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION: 'FAIR DEAL' ASSURED

Inche Leong Ho Yuen (Independent) asked whether it was true that "unless we submit our education policy to fall in line with the present Malayan Education Policy, we shall not be given free primary education.

"If not, what progress has the State Government made together with the Federal Government with regard to the —

(a) Introduction of free primary education in Sarawak,

and

(b) Abolishment of Primary Six Common Entrance Examination,

following the systems now adopted by the Ministry of Education in Malaya?

The Chief Minister, in his reply, said:

"No, Sir. No such condition has been im-

posed by the Federal Government. The question of the abolition of primary school fees is still under discussion with the Federal Government, and I can say nothing more at present.

"A number of other educational questions, including that of secondary school entrance, is also under discussion. I can assure the honourable member and all other members of this Council, that this Government is well aware of the deep interest in educational progress held by all responsible persons in Sarawak.

"The Government shares this interest and will do everything in its power to see that the people of Sarawak have a fair deal".

'ONLY \$2½ MILLION', SAYS YONG

Inche Stephen Yong (Supp) in a supplementary question asked why the Federal Parliament should be hedging with the question of introducing free primary education which costs "only \$2½ million".

The Chief Minister said that it was a Federal matter and did not seek to go further into it.

However, Inche Yong insisted on asking, why the Federal Government "was so mean about the \$2½ milion".

Inche Ningkan replied that he did not think the Federal Government was "so mean" but if Inche Yong was so anxious to find out, he could bring up the matter himself in the Federal Parliament.

FEDERAL GOVT. NOT BEING UNFAIR, SAYS C.M.

Inche Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) then asked "what was the main reason that Sarawak was not treated fairly and equally as the people in Malaya, as far as education was concerned.

The Chief Minister replying, said that he could not accuse the Federal Government of being unfair to the State Government, adding "he could not expect 100 percent success".

He gave the same answer to Inche Leong Ho Yuen, who asked a similar question.

Inche Leong in another question asked that action be taken to urge the Federal Government not to discriminate against Sarawak as far as education was concerned.

Inche Ningkan replying said that Government was not aware of any discrimination.

He added that Inche Leong should not assume that steps taken by the Federal Government in Malaya in regard to education, should immediately be followed in Sarawak.

He added that our problems are not the same, and different solutions may be appropriate. For this reason safeguards regarding education were written into the Malaysia Agreement.

"The honourable member will be aware, from his study of the Development Plan, that a very great expansion in education services is due to take place during the current five-year period".

'LAND FOR SCHOOLS' QUESTION ANSWERED

Inche Ong Kee Hui (Supp) then asked whether Government would make available to local authorities land for schools without premium in order to assist these councils with their building programmes.

In reply, the Minister for Natural Resources, Inche Teo Kui Seng, said:

"Government decided in 1962 that when State land is alienated to Local Authorities for grant-aided schools, a premium equal to the leasehold value of the land should be paid as premium and that the annual rent would be one peppercorn. When this decision was made it was decided also to amend the Grant Code (Regulations) 1956 to enable a grant to be made towards all or part of the premium.

"Local Authorities are aware that they

should make provision in their estimates for the premium they expect to have to pay for the acquisition of land for new schools and arrangements have been made for the payment of premium in arrears to allow for any delay which may arise between the alienation of the land and the approval of a grant".

In a supplementary question Inche Ong asked the Minister for assurance that consideration be given that grants in the case of certain rural district councils would cover the full value of the premium.

Inche Teo replied that since there has been no amendment in the Grant Code after Malaysia, he could not give this assurance.

INTRODUCTION OF DIRECT ELECTIONS: ASSURANCE SOUGHT

The introduction of direct elections to Council Negri and the Federal Parliament "as soon as possible" was raised by Inche Leong Ho Yuen who asked that the Malaysian Government be urged to give such an assurance.

In reply, the Acting Attorney-General, Mr G.V.C. Young, said: "Government will consider the request but attention is invited to Section 94 (2) of the Malaysia Act which, by virtue of Section 71 of that Act, forms part of the Federal Constitution".

This answer was also given in reply to a

question by Inche Stephen Yong.

In seeking further clarification, Inche Yong asked if it was Government's intention to find out whether the Federal Government would hold direct elections in the State before the four-year period.

Mr Young said that it was premature to hold any consultations at this stage with the Federal Government as there were general elections pending in Malaya and "one would have to wait and see the exact formation of the new Government" after then.

ADMIN. OFFICERS TO OBSERVE GENERAL ELECTIONS

The State Government had made arrangements to send three or four local Administrative Officers to Malaya to observe the general elections.

This was stated by the Acting Attorney-General, Mr Young, in reply to a question by Abang Othman (Panas).

Mr Young pointed out that it was most difficult to spare Administrative Officers in the present circumstances.

"In any event," he added, "I do not anti-

cipate there being a general election in this State for some time".

Young explains election procedure

In another question, Inche Leong Ho Yuen, in pointing out that there was now a vacancy in Council Negri, asked why the election of Federal Members of Parliament was being carried out before the filling of that seat.

In reply, Mr Young explained:

"The position is that the election to the Federal House of Representatives must be held within 60 days of the dissolution of that House, i.e. within 60 days from March 1, 1964.

"The question of postponing the election from this House was most carefully considered, but in view of the time which it would take to fill the seat in this House it became apparent that it could not be guaranteed that the seat could be filled through the various elections at District level, sub-electoral colleges and electoral colleges before the expiration of the 60 days.

"The writ for the elections was issued on January 31, specifying that nominations should be filed by March 17, and the election should be held between April 16 and 18. This was before it was known that there was going to be a dissolution of the Federal Parliament on March 7".

'From bottom upwards'....

In a supplementary question, Inche Yong asked: "Since this Council is also an electoral college, why was it not proper that the writ be issued for the calling of a meeting of the First Divisional Advisory Council to fill this place?"

"I do not think the questioner did suggest that there should be a postponement of this meeting, but rather why was this seat not filled by election in the Divisional Advisory Council?"

Mr Young: "It has always been the practice to fill seats in the Council Negri from the bottom upwards and Government considers it most desirable to continue that practice so as

to ensure that all the proper steps have been completed before the Divisional Advisory Council elect its member or members to the Council Negri".

Inche Ong Kee Hui then asked: "The Malayan elections are not scheduled to take place until the 28th, if I am not mistaken, and therefore there should have been time enough seeing that the Bintawa election would take place on the 18th of this month.

"There will still be time for a Divisional Council meeting to be called for the seat to be filled and for this election to go through in stages. Why was the Government not prepared to do that?"

Mr Young — "It has been considered by Government but it would not have given the time lag for the 10 days during which people could enter petitions, should any petitions have been lodged".

Mr Young then referred the House to the provisions of the Council Negri Election Ordinance. In the ordinary course of events following normal routine, he pointed out, the election in the Divisional Advisory Council to the Council Negri would not take place before May.

'Govt, did not take advantage of anomaly'—Young

Inche Chin Siaw Hee then asked whether it was the intention of the Alliance Government to take advantage of this anomaly in order to allow the Alliance Party to have its chance to have one more 'member sitting in the Parliament.

Mr Young — "No, Sir!"

NO TRUTH IN DETAINEES' ALLEGATIONS, SAYS C.M.

The Chief Minister, Inche Stephen Kalong Ningkan, told Inche Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) that he had been assured by the Federal authorities concerned that there was no truth "in the allegations made by some political detainees that they were punched on the stomach in the course of interrogation by the police".

He said that this assurance of "no truth" also applied to two questions of the same nature put at the meeting by Inche Chan.

The questions:

To obtain information from the Federal Government as to whether steps will be taken

to investigate complaints made by a number of people that they have been beaten up by members of the Security Forces in the course of house searching or arrest and to prevent such incidents taking place.

To obtain information from the Federal Government -

(a) as to whether investigation or enquiry can be made into reports by political detainees that they were confined in dark rooms for periods of a month or more in the course of interrogation;

(b) as to whether steps will be taken if such

reports are true for such a practice to be discontinued for humane reasons.

Inche Ningkan went on; "The honourable member could be said to be using the privileges of this House in asking questions which appear to be designed to bring the good name of the police and the Security Forces into disrespect.

PLAN HAS GOT OFF TO 'AN EXCELLENT' START

The Chief Minister, Inche Stephen Kalong Ningkan, said that work on implementing the Development Plan had "got off to an excellent start".

Dealing with a question on the subject put by Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili, he said that actual construction of a number of small projects throughout the country had started — for example the paths and bridges at Kampongs Sebuloh and Suba Bau in the First Division.

The survey of the new feeder roads to be made by the Public Works Department was also well under way, and construction would start before long.

Approval had been given for contracts for five secondary schools, to be built at — 12th Mile, Simanggang Road, Serian; Simunjan; Binatang; and Sibu Rural.

Plans for land settlement schemes were well advanced, and rubber planting would start on schedule.

The go-ahead for work on the Kabong-Nyabor drainage scheme had been given, and preliminary work there had already begun.

Inche Ningkan continued: "The Hon'ble member will also be interested to know of the joint project for the construction of paths in the across-river kampongs in Kuching.

"Under this project the Government and the Kuching Rural District Council are working together, on a *bagi-dua*' basis. The contract for the first section has already been awarded, and work will start shortly".

"If the honourable member hears any further reports of this nature, I hope he will bring them to my notice at once. I can then arrange for enquiry to be made immediately. This would be a much more satisfactory solution".

The Chief Minister then gave "a word of warning" about the CCO, which, he said, "dislikes the Development Plan because they know it will bring prosperity to the people".

"The CCO is worried because the Plan is now being successfully implemented, and it is quite possible that they will try to disrupt progress. This is being carefully watched, and they will not succeed in their aims. But we must be on our guard," he added.

Discussed by State Development Committee

Inche Stephen Yong asked whether the projects mentioned by the Chief Minister were those carried out according to the Plan.

On the Chief Minister replying in the affirmative, Inche Yong then asked whether it was true that in fact the Divisional Committee has never met yet to formulate the Plan.

The Chief Minister replied: "We have our State Development Committee and we have discussed what is to be done in the first, second, third, fourth and fifth year although we cannot implement all the plans at once".

He also said that the State Development Committee had met several times.

MATANG RD. RECONSTRUCTION APPROVED, SAYS INCHE TAIB

The work of reconstructing Matang Road from Satok Bridge to Mile 10 (Kuching District) had been approved by Government and was in hand, said the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, in reply to a question by Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili (Panas).

Abang Othman said that surfacing the Matang Road from Satok Bridge up to the junction of Astana Road should be done in order to keep the members of the public especially school children of the Ra'ayat Secondary School using the road free from suffocation by the floating dust caused by the wake of running vehicles".

Inche Taib added that this work included the raising of the road level to prevent it being flooded, the provision of new bridges and culverts and the laying of a crushed stone running surface. When completed, the road would be to feeder road standard.

Inche Taib went on: "The original financial provision was \$310,000 of which roughly \$250,000 has been expended to date. The balance will be applied to the completion of the crushed stone surfacing.

"It should be appreciated that, since this road is designed to feeder standard, there is liable to be a certain amount of dust nuisance during dry weather.

"The implementation of the suggestion that the section of the road he made dust-free would require additional funds estimated at \$30,000.

"The question of the provision of funds and the priority of the work will need to be considered at a later date, and I will look sympathetically at the suggestion when the 1965 Estimates are being prepared and a comparison between all the various priorities can be made".

Local shares in foreign timber companies

What is the Government policy relating to issue of licences for extracting timber in the State and establishment of sawmills? Will foreign companies or companies with foreign controlling interests be issued with such licences and if so, will conditions be imposed

so that opportunity will be given to local people to participate in the venture?

These questions were put by Inche Stephen Yong to the Minister for Natural Resources, Inche Teo Kui Seng.

Inche Teo first referred to the report submitted to Supreme Council on March 8, 1963, by a committee which included six members of the Council Negri on the conditions on which licences in the exploitation of hill forests should be issued including conditions to ensure the maximum participation by local Natives in the exploitation of the forests.

This report, he said, was accepted by the Supreme Council and was still State Government policy.

He then quoted the following committee recommendations:

"The question of foreign companies applying for licences were considered since the hill forests are likely to be difficult to work, requiring experience and a relatively large amount of capital.

"It was considered undesirable to attempt to confine the exploitation of hill forests to companies originating entirely from Sarawak. We nevertheless, recommend that limited companies applying must be registered in Sarawak.

"In other respects applications would be judged on their merits, but should two or more appear to be equally suitable, we recommend that the licence should be awarded to the company having a major proportion of its shares genuinely locally owned.

"It seemed likely that any company, whether the money originating from Sarawak or from abroad, might require, at any rate initially, technicians and managerial staff from overseas.

"We recommend that the applicants should be asked to give details of the expatriate technicians required and their proposed arrangements for recruiting and training local personnel to replace them".

Preference to locally owned companies

Continuing, Inche Teo pointed out that

from this genuinely locally owned companies would receive preference.

He added: "It is considered undesirable to impose a hard and fast rule that companies with foreign controlling interests must in all cases give local people the opportunity to participate in their forest ventures in Sarawak.

"The honourable member will be aware of the dangers in store for minority shareholders who are forced upon foreign companies who control the marketing of timber. But companies with foreign controlling interests who voluntarily invite local participation are naturally more welcome to this Government than those who do not.

"It is particularly desirable to increase the share of Native participation in competent timber companies whether local or foreign controlled.

'Govt, encouraging Native participation'

Inche Yong then asked the Minister if he was not aware that it would be illusory for the Native participation in the venture if the concession to be given is so large and the capital required so big that whatever has been contributed by the Native participants is so small it would come to hardly anything at all.

Inche Teo: "The Government is encouraging Native participation in this venture. I think I can assure the member that this fact has always received the attention of this Government.

"The Government is all in favour of Natives taking part in not only forest exploitation but in other industries".

PROTECT LOCAL PIG INDUSTRY CALL

A call to Government to take steps to regulate the import of pigs into Sarawak in order to protect the local pig breeding industry "now struggling to re-establish itself against strong and better established outside competitors," was made by Inche Chan Siaw Hee.

In reply, the Minister for Natural Resources, Inche Teo Kui Seng, said: "Because almost all the pigs imported into Sarawak are reared in Singapore, what Inche Chan is really asking is whether Government will raise a new trade barrier between Sarawak and Singapore. The short answer is 'No'.

"This Government does not consider that it is in the interest of the Sarawak consumers to limit the import of pigs from the other states of Malaysia. This could only lead to a rise in the price of pork and the removal of all incentive of local pig fanners to make their industry more efficient.

"The Department of Agriculture is actively helping Sarawak pig farmers to up-grade the quality of local breeding stocks and a request has been made to the Federal Government to recruit an experienced practical pig breeder under the Colombo Plan to examine why the local pig breeding industry is not fully competitive with Singapore.

Inche Teo then assured that his Ministry would not accept the present situation complacently but would strive to put right a situation that all the Members in this House

would agree is most unsatisfactory — that urban Singapore had been able to capture so large a share of the market from rural Sarawak.

He said: "However, the situation is not entirely gloomy. I am not prepared to commit myself now but there is reason to believe that the Rejang River will be self-sufficient in pork before the end of this year. Furthermore, the up-grading of local pigs by the import of improved breeding stock is going well.

"We have already imported more high quality breeding stock during the few months of our new Development Plan than were imported during the whole five years of the last Plan.

"If present experiments being conducted in the use of sago as an ingredient of pig food are successful then we will be well on the way to have solved our problem".

Exported pigs of good breeding

In reply to another question from Inche Chan, the Minister pointed out that the Agricultural Department had imported pigs of good breeding from Australia with the object of improving the local stock for distribution to pig breeders.

He also agreed with a suggestion by Inche Ong Kee Hui that Sarawak could approach Singapore for technical aid in the pig industry.

GOVT. VEHICLES EXEMPTED FROM THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

Are Government vehicles or vessels operated for the benefit of the public covered by third party insurance? This was asked by Inche Chong Kiun Kong (Supp).

In reply, the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, said that it was Government practice to carry its own insurance policy for public, utility vehicles and vessels and not to take out third party insurance.

The Motor Vehicles Ordinance especially exempted Government vehicles from the requirements of taking a third party insurance.

Inche Ong Kee Hui then rose to remark that this seemed to conflict with the notice which appeared in the ferries at Batu Kitang and Satok (Kuching) which said that no liability was attached to Government.

Inche Taib replied that in the case of

public vehicles, Government automatically paid any valid claims but in that of ferries the cost of operating them was so high that it was not recoverable from the ordinary collection of fares.

It was not fair for the public to demand that Government provide the facility and at the same time impose a bigger liability on the Government.

Inche Stephen Yong asked whether Government would deny liability in the case of an accident caused by the negligence of a government employee operating the ferry.

Inche Taib: "The notice put out by the Government is a common form of conditions attached to any public carrier whether it is Government or private companies, and the subject of individual cases would be determined by the courts of law".

SIBU PORT AUTHORITY TO BE ESTABLISHED?

Government was considering the possibility of establishing a port authority at Sibu and a survey to investigate all the implications was now being carried out.

This was stated by the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, in reply to questions on the subject by Inche Ong Kee Hui.

Said Inche Taib: "In the event of such an authority being established, it would cover not only Sibu Port but also all the Rejang ports.

"The successful establishment of a port authority automatically assumes that experienced personnel are readily available to conduct port operations and Government will, of course, give every consideration to ensure that those currently employed in Working as wharf labourers will be absorbed into the new set-up".

In reply to a supplementary question by Inche Stephen Yong, the Minister said that Mr L. Money (General Manager of the Kuching Port Authority) was conducting the survey.

Question on surgical specialists for

Sarawak

Inche Stephen Yong, in referring to a recent advertisement for surgical specialists for Sarawak in the British Medical Journal, asked if it was necessary to restrict the candidates to being nationals of Britain and Ireland and permanent residents in one of those countries only.

Replying, the State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw, pointed out that paragraph 17 of Annex B of the Inter-Governmental Committee report provided the answer.

He then said: "If local officers was not available to fill posts, recruitment on contract from overseas is then considered with the objective of filling while Borneanisation proceeds.

"In the first instance only the nationals of Britain and the Irish Republic are eligible for designation under the Overseas Service Aid Scheme for Sarawak. If no one is available under this Scheme, it would, I consider, lead to the case being regarded as exceptional and one might then attempt to recruit elsewhere".

'DAYAK DAY' DISCUSSED

The Chief Minister, Inche Stephen Kalong Ningkan, said that the Government was considering the question of a Dayak Day.

He was replying to a question made by Inche Leong Ho Yuen.

Inche Ningkan pointed out in his answer that the Dayak Day issue was first raised about three years ago. Since then the matter had been fully discussed at various levels and through the media of the local press. Last year it was discussed at the Council Negri and the motion was turned down.

He then said: "I am a Dayak myself and I know what the Dayaks feel about this issue and I sincerely hope it is not the intention of the honourable member in bringing up this issue to provide communalism when the country needs above all a national unity in the face of Indonesian confrontation.

"My Government is considering the matter and if it is thought in the national interest to declare a special holiday to be called as Dayak Day, then the Government would declare such a holiday".

A public holiday next year

In a supplementary question, Inche Stephen Yong asked whether the Chief Minister was saying that there was no real dissatisfaction among the Dayaks over this matter.

The Chief Minister replied that there would be a public holiday next year but he could not say what it would be called as.

In reply to further questions by Inche Yong, the Chief Minister said that dissatisfaction which existed among the people was merely due to the fact that they would not agree among themselves as to the name of the holiday.

'There is no anomaly'—Shaw

Would the Government remedy the anomaly that exists between the salaries of an overseas trained officer in the Department of Agriculture designated as a Home Economic's Supervisor in the salary scale of Division

m CI-3 starting with a salary of \$250 per month as compared with a Group Supervisor of School in the same Division and Grade, but still with a higher starting salary although all those officers hold the Senior Cambridge or Higher School certificates?

This question was put by Inche Leong Ho Yuen and answered by the State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw, who said: "No. There is no anomaly.

"Home Economics Supervisors are appointed either on promotion from Agricultural Assistants (after training) or directly to the Grade.

"In the latter case they are appointed to the minimum in accordance with the usual Government practice though credit would be given for any relevant experience after the date of qualification for appointment. In the former case the entry point would be governed by G.O. 131 which deals in great detail with the assessment of salaries on promotion.

"Group Supervisors of School Grade III were appointed on promotion from the rank of Grade III Teachers with long experience usually as Headmasters. The entry point on promotion was also governed by G.O. 131 but to effect any responsibility allowance which the officer may have been receiving as a Headmaster, up to four increments in salary were given.

"This is exceptional practice but one which in the case of this particular Grade dates back for many years and has been accepted in all subsequent revisions of salary.

"Group Supervisors, Grade IE, are now no longer appointed. Standards have risen and as those officers retire their posts are replaced by Group Supervisors, Grade HI, C2-4, for which Grade specific qualifications are laid down.

"Since Home Economics Supervisors are appointed to the Grade fairly early in their career they naturally tend to enter at the minimum point whereas Group Supervisors are commonly appointed after many years of experience and so enter at a higher point".

QUERY ON OFFICIAL NEWS AND LOCAL PRESS

Queries as to why official news was not given to the local press at the first available opportunity and why local journalists were not given the opportunity to visit places "where incidents of public interest occurred whereas such opportunity and facilities were accorded to foreign journalists," were put by Inche Stephen Yong.

In reply, the Chief Minister, Inche Stephen Kalong Ningkan, said that this was a Federal matter but went on to advise Inche Yong as follows:

"The local press are given official news at the first available opportunity through the State Information Officer and the Service Public Relations organisations. Furthermore, local journalists had been given opportunities to visit places where emergency incidents had taken place.

"It is not, of course, possible to take all members of the local press to the site of every

incident which generally involves helicopter travel. The demand for space-in helicopters for urgent operational needs is very great and this simply cannot be done.

"Insofar as the visit of overseas journalists is concerned, it will be appreciated that such visitors have an important part to play in giving overseas opinion a first-hand picture of what is taking place in Sarawak.

"Many of them are sent out from Britain specifically to cover the activities of the British forces serving here. Such individuals can more readily be flown about the countryside and their visits are of short duration.

"Insofar as the general background to emergency news is concerned, I am sending the Honourable Member a memorandum on the subject which has been issued to the press and which will, I hope, put this subject into better perspective for his benefit".

FREE QUARTERS FOR MINISTERS OF STATE

Ministers of State are now eligible to have free government quarters in Kuching if they wish.

This was the effect of an amendment to Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1963, (Privileges for the Chief Minister and other members of the Supreme Council, the Speaker, and members of Council Negri) successfully moved by the Chief Minister, Inche Stephen Kalong Ningkan, at last week's Council Negri meeting.

The amendment was opposed by Inche Stephen Yong and Inche Ong Kee Hui (both Supp) on the grounds of principle.

The State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw, said that in opposing the motion it was probably arguable that the Opposition was inciting Government to spend more money.

In all probability it was a great deal cheaper to have a Minister in a Government

house than to pay "a fairly large hotel bill". His guess was that the Opposition was asking Government to spend not less, but more money.

Mr Shaw then said that it had been found by experience that the Ministers had a great deal more work than expected and that work was better done in Kuching rather than miles away.

However, he considered that it was a reasonable proposal that all Ministers should, if they wished, be housed in Kuching. Making Kuching their centre would also mean that they would cease to draw the allowances which they would otherwise do while away from their homes.

Finally, he stated that the issue was "fairly finely balanced" and did not necessarily follow that the Ministers involved would take advantage of it.

The-Adjournment

A suggestion that Government was being undemocratic in the implementation of its five-year Development Plan was dismissed by the State Financial Secretary, Mr John Pike, at the Council Negri session last week.

The suggestion was made by Inche Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) the first speaker at the adjournment.

Inche Chong complained that the method of implementing the Development Plan was "undemocratic".

He said that the Divisional Development Committees which had been appointed had not yet met, and asked why no subsidies had been promised to pepper planters, when all other agricultural enterprises in the country had schemes drawn up and subsidies promised.

Inche Chong began his speech by saying that the Sarawak Alliance Government "has often claimed that Sarawak has an elected and democratic government, and yet, in my view, there are many things which appear to have been done today which are a complete departure from democratic principles".

Agreeing that the emphasis should be a rural development, Inche Chong said that although there were very good schemes and subsidies for many forms of agriculture and the utility services to go with them the distribution had not been fairly done.

He added: "Moreover, it would appear to me that there are no fixed plans or methods available to show how, to what extent, in what areas and to which races the benefits should go or whether the ultimate authority to grant these benefits should be decided by properly constituted bodies or by individual officers in high places who seem to wield autocratic powers.

No plans for pepper planters?

"For instance, after all the schemes and subsidies promised to assist rubber planters, padi growers, coconut growers, and some other agricultural enterprises, it is inconceivable that no plans have been made for pepper planters".

Inche Chong then asked whether a detailed master plan existed, and how it was going to be carried out.

He went on to say that the implementation of subsidies "seem to have been made haphazardly with the sole approval of the Chief Minister, and what is more, they appear to have been made quite often independently

of any fixed plan for overall development, more to boost political prestige than the fulfilling of pledges made to the people to be carried out systematically and according to a master plan".

Inche Chong was referring to the subsidies recently given to rural dwellers for the construction of kampung roads and bridges.

Touching on the Divisional Development Committees appointed for the five Divisions of Sarawak, Inche Chong said that the First Division Development Committee did not hold "a single meeting to all the months that the Development Plan has come into being."

He suggested that it was "imperative that all who have the responsibility of implementing the Plan should desist from further attempts to implement schemes piecemeal but should provide surveys, work out blueprints and have these aired before the appropriate committees, and when the time came to implement the proposals the public should be kept informed in all details in order to maintain that confidence and to avoid criticisms that the Government is only interested in implementing the Five-Year Plan in certain areas and for the benefit of certain races."

DIV. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES 'MORE REPRESENTATIVE'

Replying, the State Financial Secretary, Mr John Pike, said that "basically Inche Chong was complaining that the method of implementing the Development Plan was undemocratic.

Mr Pike said that Inche Chong complained that the First Division Development Committee had not met yet. Pointing out that they were not new bodies, Mr Pike said they played a major role in the formulation of the Divisional Development plans which were used last year as the basis for the preparation and clarification of the national plan. But in true keeping with the spirit of democracy, the newly elected Government decided that the membership of these Divisional Development Committees should be made more representative than it was under the previous colonial rule, and has therefore asked for representations from each district council.

It had taken some time to finalise the membership of the Divisional Development Committees, and to hear from each district council by whom it wished to be represented.

Mr Pike went on to say that they had been faced with interior problems and that it had been necessary to get on with the job. There had been as much as criticism of not getting on with the job. He stressed that they could not have it both ways. If they were to get on with the job they could not wait for the Divisional Development Committees to be formed by nominations from district council.

Mr Pike said that it was certainly the Government's intention that these Division Development Committees should meet as soon as possible and that once they were operating the intention was that they would be fully consulted.

Mr Pike said that Government entirely agreed that there should be co-operation between the Government and the people for making the Development Plan work. Nobody was in two minds about that.

While it was true that the whole of the Divisional Development Committees have not yet come wholly and effectively into operation, it was the case that the working sub-committees of this Divisional Development Committees had been fully occupied, and had been making representations and recommendations as to what ought to be done, and as to the priorities for the consideration, initially, of working sub-committees of the State Development Plan Committees.

These committees in turn made recommendations to the State Development Planning Committee, chaired by the Chief Minister, and consisting of all the members of Supreme Council, with the addition of the Federal Secretary and the State Development Officer, who is also a Federal Officer sitting in a joint State Federal body.

It was not correct for Inche Chong to say that all the decisions were made by the Chief Minister.

Mr Pike referred to his answer to an earlier question and said there was a vote for minor expenditure of a miscellaneous nature and when things of that type were asked for by rural or kampung people themselves, the decision on it had to be made by the State Development Planning Committee — there was nothing undemocratic in that.

Referring to another point made by Inche Chong, that nothing had been done, for pepper planters, Mr Pike referred to a decision made by the Council Negri when it accepted this plan without opposition.

Quoting the relevant paragraph in the Plan, Mr Pike said it was not intended to invest Government's funds with the aim of increasing the acreage of pepper planting.

Nevertheless, the pepper farmers' income could be increased if their produce fetched good prices in the world market.

Mr Pike added that one pepper processing plant had been established at Sarikei, and \$300,000 was provided for the establishment of two further plants in Kuching and Miri.

The policy of the Government in relation to pepper had already been endorsed by this Council in full democratic assembly when this plan was adopted. It was quite an unfair charge to say that nothing was being done for pepper planting.

'Things going ahead on schedule'

With regard to the point that the public should be kept informed of what was going on in relation to the work of the Plan, Mr Pike said he would have thought that the press and radio during the past few months had already told the public of the things that had been done.

He added that he entirely agreed that it was very important that the people should be aware, but of course one could not expect Rome to be built in a day.

It took time and the Chief Minister himself had said that an excellent start had been made in the implementation of the Plan and that things were going ahead on schedule. While it is fair comment to be worried that the Divisional Development Committee in full has not yet met, it is certainly Government's intention that they should play a full role participating in the implementation of this Plan.

Mr Pike stressed the need to get on with the job and pointed out it was still early to say yet as there were five more years. He felt sure that within a matter of weeks they would find that they were fully engaged in the Divisional Development Committees in the implementation of the Plan which itself had been democratically approved by this House.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS FACING LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The leader of the Opposition, Inche Ong Kee Hui, spoke on the financial problems facing local authorities in Sarawak, and suggested that ways and means must be found to make them "more viable and better able to serve the people under their jurisdiction".

Pointing out that non-payment of school fees by parents placed undue strain on local councils' finances, Inche Ong said:

"If primary education is made free this will relieve those councils of this constant worry and I think the sooner the State Government can get the Federal Government to extend free primary education to Sarawak, the better".

Inche Ong began by saying that local district and urban councils have provided valuable training ground in the art of government.

He added: "As one who had served on an urban council for more than 10 years, and who is in close touch with a number of rural district and urban councils I know that one of the greatest problems that most of these councils face is one of finance.

"Councillors are very much alive to the needs of the community they serve, and given the facilities, are in a good position to assess and satisfy those needs. In many cases, however, unfortunately the enthusiasm of local councillors have been frustrated by inability to carry out their projects because of lack of funds".

Stressing that "it is better in the long run to give local authorities not only greater financial backing but also a greater degree of autonomy, Inche Ong said:

"The rather tight control through Residents and District Officers of local authority finances have proved very frustrating to many a local council".

Greater incentive

Referring to the larger and more advanced urban or district councils, Inche Ong commented:

"There seems to be a good case for allowing a greater degree of autonomy, as there will be greater incentive to become more self-supporting if councillors feel they are free to spend money which they have raised on some projects they have planned without hindrance. From my own experience if you

give people the responsibility they often live up to it".

Continued Inche Ong: "In the older and more advanced urban or district councils there are today a nucleus or body of experienced and well tried councillors who would be able to ensure that due care its exercised in the control of the finances of these councils.

"In recent years with the expansion of certain services, which Government has made the responsibility of the local authorities such as primary education and ante-natal and maternity clinics, district and urban councils are finding increasing difficulties in meeting the expenditure (particularly the capital expenditure) involved.

"The question of payment of premium on land required for schools, for instance, has been raised by me at this sitting. While in most cases the premium payable is covered by grants, this is not necessarily automatic, and most councils feel strongly premium should be waived".

Touching on primary education, Inche Ong said: "In the field of primary education, many rural councils have been faced with default in payment of school fees by parents. The case of the Lawas District Council was mentioned on one occasion in this House and arrears, if I am not mistaken, was said to amount to over \$10,000.

"Such a situation places not only an undue strain on the local council's finances but can also be very demoralising for the council. If primary education is made free, this will relieve those councils of this constant worry and I think the sooner the State Government can get the Federal Government to extend free primary education to Sarawak the better.

"Even with free primary education this still leaves the local councils the problem of raising their share of the capital expenditure for the many new schools required particularly in the rural areas. This is very serious problem for some local authorities and a more realistic approach is needed and the education grant code should be reviewed as soon as possible".

Referring to a reply by the Chief Minister on behalf of the Minister for Local Government that an expert was coming to Sarawak to advise on the revision of rateable values of properties, Inche Ong said:

"I do not think this is going to help the rural councils where there are in fact few properties which can be rated any higher. The people in these rural areas are already resisting the payment of the existing rates and it will be very unlikely that any higher rates can be imposed in" such areas, particularly where no-tangible service to the individual householder can in fact be seen'.

'Consider other ways'

Inche Ong suggested that other ways of financing local authorities should be considered.

He added: "In his reply to the question from a member from this side yesterday, the Chief Minister did not say whether Government would (I quote) 'surrender some of its revenue sources to the local councils as part of the plan', I know what the answer to that one would be.

"There is in fact little left to the State after the Federal authority has put its fingers in the pie. Local councils are not lacking in ideas as to how they can raise money".

In conclusion, Inche Ong said: "For instance looking at the thriving and expanding timber industry both the Sarikei District Council and the Sibu Rural District Council think that a levy of a dollar a ton on logs exported from Tanjung Mani would solve their financial problems!

"I can see a look of horror on the face of the State Financial Secretary. He is obviously not amused. I hope that I have shocked him into action and that as the Government's Financial adviser, he will find ways and means by which to make local authorities more viable and better able to serve the people under their jurisdiction".

PIKE EXPLAINS AIM OF REASSESSMENT

The State Financial Secretary, Mr John Pike, replying to Inche Ong Kee Hui said that not only the local authorities, but public authorities including the State Government found themselves in strict financial circumstances.

Referring to the proposed valuation, or re-valuation, of premises throughout the country, Mr Pike said:

"I think I might explain that the aim of that reassessment as it were, did not of itself to produce more rates but by having a standard national valuation system to be able to tell which areas or which local council areas have what is known as a low rateable value per head.

"This would enable the preparation of some kind of new grant system based on the equalisation grant concept which is used in the United Kingdom. But as the United Kingdom has found, unless you have standardised valuation, you will find every local authority doing its own valuation in order to prove that it is below the national average, and in order that it would get more of the equalisation grant, and nobody gets anywhere.

"It is not an expert that we are trying to get from outside, but a job that we intend to be ourselves in order that we could have standard valuation not with the aim of extract-

ing more rates from persons who can ill-afford it, but on the contrary, with the aim of seeing which areas need more help by way of grants from Government.

"He has also spoken of handing over of revenues and the state of shock I am in at his suggestion that the Sarikei District Council should be financed by an export duty on timber exported through Tanjung Mani.

"I have no doubt at all that it would solve the problems of the Sarikei District Council. But in the first place, of course, export duty on federal revenue and the legislative power is entirely federal and I cannot see Sarikei District Council getting away with that one.

Not a long term solution

"In the second place, and this is a much more important point, it is no kind of long term solution to hand over revenue sources to local authorities where you will make the situation worse by virtue of the fact that the Sarikei District Council happens to be fortunate in having tons of money in its district.

"The Kapit District Council, from which no doubt a great deal of the timber comes, does not have Tj. Mani in its district so that one would very easily get into a worse state of inequality than one in today.

"I think, therefore, so far as the finances of

local authorities are concerned, I would ask the members of the Opposition to have a little more patience to appreciate that the Government does realise that the situation is an improvement.

"The Government is urgently embarking upon the question of a standardised valuation to get to what is known as a national average

of rateable value per head and once we have that kind of information — which will, I am afraid, take some time to assemble — then the decision to work out some kind of equalisation system to support and help those areas, which the honourable member quite rightly said are faced with considerable financial difficulties, can be arrived at".

TEO REPLIES TO PEPPER SUBSIDY QUESTION

Speaking next, the Minister for Natural Resources, Inche Teo Kui Seng, replied to points raised by the first speaker, Inche Chong Kiun Kong on the Development Plan.

Touching on the question of a pepper subsidy, raised by Inche Chong, the Minister said that although there was no subsidy for pepper it did not mean that the Agricultural Department was doing nothing.

Added Inche Teo: "We are doing something and the first two important points I would like the attention of the House to be drawn are:

- (a) The control of root disease;
- (b) Economical increased productions;

The Agricultural Department is making intensive search into:

"I don't think I need explain about toot root disease because quite a lot of farmers suffered from this.

"The Agriculture Department's Research Department is looking into the whys and wherefores in order to prevent the spread of this disease.

Revolutionary experiment

"On the second point the Department is now carrying out a revolutionary experiment or what is known as hedge planting. As you know the common way of planting pepper is to let the vine climb on a pole; in the case of hedge planting, we get the hedge to join the two short poles so that the vines would be on the hedge like a bamboo hedge.

"By this method, when the pepper is seasoning you need not have to carry a ladder from plant to plant — you could just walk along and pluck — it is labour-saving.

"Secondly, the results so far have been very hopeful and encouraging and it is estimated that the increase in production, as compared to the pole planting, would be about something like 30 percent".

Finally, Inche Teo said that arrangements had been made to invite pepper gardeners to come and inspect this experiment in Tarat Station. He had when he was down in Fourth Division recently, made arrangements for a group of pepper farmers to come over to Kuching to inspect this experiment at Government expense.

YONG ASKS ABOUT ELECTION FORMULA

Inche Stephen Yong who spoke next, dwelt in the question of election of members to the House of Representatives.

On the distribution of seats he wished to know what was the formula adopted by the Chief Minister.

Said Inche Yong: "The Independents are not regarded as a political group, as provided for under the rule and they therefore did not count. Then the Chief Minister counted the nominated members as capable of belonging

to a political group and as they were made ministers they belong to the Alliance group and thus the number of the Alliance was bumped up.

"Is this democracy? Surely the spirit and intent of the rule on election to House of Representatives to reflect the true position of membership in the Council Negri is to have regard only for elected members in this House to the exclusion of the nominated members. That is common sense, and if we really adhere

to democratic principles that must be so. The most charitable way of saying about our election system is that it is a curious one and I think we must find ways of amending it the sooner the better".

'Election carried out according to rules'

The State Attorney-General, Mr G.V.C. Young, replying to Inche Yong on the question of nominated members, said that the election had been carried out in strict accordance with the rules as were laid down in the book.

He added: "Ex-officio members are excluded completely from the calculation. I might say I could have jumped to my feet, as I sometimes do in question time on a point of order, as over 50 percent of my honourable and learned friend's speech was on a matter which is not a proper matter for the adjournment speech, because it was a matter on the Federal list — in that elections from this House to the House of Representatives are on the Federal list and what more my honourable and learned friend departed from the scope of the speech to which he gave notice.

"However, to be fair to him I let him have his say. I would however draw his attention

and those of the Members of this House to the exact wording of the Regulations and here I emphasise the word 'shall'".

Quoting the relevant regulation, Mr Young emphasised the use of the word "shall" — not "may". "The Speaker shall require each Member of the Council Negri, excluding the ex-officio members, to declare in writing to which political group he belongs and each member shall declare accordingly".

Continued Mr Young: "There is therefore, a special duty imposed on every member of the House, apart from the three of us ex-officio members to make a declaration that he either belongs to a political group or he is an independent. That has been complied with. The calculations have been worked out in strict accordance with laws, and I can assure my honourable and learned friend that the mathematics are entirely in accordance with the election rules.

Concluded Mr Young: "I would therefore say that the suggestion that the elections are in any way undemocratic is entirely incorrect. We have waited for full allowance to be made for every contingency and I would say that we have complied in this House with the law, with the spirit of the law, and with the IGC Report on which the Regulations were founded."

C.M. REPLIES TO POINTS RAISED

The Chief Minister, Inche Stephen Kalong Ningkan, replying to the two previous speakers from the Opposition, said he would like to endorse their remarks about the running of Local Government.

He said that this would depend on the extent to which Local Authorities wished to extend services provided.

Said the Chief Minister: "The object of reassessment is to distribute the burden of rates fairly between one rate-payer and another. The object of the grants system is to help with Government money those councils who have heavy burdens and poor resources.

"The State Financial Secretary has already given a full explanation on the disbursement of funds for Minor Rural Development Projects.

"As I have said local councils cannot expect to have unlimited sums of money to spend. They must be prepared to raise more themselves if they want to spend more on

services or capital projects. However, the whole system of grants is under review and the intention is that the poorer councils will be put in a better position".

Concerning primary education, the Chief Minister said: "This Government is pursuing the matter of abolition of primary school fees. Whether the honourable member likes it or not a new system of grants does depend on an up-to-date and uniform system of valuation. This does not necessarily mean that rates will go up.

"The policy of the Ministry of Local Government is to encourage Local Authorities to plan ahead for capital development over a five-year period. This method has been successfully applied in relation to educational expenditure—that is building and equipping of primary schools.

"In Appendix 'A' to the printed estimates of each Local Authority for the year 1964 will be found its five-year development plan for

Primary education. The estimates have not yet been published, having been held up by certain outstanding points under discussion with some Local Authorities, but it is hoped that they will be published very shortly.

"Capital expenditure on non-education purposes is also to be worked out on a five-year basis, but this is more difficult to do because they are more uncertain factors. Local Authorities will, however, be given a general indication of the approximate level of Government assistance which they may expect to receive, subject to adjustment in the light of financial situation as it arises.

"On this information and on their own estimates of balances likely to be available, Local Authorities will be able to draw up a five-year development plan for non-educational as for education purposes.

"An adequate degree of guidance is necessary in the interest of efficiency as well as of complete uniformity. Complete uniformity is neither desirable nor necessary and it is not my Government's wish to stifle local initiative but Local Authorities are not separate kingdoms of their own and every citizen as he moves around the country has a right to expect that things will be run according to familiar methods and principles.

"A uniformity is of course essential in connection with staff matters in order that the staff of Local Authorities may have a career in the Local Authority service as a whole and proper protection from arbitrary action. Even the Government, Sir, is by no means independent when it comes to staff matters, since such matters are in the hands of the Public Service Commission.

"Another reason why guidance is necessary is that Local Authorities are spending a great deal of Government money. I have already explained why it is expected that Government grants will continue to be a major source of Local Government finance".

Continued the Chief Minister: "What I have said in answer to questions and in this debate is amply sufficient to show that this Government places very high value on the Local Authority system both as an efficient method of administering a number of important services and also as a very valuable method for a large number of responsible citizens to take an active part in Government.

'A source of pride'

"I am not saying that the Local Authority system is perfect, but it has already developed to a point which can be a source of pride to this country — not least to my honourable friend

opposite, and the Government will see to it that it improves still further. We are always pleased to listen to constructive suggestions from any part of this House".

Touching on the question of allocation of seats, the Chief Minister said: "I dare to say that the Government has been generous about the allocation of seats and I am surprised to hear such a childish criticism.

"Criticisms have been levelled against the Alliance Party on the matter of selecting members to the Federal Parliament. The critics have various motives. Some are promoted by sheer jealousy. Some hoped to undermine the solidarity of the Alliance by playing on communal feelings. Some would like to see certain partners in the Alliance shabbily treated so as to create dissension among the Party. There are some critics who criticised us with no malice.

"Those who criticised us with malice must now realise that they have failed to achieve their sinister aims".

Emphasised the Chief Minister: "To promote and maintain inter-racial goodwill and harmony is one of the main objects of the Sarawak Alliance. In selecting members to the House of Representatives and the House of Senate, the Alliance has this object in mind, and has tried as far as possible to achieve a racial balance, selection of course being confined to those who are members of the Alliance Party".

Quoting from the provisions of the IGC Report relating to the election of members of parliament, Section 25, sub-section (2) of the IGC Report which was passed by the previous Council Negri as Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1963, states, the Chief Minister said "the procedure (in electing members of the House of Representatives) may be such as to require or not to require that members of the House of Representatives are elected from among the members of the Assembly (i.e. Council Negri)".

He added: "This, I have reason to believe, was designed to enable every political party in this House, under the indirect system, to select members of all races to represent their respective parties whether they were inside or outside Council Negri. Whatever other parties have done, the Sarawak Alliance has made good use of this sound provision, and I know the people of Sarawak in general have supported our fair arrangement".

Concluded the Chief Minister: "It would be disastrous if, at this stage of our political development, every party in this House were to select only one race to represent itself.

"In this matter, therefore, the Sarawak Alliance can face the people with a certain amount of pride".

'Leaned backwards'

The Deputy Chief Minister, Inche James Wong, then spoke in support of the Chief Minister and the State Attorney-General.

He said that in the spirit of democracy which has pervaded this House, he should point out that the government had "leaned backwards" on the allocation of seats,

Added Inche Wong: "The road to hell is always paved with good intentions. Our best intentions are not appreciated by the Opposition. We have played according to the rules and the rules are contained in the IGC which I have previously pointed out is our Bible".

Concluded Inche Wong: "One honourable member complained about our election system. The Opposition as well as ourselves had to go through the same hurdles. As luck would have it we got in and I think the country has nothing to complain. They have got a very good Government today".

LINANG SPEAKS ON MOTOR VEHICLES' PROBLEM

Inche Charles Linang (Supp) who spoke next referred to the "problem which faces us in Sarawak because of the increasing number of motor vehicles on our roads, particularly in urban areas".

Said Inche Linang: "The number of motor vehicles on the road is increasing every day whereas our roads cannot be expanded in the same proportion. That is the problem".

Pointing out that in some urban areas there are more vehicles on the road "because of the number of military vehicles," Inche Linang said:

"With such an increase, naturally our roads are becoming over crowded. As a result the rate of accidents has been mounting in the last few months.

"I therefore wish to appeal to all road users to be more considerate for the other road users. I mean pedestrians, cyclist and motor vehicles drivers. I maintain that the military vehicles drivers should remember that they are on small roads and to drive at high speed on such roads could be dangerous. I appreciate that the army people are always in a hurry on some emergency business".

Finally, Inche Linang wished to know how the victim of an accident in which a military vehicle is involved, to go about getting a redress.

"The matter," he said, "can be complicated because we have the vehicles belonging to the British army and to the Malaysian army. It can be very confusing to ordinary people.

"I therefore think that the local police should take the responsibility of advising the public in case of any accident involving

military vehicles as to how a claim, if such a claim is maintainable, can be made".

The State Attorney-General, Mr G.V.C. Young, who replied said that claims in the case of non-Malaysian military vehicle could be referred to him.

Steps takn to prevent accidents

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib, replying to Inche Linang, said that the mounting rate of accidents during the last few months did not mean that there were more accidents this year than during the last few years.

He added: "Steps have been taken by the Land Transport Authority in conjunction with the Kuching Municipal Council to prevent as much as possible road accidents. Although the rate is rather alarming compared with countries with advanced road systems, there was great improvement in Sarawak's land transport systems since 1958".

The Minister pointed out that since 1958 there was a decrease of 9 percent; in 1960 there was no increase; and in 1961 the figure was only two-third of the average rate of accident. In 1962, the figure was four percent — an increase.

This figure should not give great alarm, but in view of the fact the number of vehicles since 1958 doubled by 1962, the rate of increase would be about three vehicles per day.

Inche Taib then appealed especially to parents to instruct their children to observe road safety rules on the roads.

He pointed out that out of 106 pedestrians involved in road accidents in 1962, 56 were under 16. This, Inche Taib said, was a pitiful thing.

He added that the police were trying their best to educate school children but the matter lay more with parents.

'Speed governed by law'

The Deputy Chief Minister, Inche James Wong, who spoke last, said that he had two more observations to make.

One was the comment by Inche Charles Linang on the speed with which Services vehicles were driven on the roads. He said he would like to point out that the speed of the Services vehicles was governed by law and what Inche linang had remarked would be brought to the proper Federal authority.

The other was in connection with bicycles. Inche Wong said that he shared the honourable member's concern about the way bicycles had been going around on K.M.C. roads especially. He believed that the K.M.C. was the appropriate licensing authority for making the by-laws.

He hoped that the President and the Municipal Council would pass rules and regulations to ensure that cyclists ride in single file and not five or six abreast.

Here Inche Ong Kee Hui interrupted to point out that the prosecuting authority was the police, not the K.M.C.

Inche Wong replied that he was referring to the fact that the by-laws should be looked into and modified.

Inche Ong said that it was the police who should enforce the by-laws.

Inche Wong argued that the present by-laws they had were not conducive to less accidents on the road. He suggested that Inche Ong Kee Hui as President of the K.M.C. should look into these by-laws which allow cyclists to ride two abreast on the narrow roads in Kuching. He suggested that the by-laws should be changed stipulating that cyclists should not ride two abreast, but singly.

The House was adjourned sine die.

June 21 - June 27, 1964

Question Time In Council Negri

FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION

Further discussions had taken place with Members of the Federal Ministry of Education on the subject of primary education subsequent to the last session of Council Negri but no decision has yet been made.

This was stated in Council Negri on Tuesday by the State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw, in answer to questions by Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp), and Mr Ling Beng Siong (Ind.)

Mr Shaw said: "As I said at the last Council Negri, this Government will do, and is doing everything in its power, to see that the people of Sarawak get a fair deal".

In a supplementary question on the same subject, Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) said he was not satisfied with the general statement that Government would do all it could. He asked the State Secretary not only to say, but also to indicate what action had been taken.

Mr Shaw replied that in the first place he could not say that the Government could do more. Secondly as far as details were concerned any variation of education policy was a Federal matter. At the moment it was not possible to disclose any further details. The Government regretted as much as the Opposition that further progress had not been made.

In answer to a further question by Mr Yong, Mr Shaw reiterated that he could not disclose further details.

Mr.Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) then wanted to know whether the State Government had been Confronted with difficulties in the discussions on this matter.

Mr Shaw replied that there were difficulties on both sides.

When asked by Mr Chan what sort of difficulties they were, Mr Shaw said that this was a Federal responsibility and he was not in a position to disclose further details.

RETIREMENT AGE

In another question, Mr Ling Beng Siong asked the State Secretary whether the Government had completed a consideration of the question of increasing the age of retirement of teachers and Government servants from 55 to 60 and if so with what result.

The State Secretary referred Mr Ling to the answer which he gave to a question on this subject on September 4 last year that Government had not, as far as could be discovered in the short time available, received any requests from staff associations and as a result no consideration had been given to this question. Mr Shaw said he was also not aware of any general desire on the part of Civil Servants for the raising of the normal retirement age.

He added: "Without in any way committing this Government to any particular policy I can say that this Government does not at present propose to take the initiative in any move to raise the retiring age for Civil Servants.

"The normal retiring age of 55 gives an officer a full career from 30 to 35 years service and allows him to earn his full pension in most

cases. In general the raising of the retirement age would be frustrating to younger officers.

"There is already power in the Pensions Ordinance to allow officers to continue in the Service after the age of 55 if it is thought desirable in the public interest and if the Public Service Commission is satisfied that the retention of any particular officer would not unduly affect the promotion of a younger officer.

"There is also provision for the re-engagement on non-establishment terms of Civil Servants who have retired.

"It would be inappropriate to take any action in so important a matter in advance of the appointment of a Joint Commission on Terms of Service referred to in paragraph 32 of Annex B to the Inter-Governmental Committee Report on Malaysia".

In a supplementary question Mr Stephen Yong asked whether in view of the shortage of teachers Government would consider raising the retirement age of teachers.

Mr Shaw replied that he had no doubt if individual cases were put up they could be dealt with sympathetically and on their merits.

FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES

Local authorities may apply for capital grants for fire-fighting services, and their applications will be considered in relation to other demands and the resources available.

This was stated by the State Secretary, Mr Shaw, in reply to a question by Mr Sim Kheng Hong who wanted to know whether the Government would consider, in view of the recent disastrous fire at Limbang, giving capital grants to local councils to establish fire-fighting services.

Mr Shaw added: "There is much that councils can do towards minimising the risk of fire without engaging in heavy capital

expenditure. Before the disastrous fire in Limbang, the Minister of Local Government had invited councils to apply for advice from the Superintendent of the Kuching Fire Brigade.

"The Kuching Municipal Council has kindly agreed to release the Superintendent so that he may visit councils which require his advice and his travelling expenses will be borne by the Ministry. In addition, the Ministry is at present preparing a circular setting out a number of simple precautionary measures which councils can take".

MAINTENANCE OF MINOR ROADS

In the next question Mr Sim asked whether increased annual grants would be given to local councils for the maintenance of minor roads constructed out of development funds dispensed by the Chief Minister.

Mr Shaw replied: "No Sir, for the time being local authorities are paid road grants only in respect of those roads taken over from the Public Works Department.

"Roads built out of the Development Funds and by the local authorities themselves, will be maintained from local authorities own financial resources which include, as the Honourable Member will be aware, a very large element of Government grant. Those local authorities which impose a road maintenance rate also get a dollar for dollar grant up to the maximum laid sum in a

Sessional Paper of 1959 on the subject of rates.

"As was announced at the last meeting of the Council Negeri a new system of grants to

local authorities will be devised and this will take into account the commitment of local authorities in respect of road maintenance".

C.M. TO ASK PEOPLE TO AVOID UNNECESSARY EXPENDITURE

The Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan said he would ask that unnecessary expenditure be avoided. "I cannot, however, forbid people's spontaneous expressions of hospitality which I am sure the Honourable Member enjoys as much as I do," he said.

The Chief Minister was replying to a question by Mr Ong Kee Hui, who asked whether in the interest of economy under the present emergency it would not be desirable for him to request that unnecessary expenditure in the form of arches, dinners, etc should not be committed by people in the outstation when he made routine visits to them.

On this question, Mr Stephen Yong

wanted to know whether there was any truth in the report that the Chief Minister had asked some people to put up arches to welcome him.

The Chief Minister explained that he had not requested anyone to put up arches for him, but the Alliance Party of Bintulu which had received a proposal from the Alliance members the arches should be put up to welcome him had raised the question because they were not informed earlier by the District Officer.

Another Supp member, Mr Chan Siaw Hee, asked whether the erection of arches was some sort of punishment and the Chief Minister denied that it was so.

COUNCILLORS' MONTHLY ALLOWANCES

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked the State Secretary whether in view of the feelings expressed by various local councils in this matter whether the Minister will not make representation to the Federal Government that monthly allowances should be paid to Councillors in District Councils out of Federal

funds.

The State Secretary replied that Mr Yong must be aware that responsibility for local government under the Constitution lies entirely with the State Government. Constitutionally, therefore, the Government could not make the representation sought.

MALAY MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

Mr Stephen Yong asked the State Secretary whether he would seek information from the Federal Government whether it was contemplating to violate the Inter-Governmental Agreement in imposing Malay as the medium of instruction in schools.

The State Secretary replied he had no indication whatever that the Federal Government had any intention of violating the Malaysia Agreement in respect of language or anything else. He did not therefore intend to seek the information asked for by the Honourable Member or to ask the Minister for Local Government the same.

In a supplementary question, Mr Yong asked the State Secretary whether he was

aware that a statement was made by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Education in Kuala Lumpur which indicated that there might be a suggestion that the present Government was contemplating introducing Malay as the medium of instruction in schools.

Mr Shaw replied that he was not aware of the statement which indicated that this Government was contemplating the introduction of Malay as the medium of instruction in schools.

When Mr Yong pointed out that the statement had appeared in the press, Mr Shaw said that it might be a mistake but he would make suitable inquiries.

WONG YAM JIN'S DEATH SUBJECT OF AN INQUEST

Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp) asked the Chief Minister if he would obtain information from the Federal Government on the cause and circumstances of the death of a detainee, Wong Yam Jin, in a police cell.

The Chief Minister answered that as this

matter was the subject of an inquest he could not at present seek information from the Federal Government. "When a person dies while in the custody of a police officer or while in a place of lawful detention, a Magistrate is required by law to hold an inquest," he said.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DETAINEES SOUGHT

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) asked the Chief Minister if the State Government would make recommendation to the Federal Government for the following -

- (a) To lift the restriction on the relatives of the political detainees visiting them and withholding of privileges such as access to newspapers and books.
- (b) To keep the families or relatives of the detainees informed of the places where they are kept and the condition of their health when they have been removed from the Detention Camp in the course of interrogation by the police.
- (c) To make it every way possible to relieve the anxiety of the families of detainees concerning their safety and welfare whenever they are removed for interrogation from the detention camp.

The Chief Minister said the questions would be referred to the Federal Government.

The Chief Minister also said that the request made by Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp), who asked if the Government would request the Federal Government to allow Council Negri members to visit the political detention camp, would be passed to the Federal Government.

REQUEST FOR TELEPHONES FOR "STRATEGIC PLACES"

Abang Othman (Panas) asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether he would urge the Federal authorities to install telephones at strategic places at Government expense rather than to consider the installation of such facilities on a commercial basis.

Replying, the Minister said it was not clear what the Honourable Member was suggesting that the Federal Authorities should be urged to do. If the Honourable Member would make this clearer he would consider his re-

quest, the Minister said.

In supplementary questions, Abang Othman asked whether the Minister for Communications was aware that strategic points and resettlement villages were still without any telephones.

He gave an example Goebilt, a strategic kampung at the mouth of the Sarawak River and the resettlement area of Kampung Gita.

Inche Taib replied that strategic points were determined by the military authorities.

THE SATOK BRIDGE

The Government has considered whether or not to build a bridge to replace the existing Satok Bridge. It would cost the Government something in the region of \$6,000,000 to construct a bridge.

Surely this is a colossal sum of money to spend at this early stage of our Development Plan in the face of more urgent needs such as roads to open up new areas for agriculture. Roughly speaking the sum of \$6,000,000 can be used to build roads between 60 to 80 miles. With the prevalent need for more land to be opened up we should try to use our money, as I explained during the Budget Session, according to the priority given to each item of development — i.e. as it can best benefit the livelihood of our people.

The Minister was answering a question by Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) who asked the Minister whether the State Government would consider putting up a permanent bridge to replace the existing Satok Bridge as

suggested by an Honourable Member of the House before when he commented on the Five-Year Development Plan.

A bridge at Satok, no doubt very useful for the communications of the people living in Kuching, can only be looked upon as a convenience when considered together with the urgent need for say, feeder roads or water supplies.

Much as the Government wishes to improve the communications within the town of Kuching it cannot depart from its paramount duty to consider the developments of Sarawak as a whole, to work for the earliest economic upliftment of the people of Sarawak as a whole".

In a supplementary question, Abang Othman asked whether consideration was being given to build a bridge to replace the present one, whether now or in the near future.

The Minister replied in the negative.

REST HOUSE SITE FOR COUNCIL NEGRI BUILDING

Abang Othman asked the Chief Minister to state what steps so far had been taken by Government for the construction of a new Chamber of the Council Negri which was raised in his adjournment speech in this House on November 12, 1963 bearing in mind in this connection that the Centenary of the Council Negri falls in 1967. "The first meeting of this House is recorded to have taken place on September 8, 1867," Abang Othman said.

Replying, the Chief Minister said: "The Government agrees in principle that a new Council Negri building is required and that it would be most appropriate that this new

building is opened on September 8, 1967. Some research has been made to establish when the centenary of Council Negri occurs, and I am satisfied that September 8, 1967 is the correct date.

Subject to funds being available, the next step proposed is to organise a competition for the design of the new Council Negri building.

On the question, Mr Stephen Yong wished to know the new site for the Council Negri chamber.

The Chief Minister replying said that the site for the new Council Negri chamber was the present Rest House.

FEDERAL GOVT. REGRETS ERRORS

Two questions were directed to the Chief Minister on the errors concerning the people who were alleged to have gone across the border.

Mr Chong Kiun Kong asked if Government would obtain information from the Federal Government as to why and how mistakes were made on the list of men said to have gone over to Indonesia published recently as it included someone who has not in fact gone across the border into Indonesia.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Ind.) asked if the State Government would enquire from the Federal Government whether the mistake made in the list of men said to have crossed the border into Indonesia has been made through sheer care-

lessness since this could endanger the lives of innocent persons branded as traitors.

The Chief Minister replied that he was authorised to say that the Federal Government very much regretted the error.

In a supplementary question, Mr Teo Kui Seng, Minister for Natural Resources, asked the Chief Minister whether he was aware that some of the men who had crossed the border were members of the Supp.

On the Chief Minister replying that some of them were Supp members, Mr Yong asked whether the Chief Minister was aware that Mr Teo's question was verging on the mischievous.

The Chief Minister replied that he was not.

LAND DISTRIBUTION

Mr Ling Beng Siong (Ind.) wanted to know whether Government was considering to distribute lands to the people who although own some old rubber gardens could not get any profit from them?

The Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Teo Kui Seng, said: "I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to land under old rubber which is unsuitable for replanting. It is Government's policy to encourage the replanting of old and uneconomic rubber gardens and the Rubber Planting Scheme gives financial assistance to the value of \$600 per acre to help owners replant their rubber. Government appreciates that it is sometimes difficult for them to replant old rubber when some income is still being derived from it.

"It is particularly important that full advantage be taken of the Rubber Planting Scheme because, as the price of natural rubber declines and the output of high yielding rubber increases old gardens will become more and more uneconomical.

"There are however, a large number of old rubber gardens on land which is swampy and therefore unsuitable for the planting of high yielding rubber. Government recognises the difficult position in which these owners find themselves and when applications are considered for the participation in Land Development and Group Settlement Schemes, sympathetic consideration will be given to applications for new land by those who have old rubber on land which is not suitable for replanting," he concluded.

COUNCIL NEGRI PAYS TRIBUTE TO NEHRU

The Council Negri this week paid tribute to the late Indian premier, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru by observing a minute's silence.

The Speaker of the Council, Dr M. Sockalingam, said: "Mr Nehru was a most magnanimous man full of human feeling, an

eloquent advocate for reason, moderation and peace, a fervent lover of freedom, democracy, parliamentary government and democratic functioning of parliamentary institutions — qualities by which he may be regarded as the doyen of world statesmen of our time".

Council Negri Approves Amendments To Sarawak Development Plan

TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRE AND RUBBER PLANTING SCHEME 'B' GET MORE FUNDS

An increase in the allocation for the Timber Research and Technical Training Centre by \$350,860, and a new allocation of \$2,500,000 for assistance for participants in Rubber Planting Scheme 'B' was approved by the Council Negri at its meeting held last week.

These new allocations were approved as amendments to the Sarawak Development Plan 1964-68 as contained in Command Paper 11 of 1964 laid before the Council.

Moving the motion (which was seconded by the State Attorney General, Mr P.E.H. Pike), the Acting State Financial Secretary, Mr T'en Kuen Foh, said that the reasons for the amendments were fully explained in the Paper.

Reminding the House that the Development Plan provided for a total expenditure of \$343 million for the five years 1964 to 1968, Mr T'en Kuen Foh said:

"The allocations of that sum for the various projects are shown in Table X of the Development Plan. As it is considered unlikely that additional funds over and above the total sum included in the Plan can be found, any increase of allocation for a particular project or for a new project must necessarily be met by a reduction of a corresponding amount from another project or projects.

"The amendments in the Paper are made in accordance with this principle.

"The amendments can be summarised as follows:-

An increase in the allocation for the Timber Research and Technical Training Centre by \$350,860 of which \$158,248 is in fact a revote and \$192,612 represents the additional cost.

- * A new allocation of \$2,500,000 for Assistance for Participants in Rubber Planting Scheme B for housing at \$500 per family for 5,000 families. This will be met by a reduction of \$2,000,00 in the allocation for P.W.D. Plant and Equipment and \$500,000 in the allocation for Rural Credit".

Commenting on the motion, Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) referred to press reports that the Minister for Rural Development had said that

the Sarawak Development Plan would be incorporated into the Malaysian Development Plan. The reason given, Mr Yong said, was "most disturbing" — because the Minister had "expressed the opinion that the plan was not progressing satisfactorily".

Mr Yong said, "that was a direct contradiction to what had been said to this House".

He added: "Assuming that the statement in the Press from the Ministry of Rural Development in Kuala Lumpur was right, then the statement made in this House was most misleading, and one could also go so far as to say it was very much like committing political dishonesty and for that matter if that is said to be true, then the Government is bound to have to resign".

Mr Yong then urged the Government to be more forthright not only with the public, but with members of the House.

He said: "The proposal now contained in this Motion, of course, involve small sums, comparatively speaking, but how do we know that further amendments to the plan will not be made on something which we feel ought to have been foreseen by the people who are concerned with the production of this plan?"

"The heads under which the amendment is made is, to my mind, concern something which is so different from what the original plan had in mind.

"The Honourable Acting State Financial Secretary has said that the sum of money as such has not been increased, therefore some money from somewhere within the Development Plan funds ought to be found to make this up under this different head.

"Now, how we know that the money having been withdrawn from the other Heads which have been contained in the Development Plan would not affect that head of development?"

"What assurances have we had? Therefore, Sir, I would strongly urge the Government that on matters of this sort you will be well advised to take all its members, either on this side of the House or the other side of the House more into its confidence whereby a change of this sort before it was made some informal exchange of views ought to be sought".

INCHE TAIB CLARIFIES

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Taib bin Mahmud, clarifying some points raised by Mr Yong said that he did not know the particular wording of the statement made by the Ministry in Kuala Lumpur.

"It was not a question of white or black, or right or wrong, or progressive or non-progressive, it is a matter of subjective judgement," said Inche Taib.

He went on to say that a person might make a mistake in his assessment as to whether a plan was progressive or non-progressive but he did not think any of the Governments tried to contradict each other, or tried to tell a political lie.

He added: "As regards the amendment, it is not a basic change of policy under the plan. As can be seen from the summary, the increase for settlers' houses was in fact made because we feel that we should do more for the people of Sarawak.

"We know it is very difficult to induce people to settle in remote areas unless Government tries its best to help them to re-settle as quickly as possible.

"One of the amenities which the Govern-

ment wants to give to the new settlers is a reasonably comfortable house, so the idea of providing settlers with a \$500 grant for each family, or each settler, came about when we discussed the ramifications of the Development Plan in more detail, and we expected that Members from the Opposition would compliment us on the consideration we have for the rural people.

"I did not expect to get the remarks that were made with regard to the amendment of this Development Plan.

"As can be seen, the money taken for the settlers' housing came from my own vote, P.W.D. Plant and Equipment.

"It was a great sacrifice on the part of my Head of Department, who, if it were not for a good excuse, grumbled very much because of the reduction of two million dollars.

"But we are starting a new Plan, Sir, and we feel we have to do things which have to be done first, and we feel that we should stress as much as possible the rural development of this country, and if we can pull out something, although necessary which can wait, we would sacrifice that item and put it to more urgent items".

'ASSIST PEPPER PLANTERS' APPEAL BY CHAN SIAW HEE

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) speaking next said that when the Opposition raised the question of assistance to pepper planters at the previous sitting of the Council, it was pointed out that the Government Policy on this was embodied in the Development Plan 1964-68 and since it was accepted by this House, nothing further could be done.

"The reply given suggested that the Development Plan was so perfect that it would be wrong for anyone to suggest amendment to any part of it. Now just a few months after, we have this motion before us which in effect admits that there are omissions and adjustments to be made to this marvellous plan," said Mr Chan.

He urged the House "not to disregard the suggestion of amendment to the plan made from this side of the House and to harp upon the theme that nothing should be done to alter the plan because it had been passed by this

House. That sort of argument which was adopted by the Government at the previous meeting could well now be adopted by us on this proposed amendment".

Mr Chan also urged the Government "to reconsider the appeal by my colleague at the previous meeting that some provision should be made to assist the existing pepper planters on the line that Government had adopted to give assistance to the rubber and coconut planters."

He also referred to the assistance given to coastal fishermen in building "kotaks" and said: "It is interesting to note that the "kotaks" are built for those who are having no knowledge and experience of this kind of fishing industry.

"We wonder how could this scheme adopted by the Government become successful. We strongly feel that this could also lead to the possible clashes among the fishermen, if

the situation of competition for fishing grounds should arise. We would warn the Government that any scheme which will create the tension or disharmony among the fishermen of different races should be deplored."

Mr Chan concluded: "Although I am a member of the First Division Development Committee, I feel that we are being used as a rubber stamp, as the function of this Committee is chiefly to approve schemes which are worked out and approved by the

Working Committee and as you know this Committee is comprised of Government officials.

"I am afraid that once this Development Plan happens to be a failure, the blame might be put on the Committee. It is therefore suggested that if the Development Committee is to fulfil its proper function, full use should be made of the suggestion and proposals forward by the members of the Committee who are the representatives of the various local councils."

'NO TIME TO CONSIDER IMPLICATIONS' - ONG

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) said: "As I see it this proposal which has been put forward by the Government is a case of robbing Taib to pay Teo."

(Inche Taib is Minister for Communications and Works, and Mr Teo Kui Seng is Minister for Natural Resources - Ed.)

Mr Ong said that although it only meant that the Permanent Secretaries of the Heads of the Departments concerned were the only ones, it had "caused a certain amount of heat" among Opposition Members "not because we object to changes - changes are necessary - but because it has been sprung on many other members who live away from Kuching."

Pointing out that some Opposition Members did not have time to consider the implications of the proposed changes, Mr Ong said:

"Members on this side of the House, who come from remote parts like Lawas and other places, and who only arrived two days ago, possibly have not seen the Command Paper until this morning, a defect, I think, should be looked into.

"The point which we wish to make it that we are not against the scheme as such - giving of grants to settlers. What we are concerned about is whether in taking one thing out of another we are not in fact going to seriously impede some important aspects of the Development Plan.

"As is explained by the Command Paper and by the Acting State Financial Secretary, it means that the Public Works Department (Ministry of Works) will be deprived of some necessary equipment, and therefore presumably either there will be a slow down in the rate of progress of road making or reduction in the overall scheme for road

development. It is a matter of choice for the Ministry concerned.

"The other point which I think was made is that as far as the projects which are financed by Federal funds are concerned, the half million dollars difference is made out by a waiver on export duty on rubber seeds, which I think is a generous gesture on the part of the Federal Government.

"But, on the other hand, as these projects are Federal projects, it means that the Federal Government would not have to put out half a million dollars from their pocket. So that in a sense the changes to the plan, as envisaged, are something which we do not necessarily object to - the objection is on the fact that we ourselves on this side, have suggested changes and we have the argument flung back on us that this House has already approved the Plan.

"Therefore the Plan has assumed a degree of sanctity and we should not chop and change the Plan. And barely a few months after that the Government has come up with the first - significantly the first - amendment to the Development Plan.

Now it would be foolish to pretend that the Plan is perfect and no alterations should be made. On the other hand we did say that alterations should be made in the light of changed circumstances and experience. The heat comes from the fact that we have been told that the Plan has been approved by this House and therefore the Government is not prepared to change it. Barely a few months after this, the Government has put forward changes.

"The point made by my colleague on this side deserves some attention and that is a role which is being played by the Divisional

Development Committee.

"The unfortunate impression has been given not only to the Hon. Member but to the other Hon. Members as well who sit on these Development Committees that they are generally confronted with cut-and-dried schemes of some sort or another and there was little they could do to contribute usefully, and therefore they had the feeling that they were being used as a rubber stamp."

'RUBBER STAMP SCHEMES'

Mr Ong went on to say that if the impression was given that all what the local council have to do was really to sit down there and rubber stamp schemes which have been put forward by officials then he thought one or two things would happen. Either these members would feel that they were wasting their time and making no useful contribution to the planning, or else the public would lose confidence in the Development Committee, and this, he thought, would be rather unfortunate.

"The other point which I wish to make," said Mr Ong, "is the ad hoc approval of schemes which from time to time have been given publicity in the newspapers. This gives the impression to the public that all these schemes are rather haphazard - a road here, a bridge there, or some other small scheme which need only the approval of the Chief Minister.

"This will be an unfortunate impression to give to people, and I think when such schemes are put up they should go through the normal process of going through the Development Committee and to go up then with their recommendations and not as hitherto appears to have happened - not just put up on the spot by some Tua Kampong or some representatives of the local people and then given the blessing and approved on the spot."

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Independent) said that he strongly supported the views expressed by Mr Ong Kee Hui that ample notice should be given to such motions to members so that they could study them before expressing their views.

Mr Mak Yau Lim said that he did not even have Command Paper No.11. He suggested that in future, motions of this nature should be made known to the members a few days ahead.

Commenting on the amendment, Mr Mak Yau Lim said that he disagreed with the withdrawing of money from one Development Plan scheme for transference to another

scheme.

He agreed that the resettlement scheme was an excellent one but money on this case had been taken away from the Development Plan.

He suggested that if need for funds existed they should apply for more funds from the Federal Government.

'PLANNING MUST BE FLEXIBLE', SAYS TEO

Mr Teo Kui Seng, Minister for Natural Resources, replying, referred to the remarks made by Mr Stephen Yong and said that in any kind of new scheme there were teething troubles. They must not be too rigid, the planning must be flexible, he added.

With regard to the loans for settlers, Mr Teo said that the Government had decided that each settler, mainly among the poor farmers who had no financial resources, should be helped to own his own home provided with lights, water and other amenities.

Mr Teo added that the Plan originally envisaged that each settler should be given a loan of \$2,000. However, as soon as this came to the knowledge of the Clandestine Communist organisation, they tried their best to wreck the plan by telling the settlers that the Government was trying its best to put them in financial difficulties.

Opposition Members may or may not have known about this but in order to counteract the CCO move, the Government decided to slightly amend the procedure of giving loans to settlers. The new decision was to give an outright grant of \$500 to each settler, not in the form of cash, but in the form of material to build a small house which could be later expanded.

Referring to Mr Chan Siaw Hee's remarks that he had been made use of as a rubber stamp in the Divisional Development Committee, Mr Teo said that this came as a great surprise to him because he knew the Hon'ble Member in question very well.

He had sat in deliberations in the past in committees with Mr Chan and he felt that he would be the last person to allow himself to be used as a rubber stamp.

Referring to the remarks made by Mr Ong Kee Hui "robbing Taib to pay Teo", Mr Teo said the Ministry which was "robbed" would be suffer in the least.

Touching on the question of reducing the sum allocated to Rubber Planting Scheme by \$350,000, Mr Teo said that this would not in any way impede the Scheme because a

saving had been made through the generosity of the Federal Government by waiving the export duty on rubber seeds, although the Common Market had not yet come into being.

Concerning the approval of minor projects by the Chief Minister which was also criticised by Opposition Members, Mr Teo said that they should appreciate that it would be most unprogressive if small projects were to be held up by red tape.

Mr Teo then assured Opposition Members that the approval of minor projects by the Chief Minister was not a political boost on the part of the Alliance Government. It was a genuine gesture on the part of the Chief Minister to help the poor rural people who were readily in need of bridges, bicycle tracks, minor roads and clearing of rivers, so that they could move about more quickly and freely.

Mr Teo ended by saying that as the implementation of the Plan proceeded they might have to introduce more changes especially now that there was confrontation.

'VARIATION DID NOT MEAN SLOWING UP' - SHAW

Mr G.A.T. Shaw, State Secretary, speaking next, said that he wished to clarify two points. One was on the subject of funds, which point came up when the Minister for Communications and Works was out of the House. He had, however, sought the required technical advice and was in a position to reassure the House that the variation did not mean a slowing up.

Mr Shaw went on to say that it was extremely difficult to exactly estimate what was required in the way of plant, heavy equipment and the like. They were expensive and while everything was done to ensure maximum life, it was difficult to gauge precisely what this was.

Mr Shaw added: "Sometimes however it is found that estimates of the life of equipment is a bit on the conservative side, that is in the light of experience, and in this happy situation one is able to say not so much will be required for plant as is originally estimated.

"However, one is dealing with imponderables, and one cannot go into a situation of this sort without estimating for probably - I won't say what is the worst situation - but one cannot rely on necessarily getting the best.

"You will be able to judge from what I said that there may well be variations in the future. It is not something which is precisely gauged - this provision for plant.

"On the subject of minor rural development projects - by the very description they are small projects. They are intended to be such and it would be impossible to produce a comprehensive list of such projects in a Five-Year Plan. They are in fact minor requirements which come up in the course of everyday life and will continue to come up during the course of the next four years or so.

"As far as possible, projects and proposals of this nature come from the ground up. People are encouraged to put their requests to District Committees and Divisional Committees and as far as I know they are invariably assessed by the Development Planning Committee and/or at that level if time permit.

"However, there are clearly exceptions. The Chief Minister and other Ministers may well be faced with the need to make the decision on the spot.

"With that background I am quite certain that these will be correct decisions. And there is, I am sure, this House will agree, no reason why the Chief Minister and other Ministers should not make decisions on the spot when faced with unforeseen circumstances.

"In fact, if they did not make such decisions on the spot, they would be failing in their responsibilities. And when they make correct decisions on the spot it is possibly not surprising that the Opposition is not very pleased."

'DID NOT CHANGE BASIC PRINCIPLES'—ACTING F.S.

Mr T'en Kuen Foh, Acting Financial Secretary, replying to the points raised by Members of the Opposition said:

"There are many points raised by Members on the other side which have in fact been already answered by the Ministers and my colleagues. There are, in fact, not many points left for me to answer.

"There is one important point raised by the first Hon'ble Member about the proposed first Malaysian Plan to be considered by the Federal Government.

"He expressed concern that in the case of our Development Plan being incorporated into the first Malaysian Plan it would involve great changes in our Plan. What it amounts to in the case of the first Malaysian Plan is that in respect of development in Sarawak the proposals in our Plan will be incorporated into the Malaysian Plan.

"But since the first Malaysian Plan would be for the period 1966-1970, it would mean an extension of a two-year period to our Plan but all the proposals that are now subject to certain variations which are now proposed will be incorporated into the Plan. However, should there be further variations considered necessary we will make the necessary recommendation to the economic planning unit in Kuala Lumpur.

"It may happen that there may be some worthy projects considered necessary to be included in the first Malaysian Plan which may involve additional funds and the State Government will try to persuade the Federal Government to provide additional funds, but it does not mean that the additional funds will come automatically."

On the question of financial assistance to pepper planters, Mr T'en Kuen Foh said that the Member (Mr Chan Siaw Hee) who raised the question referred particularly to the financial assistance given to fishermen who were given assistance to purchase kotaks and to equip their kotaks.

He explained that these fishermen were assisted with loans by the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation and the same assistance was at present being provided to pepper planters.

On the whole he would mention that the variations now proposed in the paper did not in fact change the basic principle of the Plan. They were in fact aimed to provide an improved standard of living for the settlers of the Rubber Planting Scheme.

The motion was then put to the House and passed.

DEBATE ON DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

The second reading of the Development Finance Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, moved by the Acting Financial Secretary, Mr T'en Kuen Foh, touched off a short debate at the meeting of the Council Negri last week before it was passed.

Three speakers, Mr Mak Yau Tim (ind.) and Mr Chong Kiun Kong and Mr Stephen K. T. Yong (both Supp) spoke on the motion.

Mr T'en Kuen Foh, moving the second reading (seconded by the State Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike) said:

"The Sarawak Development Finance Corporation was constituted in 1958 under the Development Finance Corporation

Ordinance. The object of the Corporation as described in Section 14 of the Ordinance is to promote the economic development of Sarawak and with that object to provide or facilitate the grant of financial credits where necessary and desirable, and to stimulate and facilitate private investment in Sarawak by local and external capital.

"Since the Corporation was established, there have been established in Sarawak two other Finance Corporations in which this Government has financial and the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation to promote the economic development of Sarawak.

"The two Corporations are the Borneo Housing Development Limited and the Borneo Development Corporation Limited; the former has already contributed considerably towards encouraging home ownership in Sarawak, and the latter will encourage the establishment of industries.

"In view of the establishment of these two Corporations Government decided in 1962 that the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation should expand its activities to provide wider and more properly supervised rural credits at low rates of interest.

"To cope with the expanded activities, a suitably qualified Manager was recruited by the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation in 1963. With the appointment of the Manager and some reorganisation of the Corporation effected by Government, the activities of the Corporation have been greatly expanded.

"In order to meet the increasing demands on the Corporation, particularly in view of the step up of rural development emphasised in the Development Plan 1964-68, the Corporation has recently recommended amendments to be made to the Development Finance Corporation Ordinance to enable the Corporation to deal with its business more expeditiously than is at present possible under the provisions of the existing Ordinance.

"This Bill is to implement the recommendations of the Corporation which are to the effect that -

- * A Deputy Chairman be appointed and be empowered to exercise the functions of the Chairman during the latter's absence from Kuching.
- * A Manager be appointed since Section 6 of the existing Ordinance does not specifically provide for the appointment of a Manager.
- * The Corporation may delegate its powers including the power to grant loans and guarantees in suitable cases to any member, Committee or Manager of the Corporation, subject to such limitations and directions as the Corporation may determine from time to time.

LOANS' APPLICATIONS REJECTED, SAYS MAK YAU LIM

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind.) said he understood that many applications, applying for loan from the Development Finance Corporation for development purposes have been rejected or disapproved.

He added: "In view of this, the people have the feeling that the terms and conditions of the loan are comparatively tough which discourage them for applying it from this Corporation.

"Literally speaking, those who apply for loan from this Corporation expect to get it easier, quicker, and with less interest and so on."

He went on to say that if it was too difficult, there was no point of applying for it from this Corporation.

Mr Mak concluded: "I personally think that the terms or conditions of loan from the Corporation should be more favourable than those required in the Commercial Banks or elsewhere.

"I therefore suggest that they should be loosened or relaxed, subject to sufficient security, of course, so that more applicants will come forward for the loan, and benefit from it."

RURAL PEOPLE COMPLAIN, SAYS CHONG KIUN KONG

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) said that complaints have been made by people from the rural areas that applications to the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation often took many months before approval could be given.

"It would appear that applications have to be examined not only by the Corporation's own officers but also by the officers of other Government departments such as the Agricultural Department," said Mr Chong.

He added: "All this takes a good deal of time as investigation is generally undertaken at the convenience of the Government officers concerned.

"I would ask whether the procedure could not be simplified, and if necessary why the Corporation should not have competent officers to deal with applications without reference to Government departments.

"After all the Corporation should be run independently of Government," said Mr Chong.

'FACILITATE LOAN GRANTS', SAYS STEPHEN YONG

Mr Stephen K. T. Yong (Supp) speaking next said that the purpose for which the Finance Corporation was set up was, as the Acting State Financial Secretary had said, to facilitate loans to people who required them. And therefore the main purpose was really a

form of assistance rather than having the object of making money.

Added Mr Yong: "We have laid on the table the report of this Corporation for the year ending December 1963. We notice that of the loans applied, out of \$675,660, only \$46,867 were approved, although there are some cases still under consideration.

"We have looked at the accounts (I stand to correction here) if the amount of loan approved was \$46,867, the net profit shown in this book is something like \$19,321. This to me very much looks like a profit making body.

Continued Mr Yong: "I don't suggest that the Corporation should run at a loss but I think it would be quite contrary to the principle under which this Corporation has been set up. I think we would all assume that this profit came about mainly from interest charged. And if that is so a case should be made up now whether the interest charged should be considerably reduced.

"And the other point, which I think should be made clear is this: out of 130 applicants 41 were either withdrawn or rejected (it was not shown). So far only 24 applications have been approved, and that seems to bear out the other honourable member who spoke just now of the undue delay that had been experienced by these applicants because here we have a list of exactly half, 65 of them still under consideration.

"I think we all realise that people who apply for loans are people who require money. They cannot wait. If such a person can wait then perhaps he does not require the money and therefore he would not apply for the loan, and if something can be done to facilitate or finalise in granting the loans to applicants, then I think that the Corporation will be serving the purpose for which it was intended."

ACTING F. S. EXPLAINS

Mr T'en Kuen Foh replying said that he was grateful for the various responses by the honourable members.

Dealing with some of the points raised he referred to the remarks by some honourable members about the long period required to obtain loans from the Corporation.

This was so in 1963 and before that it was because the Corporation did not have enough staff to cope with the work.

Since 1963 the situation had improved and some officers had been appointed to investigate all cases of application.

Since the beginning of this year the process of going through this application has been stepped up considerably and the main object of this Bill was to correct this sort of situation to allow the applications for loans to be processed more quickly.

Some members referred to a number of applications shown in the table in 1964 and the number which has been withdrawn or rejected as being of a high proportion.

The reason was mainly because some of those applicants were not found to have adequate security for the loans they applied for.

Another point raised was the amount of loan applied for (shown in the report) being essentially higher than the amount which had been approved.

Said Mr T'en Kuen Foh: "It is not possible to make such sort of comparisons since in certain cases the amount applied for was considered to be more than what is required by the farmers themselves.

"And after investigation by the field officer it was decided, with the agreement of the farmers, that the amount should be reduced. This reduced amount was still found to be adequate for the farmers' purpose.

"The view now, as I said, is to enable the Corporation to deal with business more quickly than before. But this alone, of course, will not solve the problem. In future years the Corporation will have to recruit more staff to deal with their business.

"As to the question of interest charged being high, this matter will be reviewed by the Corporation from time to time."

SARAWAK CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED: 4 ABSTAIN

The Sarawak Constitution (Amendment) Bill, moved by the Chief Minister, Mr Stephen Kalong Ningkan, and seconded by the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, was passed by a majority of 32 after the third reading: four members abstained and four were not in the House when the Speaker asked the House to vote on the Bill. Thirty-six voted for the Bill at the second reading.

In moving the second reading the Chief Minister said: "Before commenting on the substance of the Bill, I would like to emphasise that Constitutions should not lightly be amended and amendments should only be made where they are really necessary. In order to give effect to this and to ensure that the amendments are supported by a substantial majority in the House, Article 41 (2) of the Constitution requires any amending Bill to be supported on the second and third readings by the votes of not less than two thirds of the members of the Council Negri, that is to say, by not less than 28 votes.

"Government considers that the amendments put forward by this Bill, though not on very major points, are most desirable.

"The amendment proposed by Clause 2 is a purely practical one which will enable someone to perform the functions of the Speaker at any time if he is not able to perform them himself. The existing provision only enables an Acting Speaker to be appointed for a sitting, and does not enable such a person to perform functions which may well have to be performed by an perform functions which may well have to be performed by an Acting Speaker between sittings or between meetings of the House.

"Examples of such functions are the Chairmanship of the Committee of this Council which fixes the business for a meeting and the admission or rejection of questions by members.

"The other two amendments proposed probably do not amend the law but they certainly do clarify it and particularly where elections are involved, clarity is essential.

It was agreed in the **Inter-Governmental Committee Report** and provided in the Malaysia Act that indirect elections should continue for a certain period. It would in some cases be impossible and in others impracticable to hold an indirect election within 60

days and Clause 3 of the Bill therefore seeks to make it clear that the period of indirect elections this requirement does not apply.

"It was also the intention of the Inter-Governmental Committee and of our Constitution that the special provisions of the Council Negri Elections Ordinance relating to who would be elected to the Council Negri from Divisional Advisory Councils should continue to apply during the period of indirect elections. The Constitution as it exists probably provides for this but the matter is not free from doubt and Clause 4 of the Bill seeks to remove this doubt.

"The Honourable and learned State Attorney-General will deal with any legal points on which Honourable Members may seek clarification.

'HOLD DIRECT ELECTIONS SOON', SAYS CHAN SIAW HEE

Commenting on the motion, Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) said that the introduction of the proposed amendment to the Sarawak Constitution showed that there was no intention on the part of the State Government to hold direct election at an earlier date as has been stated in the Inter-Governmental Report.

Describing this as "deplorable", Mr Chan said that the present three-tier system of election was "reminiscent of the Colonial rule and proved to be unsatisfactory in a truly democratic country."

He added: "Since the members of this House were not elected in the normal way as practised in other democratic countries, it would be a mockery to say that we are the true representatives of the people. Therefore, direct election should be held as early as possible and there is no point for the party in power to prolong the issue unless they are not brave enough to face the verdict of the people."

THIN END OF THE WEDGE' - SAYS STEPHEN YONG

Mr Stephen Yong, speaking next, said that one should be chary of doing anything to the Constitution unless it was proved and made

clear to the public that it was absolutely necessary that such a step must be taken.

He said that although the amendment before this House might appear to be of a minor nature, it might prove to be a "thin end of the wedge."

Mr Yong continued: "The Chief Minister in moving this motion said that the 60 days are not sufficient for the election of members to this House in view of the previous system.

"I think he or his colleagues must in fact go further and give explanations to satisfy honourable members of this House as to why the two-month period, even though the three-tier system is not sufficient.

"I say this because it is possible - and I am not saying that it is probable - that the Government may, in a case where a casual vacancy occurs, not hold the By-election at all or should hold it a year after.

"The present Constitution, of course, specify the period within which that casual vacancy has to be filled and by this amendment it means no period is specified.

"Therefore I think we are entitled firstly to have a very detailed explanation, although in view of the three-tier system under which we have been working that 60-day period is not sufficient, and I think we should insist that an assurance must be given that no undue delay will be taken advantage of by the government to fill such casual vacancies which occur. My colleague the last speaker mentioned about the direct election; I think it is always in the minds of the public and this question will be asked repeatedly not only in this House but also outside this House."

'FARCICAL SITUATION'

Mr Yong thought that under the IGC Report the method of election could be changed at any time as the Federal Government might require, but subject to the concurrence of the State concerned. Therefore the public would be asking this question "consistently and persistently."

"When will such concurrence be given or when will such concurrence be expected to be given by the State in this matter?" asked Mr Yong.

He added: "It is pertinent to raise this question here because it is high time when we must remove the situation we are now facing of having defeated councillors who have not qualification to sit here, yet sitting in the

higher post representing the law binding us with Kuala Lumpur, and also of this farcical situation of defeated councillors, not qualified to be here and be a Minister controlling the interest of the State.

"Therefore, I think we should take this opportunity of seriously considering that this rather farcical situation should not remain longer than necessary and to that end I think we should start the machinery going by getting the election commission to divide the State into constituencies for the purpose of direct election to the House of Representatives and to this House.

"I think the sooner we do it the better - I'm not saying that it should be done immediately but I think one should make the first move."

Touching on the appointment of an Acting Speaker, Mr Yong was of the opinion that there should be a proper separation of powers, "what I mean is a separation of powers of legislature from the Executive," he said.

Continued Mr Yong: "It is not a new theme. In fact, in the last meeting of State Speakers, the Speakers from all States of Malaysia, this theme was developed, and there was a resolution passed to the effect that all the officer[^] of this House ought to be independent of the Executive.

"We know from historical reasons: we were in those days not very democratic under a Colonial Regime. We have members of the staff of this House in the Council, Clerk of Councils are also Clerks to either Supreme Council or other bodies connected with the Government.

"Now that must be brought to an end because for a Speaker representing this House, he must have a staff completely divorced from being controlled by the Executive. Otherwise all the talk of parliamentary democracy is not very real."

Mr Yong concluded: "I think more money will be spent that means more staff to be employed because naturally the Government will have to require chief clerks or people of this calibre, but I think the money will be well spent. And the more so now, that we are contemplating, as the Chief Minister have told us, of putting up a new legislative council building and there we shall expect to see the Speaker and his staff housed and doing work directing the attention and energy completely in this House rather than having to serve two masters."

'NOT INTENDED TO EXTEND INDIRECT ELECTIONS'-PIKE

The State Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, commenting on the points raised by the previous speakers said he could not blame members on the other side who had spoken for giving the impression of not having understood fully the very clear explanations on the objects and reasons, and the explanations given by the mover for this Bill.

Said Mr Pike: "There is no such Machiavellian plot as is suggested. This Bill is not intended to extend the period of indirect elections. But there is some possibility that one of the members elected to this House may suddenly fall sick and die and we may be faced with a by-election which under the constitution, if the interpretation were taken by a court that it applied in its full rigour would have to be concluded within 60 days.

"If the honourable and learned member will look at the Regulations governing indirect elections to local councils he will find that Regulation 13 starts off by saying: "In the case of an election to fill a casual vacancy the Returning Officer shall, in addition to publishing the notice required under paragraph 2 not later than 50 days before publish the day on which or the period within which such elections should take place."

"Now there is 50 of the 60 days gone. Within 10 days those gentlemen have got to be elected to the District Council, from the District Council to the Divisional Advisory Council, and from the Divisional Advisory Council to this Council.

"It might just be possible in some areas of Kuching. It would be utterly impossible in certain areas of the Baram.

"This is the sole reason for attempting to get this Bill through in order to place beyond doubt so that honourable members who may be elected in a by-election may not have their elections challenged whether they belong to the lulling party or the opposing party, merely because of a possible technical defect in the drafting of the legislation.

"I believe that the provisions of the Malaysia Act, read with the provisions of the Constitution and the saving of the existing legislation where by indirect elections are preserved would, in fact, result in the court ruling that the 60 days did not apply and that the provisions regarding qualification and disqualification did apply."

The Attorney-General went on to say that

it seemed to him that in a matter of this sort they ought not to leave room for doubts and put candidates for elections to the considerable extent, perhaps, of challenged elections. That was the sole purpose of that aspect of the Bill.

He assured the House that there was no ulterior purpose in trying to preserve the continuance of indirect elections, though those might be necessary in respect of by-elections.

Touching on Mr Stephen Yong's comment on the separation of the legislative clerks from the administrative or executive government, Mr Pike concluded:

"This is a matter which will certainly be given consideration. It is of course, the practice in Parliament, and it is indeed a practice in the Federal Parliament.

I might only add that the provision for Mr Speaker appointing a member to act for him, if he is suddenly taken ill or for some other causes unable to act at a period when this Council is not sitting, is designed only to enable the pre-meeting business of Council to go forward.

"In other words, decisions as to whether certain questions are or are not in order and all the other matters connected with the rules and orders in Business Committee of this Council."

'AMEND REGULATIONS NOT CONSTITUTION', SUGGESTS ONG

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) referring to the point raised by the State Attorney-General on the time limit, said: "He mentioned that the regulations under the Local Elections Ordinance provide that a period of 50 days' notice must be given. We on this side of the House are rather anxious to know why it would not be simpler, if that is the case, to amend the regulation rather than to go through this rather frightening - to us - process of amending the Constitution and not the regulations, the effect of which is not so far reaching, and which do not therefore, raise other issues on the amendment of the Constitution.

"The House must be aware of the considerable interest which has been aroused by this measure, and which has given rise to a lot of

speculation, and I think it is in the public interest that the public should be reassured that this particular amendment - as the learned Attorney-General has put it - has no sinister design behind it.

"I think it should be made clear, and I think a practical assurance from the Government should be given that advantage is not going to be taken by the removal of this time limit, and the point which my learned friend here has made I think is quite valid.

It has occurred elsewhere in other states of Malaysia and it can well occur here that the casual vacancy exists in the House for reasons best known to the Government or the party in power concerned. Sometimes they do not think it expedient to have election at an early date, and if this period which is imposed by the Constitution is removed, advantage might well be taken of it and I think an assurance on the part of the Government that this is not the intention might go some way towards clearing doubts outside the House."

'NO SINISTER MOTIVE' - SHAW

The State Secretary, Mr G.A.T. Shaw replying to the first point raised by Mr Ong - the time limit - said that was considered at the time the regulation was drafted and passed with the greatest of care, and as stated earlier what appeared to be possible in Kuching was certainly not possible in the remoter parts of this country.

Mr Shaw added: "I think it is known the only way to deal effectively with elections in rural areas is to take a ballot box to the people. That means the ballot box has to go in form of progression from place to place.

"It would be quite impossible, for example in the Kapit District, in terms of men and money, to hold an election to District Council level or to the District Council in one day.

"The same applies to the Baram and a number of other Districts, and I think some of the honourable members opposite are letting unfounded fears run away with them, and looking at this problem rather too much with the eyes of townsmen.

"That period, for as long as we continue indirect election must remain. However, as the learned Attorney-General made quite clear just now there is no sinister motive on the part of Government behind this. It is a motion or move to facilitate procedure and I'm sure that all my colleagues on my right and left support the honourable Attorney-General in that assurance - I don't think one needs to be assured."

C. M. WINDS UP

In winding up the debate the Chief Minister said that he would like to refer to the statement made by Mr Chan Siaw Hee. He wanted to make it dear to Mr Chan and to the rest of the House that as General Elections had been held in June last year there was no point in holding another general election at this moment.

Members of Council Negri were the true representatives of the people. They had been elected from the District Councils and the Divisional Advisory Councils right through to Council Negri. In his own case he had been elected right through to the Chief Ministership.

The Government members on the Chief Minister's side of the House were truly representatives of the people. To those who said that the Government was not brave enough to face the people he replied that they were indeed brave, not only to face the people but to face the enemy and the Communists, in fact to face anyone. They were not afraid. They were only bom once and could only die once.

The Chief Minister went on to say that he categorically denied the allegations of Mr Chan Siaw Hee. It was the intention of the Government to abide strictly by the London Agreement and arrangements would be made as soon as possible to provide for direct elections to be held both for the House of Representatives and the Council Negri.

It had always been the intention of Government to do this. Nevertheless, it would take time for the electoral commission to complete the detailed preliminary work. Since the term of office of the Government was five years, it would be foolish to hold direct elections now although it was the intention of Government to hold them in the future.

The Government was just as agreed as the Opposition in this matter of direct elections. The Government was not afraid of direct elections and was confident that it would win again at the next elections. The Government was growing stronger.

He objected to the use of the word "mockery." The members of the Government who had been nominated to be Ministers or members of Council Negri were members of the Alliance whom the Government considered capable and fit to hold such positions. Under the constitution the Government was perfectly entitled to make these nominations.

If he was not mistaken, continued the

Chief Minister, the subject had been raised at least three times in the House and always by the same member. And he wanted to make it clear to Mr Chan that if he said the same thing again he would still get the same reply.

COUNCIL PASSES BUILDING BY-LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL

In moving the second reading of the Building By-Laws continuance Bill, the Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, said: "The object of this Bill is to keep alive the building by-laws of local councils which would otherwise (except in the case of the Kuching Rural District Council) expire at the end of this month.

"It had been hoped that the existing building legislation, which is out of date and requires revision, could have been re-ordained, but with pressure of work on various Government departments resulting from the recent constitutional changes and from Indonesian confrontation, this has not been possible.

"I apologise for the short notice given of this Bill to honourable members, but it was only some four days ago that I accidentally discovered these Building By-laws were about to expire at the end of this month. I might add that not only Government, but also members of this House who are also members of the councils concerned, must share the responsibility for this Bill having to be taken under suspension of Standing Orders.

"Clearly it is essential for us to continue to have building legislation and until more modern legislation can be introduced, I am sure honourable members will support the continuance of these by-laws."

OPPOSITION SUPPORT

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) said that the Opposition were satisfied with the explanation given by the Attorney-General for the short notice in this case.

He added: "We are bound to support this Bill for the simple reason, as he had pointed out, that we, perhaps excepting the nominated members, are directly concerned with the District Councils from where we came.

"The point that, I would like to raise here incidentally would be that rather voluminous and unmanageable number of by-laws have

been passed from time to time by various District Councils, and it would be very difficult for anyone to lay their hands on the proper by-laws concerned.

"Therefore, I think we would like to suggest that either a consolidated form of by-laws be introduced in the near future or at least an up-to-date index be provided so that when you make search for them you know where to find the relevant by-laws.

"Hon. Members will notice that this Bill concerns buildings only and there are other by-laws which have been made by the District Councils which will be equally important to all concerned, because if we do not make it available to the public who are concerned with these by-laws, then unwittingly they may commit breaches of it, and this is something which we must try to avoid.

"I do hope that consideration be given that these by-laws should be either consolidated or an index be prepared so that we can find the by-laws when we want them."

ANTIQUATED BY-LAWS, SAYS PIKE

Mr Pike replying said: "The reason why these by-laws were not specifically continued in force when we were dealing with this local government legislation was because they were recognised to be in a very unsatisfactory state, and it was extremely difficult to locate because of their antiquity.

"It was for that reason that it was intended to introduce new building legislation before June this year. It is regrettable that that has not been possible.

"There is still no decision, I think, as to whether that legislation should take the form of a Buildings Ordinance or to take the form of separate building by-laws by each individual council.

"The former is the more attractive proposition, but the difference in development in various areas make it almost impossible to apply one set of building by-laws throughout Sarawak. What is necessary in Kuching would certainly not be necessary in Bintulu or still less in Lawas, and it is this problem which is exercising our minds at the moment.

"I think it may well be necessary to have separate by-laws for each district council or alternatively to have a set of building regulations which can be applied entirely or in parts by local councils to their own areas in such manner they consider appropriate."

MPTABLES QUESTION ON CCO

Mr Tan Tsak Yu MP (Alliance) has tabled the following questions for reply in the Federal House of Representatives when it meets between July 6 and 15:-

- * To ask the Minister of Education to state what steps have been, or are being taken by the Central Government to get rid of the CCO (Communist Clandestine Organisation) elements from schools in Sarawak.
- * To ask the Minister of Education to state whether suitable textbooks will be produced to meet the needs of the new syllabi introduced to the secondary schools

in Sarawak since January, 1964, and if so, when they will be made available to such schools.

- * To ask the Minister of Commerce and Industry to state whether the Central Government will consider setting up an organisation to promote and look after the interests of commerce and industry in the State of Sarawak.
- * To ask the Minister for Local Government and Housing whether Government has any scheme to relieve the acute shortage of housing in the urban areas, particularly for the low-income groups in Sarawak.

Question Time In Council Negri

BLOOD SAMPLES FOR ENCEPHALITIS

Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp) asked the Chief Minister whether he was aware that teams of persons were sent to primary schools in Kuching recently to take blood samples from school children without the prior knowledge and consent of their parents and if so what action had been taken in this matter.

Replying, the Chief Minister said that the incident referred to by the Hon'ble Member, occurred the previous month, when members of a Virus Research Team, from the United Kingdom visited several schools in the Kuching area, and collected samples of blood, urgently required for their work in studying the serious disease called encephalitis.

"It was unfortunately not possible for sufficient warning to be given in this case, but the headmasters of the schools concerned were advised of the reasons for the request for blood samples and only those children who volunteered, were accepted. Whatever was done was in the best interests of the people of Sarawak in general, and the children in particular, since encephalitis mainly affects young people. I hope that, in future, when fuller explanation can be given beforehand, the Medical Department will get the fullest co-operation from the public," the Chief Minister said.

GITA RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

Fifty-one thousand, two hundred and

seventy-six dollars is provided under Head 54/2 of this year's State Development Estimates for the Kampong Gita Scheme, Kuching.

"This sum represents the outstanding balance of the original total estimated cost but it is only intended to make use of the money voted in so far as it is required for capital payment for the installation of water pipes as explained in the note printed in the estimates. It is probable that about \$10,000 will be required this year," the Acting State Financial Secretary said.

He was replying to a question by Abang Othman (Panas) who wanted to know whether funds for the Gita Resettlement Scheme said to be launched before 1960 are still available and if so how much.

MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND BRIDGES

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether Government would carry out such remedial works which are necessary to prevent disruption of communication due to flood on sections of the trunk road from Kuching to Serian.

Replying the Minister said: "There is a provision of about \$1.5 million under Head S.29 subhead 05-6 for the maintenance of Roads and Bridges.

"The Kuching/Serian Road is being maintained out of this vote. The cost of its maintenance is about \$145,000 a year, i.e. \$94,000

for the stretch within the Kuching Rural District Council and \$51,000 from the 26V2 mile to the Serian Bridge. This expenditure on maintenance includes cost for minor repairs, grass cutting, drain clearing, replacement of culverts and erection of sign boards etc.

"Every effort is being made to keep the road open to traffic in all weather and under all conditions. But, this House must always bear in mind that the present Kuching/Serian Road was built from already existing tracks, which were winding and not conforming to modern road specifications.

"To improve the road to full modern standard would tantamount to rebuilding the road all over. And in view of the possibility of the Government building the Silantek/Pending Road, there is no point in rebuilding the present Serian Road," he said.

In a supplementary question, Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked the Minister whether he would consider particularly the part at the 3rd Mile the flood which used to disrupt that section of the road caused by the flood from Sungei Maong which not only needed cleaning but in fact re-setting its course if only by that method that this flood in that section could be eliminated.

The Minister replied: "With regard to the 3rd Mile section there is now a consideration about the possibility of setting-up some sort of a drainage system for the whole of the 3rd Mile area but no concrete steps have been taken yet. There are things like the expert advice and staff to be required and as you know the staff within the Drainage and Irrigation Section of the P.W.D. consists of, at the moment, only one Chief Engineer and another Engineer. The drainage system at the 3rd Mile will be a colossal job and it needs proper thinking.

On the same question, Mr Ong Kee Hui asked: "Is the Minister aware of a very small section of the Kuching/Serian Road, at about the 8th Mile, which is often flooded to a depth of some three or four feet and which could easily be raised and therefore prevent disruption of traffic anyway up to the 10th Mile".

Inche Taib: "With regards to flood, there are in all nine points which the Government has to improve if it is to keep the road open in spite of the floods. These are the 3rd, 8th, 9th, 18^{1/2}, 19^{3/4}, 24th, 24^{1/2}, 27th and 29th. It can be considered that most of these areas required to be raised from three feet to 16^{1/2} feet. Short of re-aligning the road I feel it is very difficult to improve the situation and re-aligning the road will cost quite a lot of money and flood being not as often as would justify the expenditure of such a big amount of

money.

Mr Ong: "Would the Minister look at the stretch at the 9th Mile anyway, because I feel that something could be done there immediately?"

Inche Taib: "Well, I will look at it, Sir."

BAU SCHOOL AND FLOODS

When the town area of Bau and its immediate surroundings were flooded in 1963 the secondary school was partly inundated. The State Secretary, in answer to a question from Mr Ong Kee Hui said the building suffered only slight damage but some equipment was lost or damaged.

"Further serious flooding occurred this year at the end of February and the boarders were moved out to other accommodation. The water quickly subsided and the pupils returned the following day. No serious damage was done to school buildings or equipment," Mr Shaw said.

"The intention is that the school should continue on its present site but if floods cause serious damage or danger next year, the future of the school may have to be reviewed. The principal nuisance is that the road between the town and the school is subject to flooding and it is hoped that an alternative route can be surveyed.

"No serious danger to life has yet arisen but increased safety measures, for instance, the purchase of a boat, are being taken in case of future flooding. I might add that the original site chosen for the school was not approved, the reason being that it was thought there was gold underneath," he added.

Mr Ong had asked the State Secretary whether he would ascertain from the Director of Education as a Federal Officer as to the future of the secondary school at Bau, which was inundated in the recent flood.

LOANS TO CIVIL SERVANTS

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the State Secretary whether the policy of granting loans to civil servants for the purchase of necessary household equipment, motor cars, etc., had been abolished, and if so, could the Government offer an explanation as to why this abolition had been brought about.

Answering, the State Secretary said, "There is no change in policy, so strictly speaking the second half of the question does not arise. However, as far as loans for motor vehicles are concerned the original amount approved by the Federal Government for a fund to meet the needs of Sarawak officers in

Federal Departments proved insufficient. An additional amount has been made available and the position is now satisfactory.

"The position regarding loans for refrigerators is not satisfactory. Money is not yet available for Sarawak officers serving in Federal Departments, but the matter is being pursued energetically in the interests of preserving equality of treatment between officers serving in State and Federal Departments," he said.

BROADCASTING APPOINTMENT

In another question Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the State Secretary to clarify whether the newly created post of Deputy Director of Broadcasting which would eventually lead to that of Director, as gazetted on June 5, 1964, was in keeping with the spirit of Government's declared policy in Borneanisation.

The State Secretary replying, said: "The appointment of an officer to a newly created post of Deputy Director of Broadcasting was a matter for the local branch of the Federal Public Service Commission, and it is not proper to comment on the individual decisions of that body. The officer selected was first appointed to Radio Sarawak in 1955 and is a permanent and pensionable officer in the Sarawak Civil Service. The appointment is on trial for one year."

STATE DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATE APPROVED

Parliament has approved the Federal Development Estimates, and the Council Negri has approved the State Development Estimates, and Control of individual Heads of Expenditure is vested in the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry concerned.

The Chief Minister said ministers, brought forward matters for discussion in the State Development Planning Committee where matters of development policy were concerned, but control of the various votes was the responsibility of the Ministry concerned.

He was answering a question by Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Ind) who asked the Chief Minister whether the Government would inform the House whether the money allocated either from the State or Federal Government for the country's Five-Year Development Plan projects could be spent by any individual Minister or by the State Development Committee or by this House? "Is not the practice now exercised by certain Alliance Ministers a political inducement?" Mr Leong asked.

"The answer to the second part of the question is 'no'. As a general rule, proposals

for expenditure on smaller items originate from the people themselves and come up through Divisional Development committees," the Chief Minister replied.

DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

"Loans are not made available directly from Development Funds to farmers and fishermen," the Acting State Financial Secretary said in the last sitting of the Council Negri. He was answering a question by Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) who wanted to know what was the amount of loans so far given to the farmers and fishermen from Development funds.

The Acting Financial Secretary said, "The position is that a sum of \$10 million which has now been reduced to \$9V2 million by CMD 11 of 1964 approved the previous day, is allocated under the Development Plan for rural credit which will be channelled through the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation. The Co-operative Central Bank also has funds for making loans to Member Co-operative Societies who will relend monies to their members for agricultural or fishery purposes.

"The Sarawak Development Finance Corporation has been constituted under the Development Finance Corporation Ordinance since 1958 and its object is to promote economic development of Sarawak, particularly to provide financial credits to fishermen, farmers or other pursuits in rural areas. An annual report of the Corporation's activities was laid before this House each year".

The State Financial Secretary continued: "Its latest annual report, i.e. for the year 1963, has been laid on the table. Information on the amounts of loans made by the Corporation up to the end of 1963 is recorded in that report. However, I have more recent figures, i.e. up to June 20, 1964, which may be of interest to Honourable Members.

"These are as follows:-

	No. of Applicants approved	Amount of loan approved up to 20.6.1964
Rubber Planting Scheme A	164	\$399,420
Rubber Planting Scheme B		nil
Pig Breeding	49	262,794
Pepper planters	37	70,447
Poultry farmers	-	nil
Fishermen	17	60,700
Miscellaneous (i.e. fish ponds, fruit farms, etc.)	15	58,300
Farmers Housing	2	4,050
	282	\$855,711

The activities of the Corporation have expanded rapidly during recent months. A Bill to amend the Development Finance Corporation Ordinance in order to enable the Corporation to deal with its business more expeditiously than is at present possible under the provisions of the existing Ordinance will be considered later this morning (June 24)," he concluded.

TEACHERS' TERMS OF SERVICE

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked the State Secretary whether the Government would ensure that the terms of service for the teachers in aided schools were the same as those enjoyed by the teachers in the Government schools.

Replying, the State Secretary said, "Since this Government is not the employer of aided school teachers it cannot so ensure. The Honourable Member is, however, perfectly at liberty to pursue this matter in the Federal Parliament."

In a supplementary question Mr Yong asked, in view of what the State Secretary had just said, could we in the State level seek information from the Federal Government whether the terms of the service for teachers in aided schools and those in Government schools were the same?

Mr Shaw: "That could be done: the Government is at present considering making representations to the Federal Government. I take it that the honourable member was asking that information is sought from other states whether there is a similarity between the terms of service between aided and government schools in other states.

"There will inevitably be some differences between the terms of service in government and aided schools since teachers in Government schools and in government service have conditions appropriate to that service. Not all such conditions are suitable to teachers not employed by government," he added.

MINISTER SPENT HIS OWN MONEY

The State Financial Secretary was asked whether expenses incurred by the visits of the Chief Minister and the Minister for Natural Resources to Sibü during the Sibü by-election, were paid from State funds and whether the usual allowances were claimed by them in respect of such visits. This question came from Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp).

The State Financial Secretary replied, "Mr Speaker, according to records shown to me, the Sibü by-election was held on Sunday, May 24, 1964. On this date, the Chief Minister was on his way to Bintulu, Mukah, etc. on an official tour. Prior to this date, the Chief Minister was in Kuala Lumpur between May 19 and 23 attending the National Finance

Council Meeting. The Minister for Natural Resources was in Sibü on a private visit at the time of the Sibü by-election. Being a private visit, passages and incidental expenses were met by the Minister himself."

FUNDS FOR RIVER CLEARING

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) wanted to know whether in view of funds having been approved by the Chief Minister to clear the rivers in Sadong, will similar funds be made available for clearing the rivers in other Divisions and a small sum be made available to clear the Sarawak of debris and drift wood.

"Similar small amounts of money have been made available for river clearance in other Divisions," the State Financial Secretary replied.

"The First Divisional Development Committee has not recommended funds for clearance of the Sarawak River. The Honourable Member is a member of this Committee, and he should raise the question there," he said.

In a supplementary question Mr Stephen Yong asked whether Government could permit that question being asked in the Divisional Development Committee.

Mr T'en Kuen Foh replied that he should think so if Mr Yong was a member of the Divisional Development Committee.

Mr Yong replied that he was not a member.

TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFERS

The procedure laid down in Financial Regulations provides for immediate payment of sums below \$400 on receipt of the telegram from the remitting station. When the amount to be paid is \$400 or over, a telegram is sent by the paying station to the remitting station asking for confirmation, in order to avoid risk of fraud.

This was stated by the State Financial Secretary when he answered a question by Mr Charles Linang (Supp) who asked the State Financial Secretary whether the Government would eliminate the long delays of paying monies to people to whom remittances were made through the Government Treasury by telegraphic transfers from outstations.

The State Financial Secretary had earlier said that he was not aware of any causes of complaints in the passing of telegraphic transfers.

"It is necessary for the payee to identify himself and a delay can occur if the name of

the payee differs from that shown in the person's Identity Card. This is, however, unavoidable but occurrences are rare.

"The Honourable Member's question does not specify any cases where delay has occurred. If he will refer such cases to me, giving names and other materials, an investigation will be made immediately as to the cause of delay," he said.

Mr Yong, in a supplementary question asked, "May I ask whether the State Financial Secretary as a result of this question did make enquiry from the Treasury because it so happened that I do not get many telegraphic transfers. In the course of these two years I had only two from outstations - one from Lundu and one from Limbang. The amount was small, more than \$400, but it took more than a week for Lundu to come here before I got the money and for Limbang about a fortnight despite the enquiries made at the Treasury nearly everyday."

Mr T'en Kuen Foh replied, "I did make enquiries but the answer given to me was that it is not possible to look into a specific case unless these cases are drawn to the attention of the Accountant-General. Since the Hon'ble member has mentioned certain cases of remittances made to him were delayed, I will investigate into the cause of delay for these two cases."

Mr T'en said he would give a written reply to Mr Yong, once the investigation had been made and the information supplied to him.

INCREASING DEMAND FOR TELEPHONES

The present number of telephones installed in Sarawak is 4,500. Of this total just over 2,000 are in Kuching and 880 in Sib. The annual rate of growth under normal circumstances is about 10 per cent per annum. A waiting list is in operation in Kuching only. This list is at present 200.

The Minister for Communications and Works, in reply to a question by Mr Charles Linang (Supp) said that equipment was now being installed to increase the capacity of Kuching exchange by 600 lines. This exchange could then be extended on further.

"A new telephone exchange has been planned for Kuching with an ultimate capacity of 10,000 lines and an initial installed capacity of 4,000 lines. The building has been designed by P.W.D. and the automatic equipment is on order. It is anticipated that this building will be completed by early 1966 and the final changeover to the new exchange

effected by mid 1967. The total cost of the building and automatic equipment is \$3,635M.

"Extensions to the underground telephone cable distribution scheme are planned for 1964 and 1965. New automatic telephone exchanges are being installed at Sarikei and Simanggang which will increase their capacities by approximately 100 per cent. Small automatic exchanges now being provided for Bau, Serian, Betong, Kanowit, Bintulu, Marudi and Limbang will again increase the capacities of the existing exchanges by at least 100 per cent," Inche Taib said.

Mr Charles Linang had asked the Minister for Works and Communications to seek information as to what steps were being taken by the Federal Department concerned to meet the increasing demand for telephones.

TOWN PLANNING

Abang Othman bin Abang Moasili (Panas) asked the Minister for Natural Resources to what purpose would the empty land, formerly Kampong Jawa No. 2 be put to since it was left standing at present as if it formed part of a National Park. "Is it not thought appropriate that the new Government Offices should be erected on this empty waste rather than on the site of the former Sylvia Cinema?" he said.

Mr Teo Kui Seng replied, "In answer to the second part of the Honourable Members' question, I would say that a Town Development Plan for Kuching is at present being prepared by the Land and Survey Department. The preparation of a Plan of this nature requires much careful study and collection of data and it is therefore necessary to approve certain development in the interim before the plan is submitted and approved.

"In the early months of 1963, Government therefore appointed a Committee to investigate and report on the problem of siting Government Offices. A detailed study was made, and a number of proposals, including one for the use of land formerly occupied by Kampong Jawa, were examined. After very careful consideration Government decided that the most desirable solution to the need for new office accommodation would be to establish in the vicinity of the central padang a carefully planned Government precinct of which the re-development of the Sylvia Cinema site is the first stage.

He continued: "At the same time Government decided that the possibility of using the State land at Jawa Road for a residential scheme should be investigated. This use

would be in accordance with good planning practice for there is a great demand for residential accommodation on the edge of the Town Centre, and it is considered desirable to satisfy as much of this demand as possible by high density housing.

"The preparation of such a scheme has been held up pending a decision as to whether the land might be required temporarily for military purposes. It has been decided now that it will not be required, and work on proposals for the development of land at Jawa Road for residential purposes is continuing.

"These should be ready for submission to Government shortly but in the interim it has proved necessary to allocate three sites within the old Kampong Jawa area. One is for the new Kuching Malay Club near the focal point of the Malay Community and the Mosque; another was a site not affecting the main block of land for resiting four Government houses which are to be moved in connection with the expansion of the Posts & Telegraphs Headquarters; and, thirdly, another fringe site for a hostel for use by members of the Voluntary Services Overseas, said Mr Teo.

PEPPER DEPOSITS

The amount of pepper at present deposited under the pepper storage scheme in Sarikei is 556 piculs. On June 15, 1963, there were 3,329 piculs deposited in the pepper storage godown. The State Financial Secretary said this in answer to a question by Mr Ling Beng Siong (Ind).

Mr Ling asked the State Financial Secretary how much pepper had been deposited with the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation Sarikei Office for advances up to date this year, whether there was any decrease this year and if so what was the reason and how was the Corporation going to counteract this.

The reason for the decreased amount of pepper at present stored in the godown

compared with the amount deposited at this time last year is mainly due to a rule imposed in 1963 that all pepper deposited last year must be cleared by the depositors by the end of May 1964, in order that space could be made available to accommodate new crops of pepper expected to be brought into Sarikei from May this year.

"The reason for requiring the pepper deposited last year to be cleared is because during last year, the pepper storage scheme was fully utilised, so much so that there was some fear that the godown might become too full and slide into the river. The present pepper in the godown are entirely new crops and it is very likely that more pepper may be brought in during the next few months.

"The amount of pepper deposited in the godown at about the same time last year included in fact a fair amount of carry over from time to time, since it was permissible for the depositors to redeposit the pepper with an extended time, before the new ruling was imposed.

"The pepper storage scheme is designed to assist owners to store their pepper during the cropping months when large quantities become available and to dispose of it gradually thus helping to stabilise the market. It is entirely up to the owners of pepper to make use of this facility.

"To the best of my knowledge there has not been any case of pepper offered to be deposited in the godown being rejected, the Financial Secretary said.

FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Ind) asked the State Secretary what progress had the Alliance Government made with the Federal Government towards introduction of free primary education in Sarawak.

The State Secretary replied that the same question was put twice on the order paper the previous day and he had nothing to add to what he had said then.

COUNCIL AUTHORISES FURTHER EXPENDITURE FOR 1964

The Supplementary Supply (1964) (No. 3) Bill was one of the four passed by the Council Negri last week.

The Bill, moved by the Acting Financial

Secretary, Mr T'en Kuen Foh, and seconded by the State Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, authorised further expenditure for this year of a sum not exceeding \$196,159.

Council Negri News

INDEPENDENTS ASK FOR PARLIAMENT SEATS

Two Independent members from the Fifth Division bitterly complained during the adjournment at the recent Council Negri meeting that they have been given no seat in the Federal Parliament.

They were Mr Mak Yau Lim, (sundar Town) and Mr Racha Umong, Chairman of Lawas District Council, who represents Long Semadoh.

Mr Mak Yau Lim said that although the Independents were "perfectly entitled to two seats in the Parliament out of three in the Council Negri," they had been "ruled out by the peculiar election regulation."

Mr Mak Yau Lim reminded the House that the Independents not only strongly supported the early formation of Malaysia, but when the Malaysia motion was debated in the House they spoke strongly in favour of it.

He appealed to the State Government to take the matter up with the Federal Government "for an immediate rectification in order to give the Independents a fair deal and to avoid suspicion and discrimination."

Mr Racha Umong asked "can't something be done to amend the laws," if there were legal obstacles.

Attorney-General Replies

Replying, the State Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, said that he was dealing with the matters raised by Mr Mak Yau Lim and Mr Racha Umong at the request of the Chief Minister.

This request had been made because he (the Attorney-General) was closely concerned with the formulation and negotiation in connection with the rules for the procedures of election.

Said Mr Pike: "The member who first spoke (Mr Mak Yau Lim) has presupposed quite wrongly that this Government has not endeavoured to get representation for Independent members.

"Our first proposals, in fact, particularly contained provisions for the representation of Independents in the House of Representatives, and in spite of strenuous arguments, both on my own behalf and on the part of other people, we have failed to convince the Federal Government that this is a reasonable approach.

"To be fair, one must look at both sides of the question. What was agreed in the Inter-Governmental Committee's Report was that the procedure should be designed to result in representation reflecting the political composition of the State Assembly.

"It is somewhat artificial to suggest that a number of Independents can be grouped together to form a political group. It is a highly artificial concept but we thought, in the circumstances of Sarawak, there was justification for urging this. In this we have failed. It is not that we have failed only before Malaysia day, we have since tried to persuade the Federal authorities that it is reasonable, but their views remain unchanged.

"Indeed if Independents were to be represented in the Federal Parliament, strictly speaking each Independent member ought to be elected, because his independence indicates an independence of views on political matters which is not susceptible of cohesion with any other Independents.

"That seems to me to be almost unarguable except on a highly artificial line of argument. Therefore, it would mean really that if they were to be represented, Independents, as such, would get three out of the remaining three seats, which I do not think, the Independents would claim to be a fair distribution.

"Let me put it in another way - if the rules contained no provision whatever for allocation of seats, Independent members in this Council would have to come cap in hand and depend on the generosity of the other members of this House, who are members of political parties, in order to be elected to the Federal Parliament, because their numbers are too small to enable them to elect themselves.

"This, I don't think either, would have been a satisfactory arrangement because that would have defeated the provision that the elected members to the Federal Parliament should represent the political composition of the House and if those allocation provisions were not there, of course the majority party could have elected all 24 seats.

"I can only suggest that the members should perhaps consider the formation of a Sarawak Independent political party. I regret I cannot give any assurance that the Federal Government's view on this matter will be altered."

'Lack of Votes'

Mr Mak Yau Lim: "In the last Federal Parliament there were Independent members sitting in Parliament. That shows that there was no such restriction preventing Independents from sitting in that House. I do not see why we in Sarawak are so special that we should be ruled out from sitting in that House."

Mr Pike: May I trespass on the time of the House. There is nothing to prevent except a lack of votes.

CHAN SPEAKS ON "DEMOCRACY"

The next speaker, Mr Chan Siaw Hee, touched on "democracy" and the freedom of speech, assembly and press.

He said: "It is the common practice of all despotic regimes in the world that in order to preserve their interest and strengthen the position of the ruling clique, they have to enact all sorts of laws to restrict the legitimate activities of the people and lawful organisations, and even have to resort to the arbitrary arrest of political opponents."

Then, as Mr Chan began to refer to the recent closures of Lundu and Sampadi Branches, the Speaker, Dr Sockalingam, ruled Mr Chan's speech out of order, pointing out that the closure of the Supp branches was a Federal matter.

CALL FOR STREAMLINING OF LOCAL GOVT.

A call for the streamlining of local government was then made by Mr Sim Kheng Hong.

He said that although more local councils have their own chairman, elected from among the councillors themselves, the rate at which they were acquiring greater, autonomy, "has still not been sufficiently accelerated...."

Referring to previous answers given by the Minister for Local Government on the question of granting greater autonomy, Mr Sim Kheng Hong said: "...these did not at all satisfy those councillors who have the interest and welfare, as well as the future progress of the local councils at heart."

Mr Sim continued: "I can assure Government that this matter of streamlining local councils in order to give them greater autonomy and control over their own affairs and finances, is a matter of national importance as long as the very foundation of our electoral system is still based upon the local councils; and as long as the people are

expected to play a greater part in co-operating, through the medium of these councils, with Government to implement the different facets of the Five-Year Development Plan."

Mr Sim then touched on capitation grant to local councils and minor roads. On the matter of capitation grant allocated annually to the local councils, Mr Sim said: "Government is still following a practice of making payment based on the estimated population figures in the councils' areas before the 1960 census. It would be pertinent to enquire if the suggestion of revising the capitation grant rate based on an equilisation method is receiving the full attention of the Ministry with a view to its implementation in the near future."

Minor Roads

He added: "On the subject of minor roads handed over to local councils I wish to state that following Government's policy in the matter, local councils have been carrying on the work utilising road maintenance grant allocated annually for the purpose.

"It has been found that the amount of grant given in such cases has, however, remained the same as when the roads were handed over. The over-all costs have unavoidably increased sine then and as the people benefiting from these roads tend necessarily having the capacity to increase their own road maintenance rate proportionately, especially in poorly developed areas, it is felt that the time has come for the Central Government to give special consideration to revising the old rate of maintenance grant in respect of these minor roads.

"As far as I am aware Government has been contemplating on introducing new and more comprehensive legislation on buildings in local council area. As a number of Councils are functioning on by-laws with inadequate provisions to meet the fast-expanding housing development programme taking place in this country, it is sincerely hoped that such legislation, covering all aspects of the matter, will be promulgated soon."

GRANTS UNDER REVIEW, SAYS DEPUTY C.M.

As the Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawie, was absent, the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, replied to the points raised by Mr Sim Kheng Hong.

Mr Wong said (hat the Minister for Local Government has already initiated and taken

steps to gather as much information as possible in order to review the whole question of grants to local authorities.

He added: "We are conscious of the fact that we must make the local authorities in this country a strong viable force in themselves and give them as much autonomy as possible gradually, but compatible with the ability of that particular authority to undertake the responsibilities that have been cast on them."

Referring to the question of roads, Mr Wong said: "In the past, the colonial government had cast upon the local authority the responsibility of maintaining some of the roads. Some local authorities, however, especially the small ones, were not in a position then and did not have the ability and resources to maintain roads.

"Nevertheless, the responsibility was given over to them. We are aware that there have been some difficulties over these, and the government, perhaps, had been hasty in some instances. Therefore the whole question of grants is now under review."

Continuing, Mr Wong referred to the question raised about more autonomy and financial control given to local authorities, and said he hoped the speaker was not referring to the more prosperous local councils.

He said richer councils were naturally able to fulfil and carry out their commitments financially. He assured the House that the Government was fully aware of the position and would do everything possible to assist local authorities generally in the country.

CHONG ASKS FOR BETTER MEDICAL FACILITIES

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp), spoke next on the Medical and Health Services. He asked for improved medical facilities, especially in the rural areas, and said: "The urgent demand for dispensaries and medical facilities is greater than the demand for land".

Mr Chong said that the people very much appreciated the fact that the Department could not simply provide drugs, because these must be handled by people with adequate medical know-how.

Mr Chong also criticised the present system of running the Health Centre, especially the treating of injured persons in road accidents.

Another point, raised by Mr Chong concerned the Superintendent of Travelling Dispensaries who has been promoted to be Development Officer. He was of the opinion that the Medical Department had been

deprived of the service of an officer who was well versed in rural dispensary work and the need of the people.

Replying, the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, said nobody in Sarawak, including the Government were entirely happy, "but within our means and capabilities they had a fairly good medical and health services".

He added that the Government realised that there was room for improvement and it has made recommendations to the Federal Government to expand the medical services generally throughout the country, particularly the rural health services.

ABANG OTHMAN SPEAKS ON EDUCATION

Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasli (Panas) spoke on Education. Pointing out that he and his colleagues had already spoken in the Parliament as well as in the Divisional Council on the same subject, Abang Othman said that His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in his Royal Address had mentioned the unprecedented success of the Malaysian Government in its efforts to unify the various races through a national education policy and through the national level of literacy by way of introducing a new system known as Comprehensive School System.

He then referred to the copy of a letter from the Kuching Teachers Association which he said raised the question of retaining English "as a symbol of unity".

He asked: "But how many English men are there from Tanjong Datu to the other end of Fifth Division of Sarawak to perpetuate English".

Touching on the demand for free education, Abang Othman said, "In this world there is nothing free. . . . Malaya and Singapore are ahead of us in Education. You can't deny this. Sarawak is in Malaysia, so are Malaya and Singapore. We here share most of the bitter pills of Confrontation but we don't at this stage share the honey of education. This is nobody's fault. This is the beauty of having so many safeguards and so we cannot get the kind of education everybody is asking for.

"The IGC bible says 'Thou shalt control thy own education system in Sarawak' and so the State Government of Sarawak appears perhaps by moral obligation to be unable to do anything.

"Then when I mentioned in Malaya about education, some nice chap said, 'Oh well, we cannot do anything about it as you in Sarawak are to continue with your existing system until

such time as your State Government feels your system should be changed to conform to the national system'.

"I don't know exactly the interpretation of 'national system'. But I do know that, like myself, most if not all of us in this very House are Malaysian Nationals. What splits us is the IGC Report but this can be overcome so long there is a united will to relax the existing barrier.

"The main question is whether we are having the mind to change our education system to conform to the national system which I take it as a Malaysian single system of education. If not, then it is ripe for this House to consider introducing a Bill to safeguard all the safeguards embodied in the IGC Report, that is, there shall be no further talk of education system.

"The matter is, in my mind, vital that we must have a solution to the problem and, as a suggestion, I would strongly feel that the time is now ripe for the Government to consider that for Sarawak let us by all means, and at all costs, and at all times make English as a medium of instruction — Malay as a subject.

"I don't object, and I am very very happy that Iban, Melanau and Chinese, Kayan, Kenyah or Bidayuh also should be subjects in our schools in Sarawak. This would, I think, pave the way to a national system of education and I know the Federal Government would be then in a position to consider the whole set-up of education very seriously with a view to extend its assistance of Sarawak".

SEVERAL POINTS OVERLOOKED, SAYS LEONG

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Independent) who spoke next also touched on Education. He said it had been brought to his attention that there was a possibility that pressure might be brought to bear to introduce Malay as the medium of instruction in schools in this State.

Said Mr Leong: "Although education is a Federal matter and the Federal Government, in considering the implementation of such a policy, may have the best of intentions, we cannot but feel that, in its haste to bring about changes for the general good, it has overlooked several points, which need to be most seriously considered".

Mr Leong said: "Such sudden conversion, as is feared would take place, Would drastically lower the standard of education in this State, and thereby hamper our progress. Let me assure my Malay brethren that my statement implies no disrespect for Malay as a language, but recognises that it will take

some time before Malay will be a language capable of dealing with technical subjects at very high standards and recognises, too, that in Sarawak there are very few people capable of teaching in Malay to any satisfactory level.

"If this policy is forced upon the people of this State, we fear that political and social unrest would result. I, therefore, appeal to the reason and the conscience of my colleagues in this Council, and of Members of Parliament from this State, to see that policies which might be interpreted, rightly or wrongly, by our people as oppressive measures should not be introduced without first ascertaining the wishes of the people.

"I have borrowed the phraseology of the Kuching Teachers Association in my statement that 'pressure might be brought to bear to introduce Malay as the medium of instruction' in schools in this State. And the present policy towards Aided Schools in the State seems to bear out my statement. According to the Grand-in-Aid Code of 1956, aided school staff are to receive the same emoluments as teachers in government service, and in actual basic salary they do, but government school teachers are receiving substantially higher total emoluments, as pointed out by the Kuching Teachers Association, because of certain extra benefits received.

"Among these are:

- * A ten percent housing allowance;
- * A pension scheme which provides the government school teacher with 15 percent more than an aided school teacher receives from his Provident Fund. Moreover, the pension scheme offers greater security in retirement;
- * Housing loans at a rate of three percent as compared to eight percent for teachers of aided schools;
- * The use of government rest houses and hostels at substantially lower rates than those available to teachers in aided schools;
- * Expatriate staff in government schools receive 25 percent gratuity which expatriates in aided schools do not receive".

Mr Leong concluded: "Such policy of discrimination against aided schools is tantamount to introducing 'Apartheid' into the field of education and appears to be designed for the sole purpose of crippling established aided schools so that they may ultimately be stopped from functioning altogether in order to make way for another set of schools tailored to suit the policy of the Alliance Government".

'OPPOSITION HAD NOT AGREED AMONG THEMSELVES'—D.C.M.

The Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, replying to points raised by Abang Othman and Mr Leong Ho Yuen, said, "It seemed that members of the Opposition had not agreed among themselves on the question of education.

"Questions raised by Abang Othman seemed to have been answered, in fact nullified by Mr Leong".

Mr Wong said that he would try and answer some of the points raised, but suggested that if the two speakers wished to pursue the matter further, they should do so through representatives in the Federal Parliament.

Referring to the term 'IGC Bible' used by Abang Othman in his speech, Mr Wong reminded the speaker that the IGC Report was prepared, negotiated and subsequently signed by the late Honourable Datu Bandar Abang Haji Mustapha, the former chairman of Party Negara Sarawak.

From September 27 to October 3, 1964

Council Negri Passes Motion On Comprehensive School System

AGONG THANKED

The Council Negri at its first sitting of the Fifth Meeting on Thursday unanimously passed a motion thanking His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong for his Malaysia day message.

The message announced the introduction of the Comprehensive School System which would provide education for all children for nine years throughout Malaysia.

The motion, originally proposed by the Opposition leader, Mr Stephen K.T. Yong (Supp) was amended by the Chief Minister.

The amended motion deleted the words 'give free education to' contained in Mr Yong's motion, and inserted instead of words 'provide education for'.

It reads:

'THAT THIS HOUSE RECORDS ITS APPRECIATION OF HIS MAJESTY THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG'S MALAYSIA DAY MESSAGE ANNOUNCING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SYSTEM WHICH WILL PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN FOR NINE YEARS THROUGHOUT MALAYSIA AS FROM 1965 AND URGES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE SAME IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS EMBODIED IN THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON THE FORMATION OF MALAYSIA'.

Mr Yong's motion was seconded by Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Machinda).

Lively Exchanges

The Chief Minister, Datu Stephen Kalong

Ningkan, then proposed the amendment, which the House accepted, before others spoke in support of the motion and the introduction of the Comprehensive School System.

They included Inche Mohammed Fauzi bin Hamdani (Ind); Mr Tutong anak Ningkan (Alliance); Mr Mak Yu Lim (Ind); Mr Racha Umong (Ind); Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp); Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) and Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp).

The Government Ministers who spoke in support of the amended motion were: Inche Taib Mahmud, Minister of Communications and Works; Mr Teo Km Seng, Minister of Natural Resources; Mr Dunstan Endawie, Minister of Local Government, and Mr James Wong, the Deputy Chief Minister.

There were some lively exchanges during the debate and the Speaker intervened more than once.

Moving the original motion Mr Stephen Yong said:

I am confident that this motion will receive the support from all sides. Education has been the burning issue in Sarawak for many years. Views have been expressed in this House and outside of the desirability of and necessity for providing free primary education for our children in Sarawak.

We all appreciate that education is vital to the development of our country. We cannot hope to catch up with the others unless we provide education for our young and eradicate illiteracy.

For that reason, we see in all newly established independent countries, expansion of education invariably features most

prominently in their development programmes.

Education therefore is a matter of great material importance, particularly to us because until very recently it was sadly neglected by the Government.

I think we all realize that expansion of education in Sarawak is urgent and necessary and it is a matter which concerns us all. We must therefore avoid as much as we can from making political capital out of it.

While we expected the provision for free primary education for all children of suitable age, we were a bit doubtful of having comprehensive school system being introduced into Sarawak. The Malaysia Day message from H.M. the Yang di-Pertuan Agong therefore came as a pleasant surprise. We can do no more than to record our deep appreciation of such a scheme.

The Comprehensive School System means the provision for all children of suitable age, six years of free primary education plus another three years of higher education. His Majesty has also announced the date when such a scheme will be introduced, and that is next year.

This leads me to the question of the mechanics of implementing such a scheme. We ought not doubt that the Comprehensive School System will come to pass in Sarawak next year because the date has been categorically been stated. I think the Central Government must have all the schemes of implementation drawn up already.

I only feel that facilities and materials available locally ought to be utilised as much as possible. I am sure that all voluntary education agencies would co-operate in bringing about the realisation of the proposed Comprehensive School System.

Precedent Condition?

My motion also urges the Central Government that in implementing the Comprehensive School System, the term of the London Agreement, on its basis of which Malaysia was formed, ought to be adhered to. This part of the motion would not have been necessary had it not been for some newspapers reports on certain minister's statement of laying down a condition precedent for the implementation of the Comprehensive School System in Sarawak.

According to the newspaper report, the condition precedent is that the present education policy obtaining in Sarawak must be changed to that of the education policy now adopted in the peninsula states. This is something new, in that His Majesty never mentioned nor hinted in his message that

there would be a condition precedent to the introduction of Comprehensive School System to State of Sarawak.

Furthermore it appears to be in conflict with the expressed term of the London Agreement on education. The contracting parties in this agreement included the Federation of Malay and Sarawak and any party cannot and ought not arrogate upon itself the power to rescind the term of the agreement unilaterally.

The agreement stipulates that the term may be varied by mutual agreement. I do not think that the State Government has given its consent to the variation of the term. If it has and I hope not, then it would amount to a breach of faith because no such step can be taken without proper debates in this House and that the public opinion on it has been properly assessed.

I cannot stress more on the sanctity of the agreement. It is a charter embodying the safeguards for Sarawak. I remember questions were raised about providing a safeguard for the safeguards then. It might appear to be unnecessarily cautious to raise this point at that time but one could appreciate how much importance the people of Sarawak attach to the safeguards.

I cannot see why the Comprehensive School System cannot be implemented unless the present education policy is scrubbed. Already the public is saying that it smacks of political blackmail. If only to maintain the confidence of the people in the Federal Government and its good faith, I think the Federal Government would do well not to tamper with the terms of the London Agreement.

For the reason I have mentioned I think the latter part of my motion is necessary and I hope that the motion as a whole will receive unqualified support by the House.

I do now so move.

C.M. AMENDS MOTION

In moving the amended motion, the Chief Minister, Datu Stephen Kalong Ningkan said:

I beg to move that the motion standing in the Hon'ble Member, Mr Stephen Yong's name be amended by deleting the words "give free education to" and by substituting therefore the words "provide education for".

His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's speech and the Minister of Education's press statement issued on the 31st August were to the effect that all children would have the opportunity to study for nine years and that the aims of the comprehensive education policy were to provide non-selective

secondary education for a period of nine years. No mention was made of free education. For this reason the Hon'ble Member's original motion is not acceptable to the Government because it is inaccurate.

In Malaya, all primary education has been free for some years and Malay children have had the privilege of free education at all levels; all other children have had to pay for secondary education. The introduction of the comprehensive system has meant the abolition of the selection examination at the Primary Six level, so that all who wished to continue with their education and were willing to pay the fees — \$5 a month — could continue for a further three years.

Honourable Members can rest assured that the Government is making every possible effort not only to discover how the comprehensive school system can be introduced effectively into Sarawak, without forgetting what was agreed and embodied in the IGC Report and the London Agreement, but also to bring about with the least possible delay a situation in which both State and Federal Governments can agree that primary school fees will be abolished.

Inche Mohd. Fauzi bin Hamdani (All 3rd Div.) said that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong did not promise free education as indicated in Mr Yong's motion.

However, it did not mean that Sarawak did not want free education. All Alliance members of the Council Negri wanted to have free education; this was stated in the manifesto of the Alliance. The Alliance has, from the beginning tried to give free education to all primary schools in Sarawak.

However, care must be taken "to ensure that the ways and means to achieve the aim did not involve our country in difficulties especially now that we are faced with confrontation," Inche Mohd. Fauzi said.

Alliance Manifesto Promised Free Education

Mr Tutong anak Ningkan (All) also drew attention to the fact that the Alliance manifesto had, from the beginning promised free education. But unfortunately Sarawak was still short of teachers and was still finding ways and means of abolishing school fees in the lower primary classes.

He supported the motion to thank His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan "but the Agong did not promise free education for nine years, and so I cannot support Mr Stephen Yong's motion and instead, I wish to support the motion moved by the Chief Minister," concluded Mr Ningkan.

Mr Racha Umong (Ind. 5th Div.) said he fully supported the move for free primary

education, "in line with the Malayan pattern".

Call For Equal Treatment

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) supporting Mr Stephen Yong's motion, said Sarawak was not being treated "fairly and equally by the Federal Government as far as free primary education is concerned".

He added: "We all know that so far no concrete steps have been taken to implement free primary education by the Federal Government in Sarawak in spite of the promises we have heard so much about. We all know how much importance our people place on education because we realise that only by educating our young generation can our country catch up with others and such promises had great inducement value. The people of Sarawak would not therefore tolerate any promise to be lightly made and never intended to be implemented.

"If Sarawak is to be regarded as having the same status with the other peninsular states within Malaysia why should it be deprived of what the other states in Malaya are enjoying? This is why sometime people begin to wonder whether we are second-class citizens. But we must point out to the Federal Government that we do not want to become second-class citizen".

Mr Chen then referred to a recent statement in a Kuching Rural District Council meeting "that the Minister for Education had stated that Central Government in Kuala Lumpur could not do anything about free primary education for Sarawak because the Sarawak Government had so far made no approach to Kuala Lumpur with a view to solving the problem".

If this was true, Mr Chan said: "We will not hesitate to say that the State Government is trying to shirk its responsibilities for some reasons best known themselves. A responsible Government should be brave enough to face any difficulties in the cause for the well being of the people of Sarawak.

"It will be wrong for the State Government to adopt an indifferent attitude, because the implementation of free primary education involves millions of dollars. What we want to know is why free primary education could be implemented in other states and the same could not be extended to Sarawak?"

Stressing that difficulties, if any, should not be kept in secret by the Government, Mr Chan said: "From what we can gather these so-called difficulties must have something to do with the overall education policy. It may be that there is a disagreement between the State and Federal Governments over the two existing education policies, one of which is a

Malayan education policy and the other is a Sarawak education policy which is stipulated in the London Agreement and to be maintained for a period of 10 years".

Finally, Mr Chan strongly urged that free primary education should be implemented without any delay and excuses.

'Stringent Selection Method'

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) who spoke next in support of Mr Yong's motion traced the history of education in Sarawak since the early days, and said:

"After Sarawak had acquired colonial status active efforts were made to give more grants-in-aid to the established schools, culminating in the introduction of the Education Ordinance and the Grant Code which finally set the seal of approval on the education system in Sarawak and provided much needed security from occupational hazards for the teachers".

He observed: "It is all very creditable but the education system, such as it was, had many drawbacks, the chief of which was that it made no provision for every child in this country, of whatever race or creed, to have a chance of receiving education up to the secondary level".

He added: "Because of the stringent method of selection, through the Primary VI level school examination, many children have found themselves outside of the pale of the regular schools each year and many more, being over-aged, have to leave school.

"For them their only hope of continuing their education is to enrol in a secondary school established by private enterprise, if their parents or guardians can afford to pay for them. Those that cannot afford to do so are forced by circumstances to stop going to school altogether".

Deploing the lack of 'proper trade education" Mr Chong earnestly hoped that the comprehensive system of education giving a

child 9 years of uninterrupted schooling could be implemented as announced by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in Sarawak in 1965.

Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp) said he supported Mr Yong's motion because he believed the people of Sarawak were entitled to free primary education.

He said before the formation of Malaysia, the Ministers from Malaya had said Sarawak would be given free primary education. Therefore those who attended the Inter-Governmental Committee "must have been influenced by this promise".

He added: "I am sure that the people, who represented Sarawak at that time agreeing to Sarawak's becoming part of Malaysia, had taken this promise into consideration. Therefore free primary education for all children of suitable age in Sarawak, was one of the conditions precedent of Sarawak entering into Malaysia. The question before us is not whether free primary education is to be given to all the children in Sarawak, but why is not this undertaking be implemented now?"

Mr Sim went on to say that they were heartened by the King's message that in 1965 a Comprehensive School system of free education to all children for 9 years throughout Malaysia would be provided as from next year.

He continued: "I do not doubt that the Federal Government would not carry out this undertaking. And I therefore support this motion merely as a reminder to the Alliance Government that they should carry out the promise which has been given to the people of Sarawak as one of the benefits of joining Malaysia.

Mr Sim concluded: "I do not think any amendment is necessary to this motion, because it merely illustrates what the Alliance Government has promised us, and we are only asking the Alliance Government to adhere to their promise".

COUNCIL NEGRI ADJOURNS SINE DIE

The Speaker, Dr M. Sockalingam, adjourning the Council *sine die* announced that the Chief Minister, Datu Stephen Kalong Ningkan, has been selected by the Executive Committee of the Local Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and is delegated to attend the Parliamentary Conference to be held in Jamaica in November this year.

Datu Ningkan has also been selected by the executive committee of the Malaysia Branch to represent all the State branches on

the general council at the conference.

"Datu Ningkan will leave Sarawak in a few weeks' time and I know that you will all want to join me in wishing him a very successful conference, bon voyage and a safe return," said the Speaker amidst applause.

He added: "It is also learnt that the Secretary of our branch, Mr Peter Chong, has been selected by the main branch to be the Secretary to the Malaysian delegation at the conference. He will therefore accompany the Chief Minister on his trip".

IN THE COUNCIL NEGRI

FINANCING OF PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR 1965 APPROVED

The Council Negri last week approved the extension to 1965 the arrangements for the financing of primary education and financial assistance to local authorities.

Moving the motion, the Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawie said that the arrangements referred to were those introduced in January 1960, under which District Council have borne a percentage of the recurrent costs of primary education within their areas, and in return had received rate grants in respects of rates levied for education, general purposes in rural areas and road maintenance.

The Minister continued: "It did not prove possible to review these arrangements in 1963, as intended in the Sessional Paper, and at its meeting held on 29th May, 1963, this Council approved the continuation of the arrangements during the current year.

"Honourable Members will recall that the major obstacle to review has been difficulty in devising a practicable system of uniform and independent valuation for rating purposes, which is a pre-requisite to any system of equalisation or rate-deficiency grants designed to replace existing arrangements. It was hoped that such revaluation could be undertaken during the current year, but in spite of intensive efforts, in has not proved possible to devise workable machinery for this purpose.

"The Department of Lands and Surveys has been unable to make available the full-time services of professional valuers because of pre-occupation with land valuation. A procedure relying upon District Officers assisted by local authority staff, and which was considered to be workable, had to be held in abeyance because of the undue strain it would have thrown on the administration at a time when it was already fully burdened. However, in the interim period, the opportunity has been taken to complete a review of the problem by an outside professional valuer.

"The results of this survey are now available and it would appear that necessary revaluation would be feasible in 1965 on the basis of employing a professional consultant

to supplement the necessary field work undertaken under the supervision of the administration. This possibility is now being actively examined with a view to embarking upon revaluation next year.

"In these circumstances, it is recommended that the existing arrangements should continue during 1965."

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, seconded the motion.

Mr Ong Kee Hui

The leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui, speaking on the motion, said that the motion which was before the House called for the extension of Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1959.

"The Sessional Paper provides for the payment of various grants such as rural rate grant, education rate grant and road maintenance rate grant. As education rate grant forms possibly the bulk of the expenditure under this Head, I would like to deal with it, perhaps at greater length than the other two," he said.

"As regards the financing of primary education this paper lays down that a matching education rate grant would be made to Local Authorities with two provisos. The first proviso is that a share of the cost of primary education would be passed on to the Local Authorities in 1960 at seven per cent, of the total cost and rising by one per cent, until it reaches ten per cent, of the total by 1963 when it will be reviewed. The second proviso is, and I quote, "for the educational backward areas that percentage will not rise until the degree of educational progress warrants it." By 1964 however Government was not able to change the system of financing and by resolution of this Council it was extended for another year. Now a year later Government has still not found it possible to affect a change in the system of financing and is now calling on this House to approve a further extension of one year," continued Mr Ong.

He said that the Sessional Paper also provided for financial assistance to Local Authorities in the form of a rural rate grant of \$2 for every dollar collected and a matching road maintenance rate grant.

There was no doubt, he said, that the res-

possibility which the State Government had delegated to the Local Authorities for primary education had imposed an undue strain on all Local Authorities as the grants which were paid to Local Authorities only covered a part of the cost of primary education particularly in cases where expansion requires the building of new schools. This had necessitated the imposition of increasing amount each year on the rate-payers in the form of education rate.

"Further, owing to the fact that in such areas where new schools are built and parents have to send their children to school, these parents are unable to meet school fees and many Councils find themselves saddled with considerable arrears of fees which they have to make good to the Education Department," said Mr Ong.

This point, he thought, was brought forward at a meeting of this House by the Hon'ble Member from Lawas who pointed out the case of the Lawas District Council which had to write off fairly large sums in arrears of school fees which were not paid by parents. Such a burden on a small Local Authority must act as a serious handicap to its development. This system was devised in 1959 in the colonial days and one would have thought the whole system would have been overhauled after Malaysia Day.

Matter of Great Regret

"The fact that more than a year after Malaysia Day this House is still asked to approve maintenance of this system which appears to indicate, with respect to the Hon'ble Member who had given his explanation, that the Government has not given the matter the urgent consideration it merits. This is particularly bad when one notes that in the Malayan States the cost of education is a direct Federal responsibility and that this difficulty would not arise in the case of Local Authorities as primary education is free throughout these Malayan States," he said.

Mr Ong continued: "That a year after Malaysia Day, we, the people of Sarawak, have still to make a lot of noise in demanding the extension of this facility in education to our schools is a matter of great regret, I think, to all of us. Although the Hon'ble the Chief Minister in his reply to a question the previous day on this subject of free primary education in Sarawak has given a gleam of hope, members of this House must deplore the fact that it has taken the Government so long to get the Federal Government to even consider giving us what should have been given in the

first place without our having to ask for it.

"In considering the question of Local Authority finance with which this paper deals I would like to take this opportunity of impressing on the Government the need for revising some of the very cumbersome procedures which have to be gone through by Local Authorities with the exception of the Kuching Municipal Council. The late Abang Haji Mustapha, Datu Bandar, addressed this House on one occasion and pointed out that any expenditure of over \$500 even though they are committed under approved heads in the Kuching Rural District Council Estimates has to be approved by the Resident.

"This procedure while it may be all right in the days of the British Rajahs hardly befitting under the circumstances of the day when elected representatives of the people have to be controlled in this fashion by a civil servant. The sooner this system is abolished the better it is for the maintenance of the dignity of the representatives of the people, and the less likely it is to be a source of frustration to the Councillors who are keen to carry out their work zealously for the people who have elected them. The fact that this matter was raised about a year ago by someone who has now passed on again speaks a good deal for the lack of urgency in fostering the advancement of Local Authorities on the part of the Government.

"A final point that I wish to make had also been raised on previous occasions by other Hon'ble Members. This concerns the payment of allowance to Councillors. Recently members of Parliament from the Malayan States who visited Sarawak expressed surprise that Councillors in Sarawak still serve on a voluntary basis with no fixed allowances. These Members of Parliament, in fact, raised the matter at the current session of the Dewan Ra'ayat. The reply given by the Hon'ble Minister on behalf of the Honourable the Minister for Local Government, who was unable to be present owing to illness, was that there was nothing against the payment of such allowances and that the matter should be raised with the State Government. In view of this statement I would urge the Government to give this matter more serious consideration.

"In conclusion I would like to refer to the reply given by the Hon'ble Acting Minister for Education at the current session of the Dewan Ra'ayat when I raised this matter of the extension of free primary education in Sarawak. The Hon'ble Minister in his reply expressed surprise that I, the Chairman of the Supp, who attacked the colonial system of education

should now become its champion. Unfortunately I was not present at that time otherwise I could have pointed out to him that it is not I who is out to preserve the colonial system, but the Alliance Government in Sarawak that wishes by its conduct to do so. There is no better evidence of this than the motion which the Alliance Government has brought before this House today."

Unjust And Unfair - Mr Sim Kheng Hong

Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp), who spoke next, said that we in Sarawak through new taxation were contributing towards the cost of education bill of the states in Malaya. "This is unjust and unfair. As you are aware the costs of financing primary education in Sarawak are shared among State Government, Local Councils and the parents of school children. The local council of course rely on rate payers for the money. We as the representatives of the people which of course include rate payers, must point out that as far as the cost of education is concerned the people in Sarawak have not only to pay local council for the rates and not only to pay school fees for the children but also to contribute towards the cost of education in the states of Malaya by way of these taxes," he said.

Mr Sim pointed out the cost of education was crippling some of the local councils financially with the result that local councils were finding it difficult to provide other services adequately for the rate payers. "Take the case of the Kuching Rural District Council of which I am a member, it has to spend up to 30 per cent, of its total revenue on education in 1964. This goes to show that the burden is quite intolerable on the local councils and that they may not be able to function properly," he stated.

"I make this statement as a protest against the Alliance Government of Sarawak for having failed in its duty to the people of Sarawak when they fail to secure for Sarawak free primary education," Mr Sim concluded.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Machinda), in his speech on this motion pointed out that among other items that encouraged the people of Sarawak to accept Malaysia was that the Federal Government under which education was its responsibility, promised that Sarawak would be given free primary education once Malaysia was formed.

"Recently in the Federal Parliament when the issue of introducing free primary education to Borneo States (Sarawak and

Sabah) was discussed the Acting Minister of Education gave certain condition which must be confirmed with first. This condition, as every one in this House would see, is contradicting among other things the substance of the Inter-Governmental Committee agreement which respected, of which Malaya and Sarawak Governments were both signatories," he declared.

"Does the Alliance Government realise its weakness being a partner of the so-called Grand Alliance but cannot so far achieve what is now enjoyed by those people in the Peninsula States?" Mr Leong asked.

Mr Sim Boon Liang (All), said he agreed with the resolution put forward by the Minister for Local Government, and supported the motion.

"Right And Proper" - Mr Mak Yau Lim

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind), supporting the motion said: "I think it is right and proper that the arrangements for the financing of primary education and financial assistance to local authorities be extended further for another year or even to cover more years, otherwise the local authorities would find undue hardship running or tackling their schools as it involves substantial amount of expenditure each year. It might even force the local authorities to close down their schools if the usual financial aid from Government does not continue."

Mr Chan Siew Hee (Supp), said that the introduction of the motion clearly was an admission of failure on the part of the Sarawak Alliance Government in getting the Federal Government to come to an agreement to implement the free primary education and comprehensive school system in Sarawak next year.

"I am not against the arrangements for the financing of primary education and financial assistance to local authorities to cover the year 1965. But what I would like to point out is that if the Sarawak Alliance Government cannot get the Federal Government to meet our just demand it might as well to extend the operation of this sessional paper for a much longer period instead of one year, as this will save us a lot of time and trouble and make it not necessary for the same motion to be repeated year after year," he said.

Mr Chan said that there was no excuse for the Sarawak Alliance Government to say that it was still unable to prevail upon the Federal Government in the matter of free primary education, and warned that if the conditions

were such as to be contrary to the aspiration of the Sarawak people it would be regarded as a betrayal of the people of Sarawak.

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) speaking on the motion said that much had been said of free primary education. He said that when one said "free primary education" it did not mean that the people of the State of Sarawak would not contribute or would not be able to contribute towards the cost of free primary education.

Mr Yong went on to say that the success or otherwise of the Local Government and of our educational system that was now prevailing must depend on the success and ability of the local council to bear the burden.

Referring to the conditions for the free primary education Mr Yong said that some might be reasonable but some may be objectionable, but it would be better if they knew in advance what they were.

On the question of language Mr Yong said that it was merely an instrument for communicating their thoughts and so long as most of the people understood it should not be discarded without finding a better substitute.

Touching on the question of financing of the Local Government, Mr Yong said it was surprising to see that so far as the financing of primary education by the local authorities was concerned, the Government must seriously consider the adverse effect there would be on the local council when that educational bill seemed to be increasing year by year.

He added that although under the Sessional Paper the difference was only ten per cent of the total cost to be borne by the local council one must not forget the fact that other than that local councils were expected to find money for the purchase of land and the payment of premiums.

Mr Yong ended by saying that if the matter of financing was beyond the means of the local council concerned to subsidise further, then in fact the urgency of coming to some arrangement with the Federal Government in respect of free primary education must be considered.

Sarawak Govt. Has Tried Its Best To Negotiate

Mr Kadam Kiai (All), speaking on the motion expressed his "hope and desire to have free primary education to be extended to the State of Sarawak."

"It is known that Sarawak State Government has tried its best to negotiate, with the Federal Government, in seeking the way to

implement this policy in this State. But I am very sad to say that there has been no positive result. It is more interesting to learn that the Alliance Government in Sarawak will resume the negotiation with the Federal Government on this matter and this is to show Sarawak Alliance is trying its best. And by this constant effort, I am sure, free primary education will be extended to Sarawak next year in accordance with the safeguards which have been written in the Inter-Governmental Report," said Mr Kiai.

He congratulated the Sarawak Alliance Government for its effort and progress which it had achieved so far in negotiating with the Federal Government on this subject. I also like to take this opportunity to appeal to the people of Sarawak that they must be calm and patient in waiting for this.

Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau (Ind) asked the Government to give consideration to the poor people in his area who could not afford to pay school fees for their children. He said his people were not asking for everyone to be exempted from paying school fees. He said the Government should give serious consideration to this matter as there were still many uneducated and illiterate people in the rural areas.

The Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, said that he would like to clarify the statement made by Mr Leong Ho Yuen that one of the promises made to Sarawak was that as soon as we got into Malaysia we would get free primary education.

He did not know where he derived this promise from because it was not in the IGC or the London Agreement. Mr Wong then referred to Opposition remarks justifying the failure of Opposition members in the recent Dewan Ra'ayat debate in Kuala Lumpur to get the Acting Minister of Education give Sarawak immediate free primary education.

Mr Wong welcomed the efforts of both Opposition and Alliance members to secure for Sarawak free primary education. Said Mr Wong: "It is quite clear that the Government and Opposition are one in working towards the abolition of primary school fees.

"We have still, however, to convince the Federal Government of the justice of our cause. We still have negotiations ahead of us and it would be clearly of value if we are to present a united front on this.

"Nothing is gained by the Opposition in attempts to discredit this Government on this more details. There is anyhow not very much more to disclose issue. We shall achieve nothing at this stage by disclosing and the Chief Minister had earlier on given an under-

taking to consult the leader of the Opposition when appropriate.

"Let us keep an eye on the main objectives and I assure the House that the Government will do all it can to arrange for the earliest possible discussion with the Minister of Education, who has incidentally promised to

come here as soon as the budget session is over."

Mr Wong went on to say that the delay in the negotiations had been unforeseen. "Let us hope that when the Acting Minister arrives we shall have a fruitful discussion on the matter."

COUNCIL NEGRI

QUESTION TIME

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Machinda) asked the Chief Minister to urge the Federal Government to consider increasing the grant from \$36,000 this year to the Sarawak Council for Adult Education proportionately with the increasing number of new centres opened by the Council.

The Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan, replied that he would enquire from the Federal Government.

Abang Othman bin Abg. Hj. Moasili (Panas) asked the Minister for Local Government to state whether his Ministry was considering provisions for extending the street lighting service to the immediate areas within K.R.D.C. such as Kampong Gita, 3rd Mile Matang Road and Kampong Pulo across river.

The Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawie replied that the provision of street lighting services was a matter entirely within the competence of the local authority — in this case, K.R.D.C. — within whose jurisdiction the areas concerned he.

Abang Othman bin Abg. Hj. Moasili asked the Minister for Communications and Works if the Government would consider affording the same facilities to Native Taxi operators in Sarawak, as for Malays in Malaya, by way of giving them taxi licences.

Mr Sandom anak Nyuak (All) also asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether the Government had any plan or intention to reserve a certain quota of taxi licences to natives because many major roads have now been completed.

Replying, the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib said that the present policy of this Government was to increase bus services rather than taxi services and to encourage "native" participation in such ventures whenever possible. In the granting of taxi licence, he said, the Land Transport Authority had therefore to make sure that the increase of the number of taxis

on the road would not seriously compete with the established bus services, which, because the large capital, and highly organised set up they required, and of course the larger section of the community depending upon them, ought to be protected from unfair competition.

Native Participation

Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasiliin a supplementary question asked whether the Minister was aware that the Ibans of Binatang area had made applications.

Inche Taib replied that in granting taxi licences a lot of consideration had to be looked into. They had to look into the Land Transport system as a whole. Unless a demand for taxis which would not seriously take away business from bus service the divisional transport authority had the right to consider the problem as they saw fit. He would not interfere unless he saw good reason.

Mr Yong wanted to know how the Minister would get his policy of native participation working as such participation would entail firstly capital and secondly technical know-how.

Inche Taib replied he underlined the word "participation" because he felt native venture in this field must be an active one rather than a passive one.

He added that the Government had not directly taken steps to provide capital because the Government had not got the money for it, but the Government had some arrangement with the C.D.C. by which the C.D.C. was prepared to buy a certain portion of the capital which in due course might be bought by the natives.

On the technical side he was aware that the Natives themselves might not be able to set up organisations as complicated as that required for the efficient running of the bus services.

But for the sake of racial harmony he felt that they should encourage the natives to take part in this organisation.

He said that one Native boy was now being trained in the land transport management and the C.D.C. was also looking for someone who would be prepared to study in the commercial field of land transport.

Mr Stephen Yong then asked whether the Ministry would pay attention to the fact that the policy of encouraging non-Chinese would not mean that the subsidy from the Government for a section of the community would not result in their taking advantage of the assistance for merely as a means of making profit for themselves.

Inche Taib said there was no such subsidy now being granted by the Government. As far as he knew the Government was quite firm that the present bus companies would not be deprived of their rights. But where possible, where there was room for expansion, the Government would encourage the present bus companies to co-operate for the sake of national interest and get in Natives to participate.

Mr Yong then asked the Minister to give an assurance that this policy would not be an excuse to hamper any development of public transport services.

Inche Taib ended by saying that the policy in question would encourage development because bus services depended so much on public goodwill.

Free Education

Abang Othman bin Abg. Hj. Moasili asked the Minister for Local Government whether he was in a position to state when the Federal Government would introduce free primary education into Sarawak, and to a question by Mr Ling Beng Siong (Ind) asking the Minister for Local Government to provide free primary education to the people of Sarawak as soon as possible.

The Minister for Local Government replied that he would reply to the two questions together. He said: "I am not yet in a position to give any date for the introduction by the Federal Government of free primary education in Sarawak.

"In fact, the State Government has urged, is urging and will continue to urge, the Federal Government to provide for abolition of primary school fees as soon as possible".

Mr Stephen Yong further asked if the Minister would inform the House as to whether a date had been decided by the State

Government as to when the system of abolishing primary fees be introduced.

The Chief Minister replying said that the question of abolishing primary school fees had been negotiated with the Federal Government for so long — about a year now — and the negotiations were still going on.

He recently met the Deputy Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak, who told him that he would be sending the Minister of Education to Sarawak perhaps before the end of this year.

At the moment there was nothing to say until they had come to an agreement whether to compromise or to follow the national system of education.

Therefore at the moment he could not give a date as to when primary school fees could be abolished.

Mr Yong then asked for an assurance from the Chief Minister and the Minister for Local Government that Opposition members would also be invited to participate in the negotiations and conferences in the event of the Federal Minister for Education coming to Sarawak as the matter was above party politics?

The Chief Minister gave the assurance asked for.

Financial Aid For The Blind

The Minister for Local Government was asked by Abang Othman bin Abg. Hj. Moasili to state whether the Association for the Blind in Sarawak had been given financial aid under the Social Welfare Grant.

Mr Dunstan Endawie replied that the Sarawak Society for the Blind, as a body affiliated to the Social Welfare Council, was in receipt of an annual grant from the Council. During the current year, the grant amounted to \$21,000.

In a supplementary question Mr Stephen Yong asked whether the Government would sympathetically consider the giving of further grant to the Sarawak Society for the Blind in view of the fact that the association was making a new move trying to help the deaf and the handicapped.

Mr Endawie replied that the increasing of the grant was entirely a matter for the Social Welfare Council to consider in relation to their many other commitments.

Here Mr Endawie disclosed that they had invited senior social welfare officers from Kuala Lumpur to make a survey here but their report was not yet available.

In reply to a further question by Mr Yong

whether he would bear in mind the need for further assistance for the deaf and the handicapped, Mr Endawie replied in the affirmative.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Chief Minister whether he would inform the House what were the qualifications for the conferment of State awards and would citations be given to each previous and future awards.

Replying, the Chief Minister referred to Statute HI of the Statutes of the Most Illustrious Order of the Star of Sarawak.

The matter of citations was one for His Excellency the Governor to decide, he said.

Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze asked the Chief Minister whether it was the Government's policy that the State Civil Service be staffed on racial lines.

The Chief Minister replied: "With the exception of the Sarawak Civil Service and the Sarawak Administrative Service, there is no policy which is in any way restrictive as far as recruitment to the State Civil Service is concerned.

"As this House is well aware, and as the Honourable Member himself who has asked this question is well aware, there has been since 1952 a quota on the intake into the administrative services, and this is still preserved. It applies on entry only and not on subsequent promotion".

In a supplementary question, Mr Yong said that he asked this question as a result of the answer given by the Prime Minister of Malaysia that the system now prevailing might be changed with the concurrence of the State Government.

He therefore asked for assurance that that system would not be changed.

The Chief Minister replied that there was no intention to change the system.

C.M.'s Jamaica Trip

To the State Financial Secretary, Mr Sim Kheng Hong asked how much State Funds had been spent by the Chief Minister on his trip to Jamaica to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Meeting and how was it spent.

Replying the State Financial Secretary said: "May I refer the Honourable Member to item 15 of Command of 1964 which was tabled in this House at the previous meeting in connection with the Supplementary Supply (1964) (No. 4) Ordinance, 1964.

"That item provided an explanation for a supplementary provision of \$6,000 for Head S. 24 Miscellaneous Services Subhead 05-1, Ex-

penses of Committees and Conferences. Of the \$6,000, as stated in Command Paper, \$1,300 was to meet expenditure (part cost of passages and hotel accommodation) connected with the visit of the Chief Minister to Kingston in Jamaica to attend the 1964 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

"The actual expenditure is not yet available until the accounts are received. Other than the part cost of passage and hotel accommodation, the Chief Minister is of course eligible to claim subsistence allowance as laid down in Sessional Paper No. 5, of 1963. Payment of this allowance will be met by his Department's Transport and Travelling vote.

"I am given to understand that the Chief Minister has not yet submitted a claim for his allowance".

Mr Yong then asked whether the sum of \$1,300 was part of the cost of the passages and hotel accommodation outside Jamaica and whether this sum was covered by the supplementary vote which was referred to by the State Financial Secretary.

Mr Pike replied, quoting from page 8 of Command No. 15 of 1964 that a further sum of \$6,000 was required to meet the following expenditure; \$1,300 to meet expenditure connected with the visit of the Chief Minister to Kingston in Jamaica to attend the 1964 Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

In other words, \$1,300 was requested out of that \$6,000 for this purpose, said Mr Pike.

The C.P.A. provided for the cost of air passage to Kingston and back by the most direct route, but additional funds were required to provide for the route variation which the Chief Minister followed. In addition the Jamaican Branch of the C.P.A. paid for all expenditures within Jamaica.

So a further additional sum was required to cover the cost of accommodation outside Jamaica.

Penghulu Jinggut asked the Minister for Local Government whether the Government would undertake to provide fire extinguishers for the people in the rural areas and, if so, when can it be implemented.

The Minister for Local Government replied that funds were available for the provision of simple water-pump type fire-extinguishers for rural communities and, at the moment, such equipment was on order for supply to the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions.

Mr Yong in a supplementary question wanted to know whether or not provisions were made in the 1965 Budget for the cost of all the extinguishers, and if so how many ex-

tinguishers would be provided to rural dwellers,

Mr Yong also wanted to know whether any member of the rural community could apply for a fire extinguishers and obtain one.

Here the Chief Minister interposed and said that the cost of the fire extinguishers would be heavy but one must not assume that every longhouse door would be supplied with

Longhouse Loans Scheme

The State Financial Secretary was asked by Penghulu Francis Umpau whether the Government would consider introducing a Longhouse Loans Scheme open to applicants who could offer security in the way of land planted under the Rubber Planting Scheme, and Penghulu Jinggut asked whether the Government would provide loans for housing to the people in the rural areas and, if so, when.

Replying to the questions of Penghulu Umpau and Penghulu Jinggut, the State Financial Secretary said: "The Government has established two Corporations concerned with the provision of loans for housing. The first of these is Borneo Housing Development Limited which was jointly established by this Government and the Sabah Government, together with the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

"The Company has been in operation since 1958 and has, during that period, lent a very considerable sum so that its mortgage asset is now worth some \$20 million. The company has gradually extended its area of operations from the capital town of Sarawak to the other large towns of Sarawak and may, as time goes by, one hopes be able to extend its operations still further.

"The Government will enquire of the Company what the prospects are of lending for housing in the rural areas, but I would not hold out to Honourable Members the hope of achieving such extension at an early date.

"The other Corporation established by the Government which is interested in this field is the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation. This Corporation was established primarily as an agency to provide agricultural credit and its available funds must be predominantly concentrated upon the needs of the fanner and the fisherman.

"The Corporation does, however, envisage making loans available for housing in rural areas and envisages doing so whether for individual houses or, in appropriate cases, for longhouses.

"It is probable, however, that the Corporation's operations in the field of housing must be concentrated upon the provision of housing loans in the RPS 'B' areas.

"In such Schemes it is envisaged loans of up to \$2,000 may be made available and this would be in addition to the grant of \$500 per settler for housing which such Schemes envisage. The extent to which loans can be provided for rural housing in areas outside these Schemes turns entirely upon the question of the funds available to the Corporation".

The State Financial Secretary went on to say that he understood that the demand for agricultural credit at present foreseen by the Corporation was such that funds were unlikely to be available for housing in areas other than the RPS 'B' Schemes.

However, should it turn out that that demand for agricultural credit had been over-estimated, "I understand the Corporation would be prepared to take a fresh look at the possibility of lending money for housing in other areas," he said.

Difference In Interests

To a supplementary question by Mr Yong, asking the State Financial Secretary whether he could state why the interest was different for the housing loan, the rubber planter paying 10 percent and others-six percent, Mr Pike said that he understood that the Corporation's credit was made available at an economic cost that can be managed. That meant where a project could afford to pay more than the absolute minimum, it would have to do so.

The belief of the Corporation, he understood, that in the rubber scheme the project as a whole can bear an interest of seven percent whereas with some other crops for which the Corporation lends money, they are more marginal, and it is doubtful whether it would be possible for them to pay as much as that.

The State Financial Secretary was asked by Mr Chan Siew Hee how much revenue from Sarawak State had accrued to the Federal Government since the formation of Malaysia up to date and what was the estimated amount for 1965.

The State Financial Secretary replied: "Sir, the actual revenue figures for 1964 will not be available until early next year. The revised estimate of federal revenue from Sarawak for this year, however, is \$56.9 million. The estimated federal revenue from Sarawak for 1965 is \$55.16 million. It may be of interest to the Honourable Member to

know that the revised expenditure to be incurred by the Federal Government in Sarawak this year is estimated at \$113.3 million including grants to the State Government and development expenditure but excluding military expenditure.

"Of that sum, \$70.3 million is recurrent and \$43 million is development expenditure. The estimated total federal expenditure in Sarawak for 1965 including grants to the State and development expenditure is \$159 million, according to the Draft Federal Ordinary and Development Estimates which are still under discussion in Parliament. The sum is made up of \$94.4 million in the ordinary Estimates and \$64.6 million in the Development Estimates".

Mr Chan Siaw Hee continued to say that he wanted to know the reason for the "big increase" of the total Federal expenditure for next year in comparison with this year's.

Mr Pike replied that this question should have been put in another place and not in this House. He would, however, make one point for clarification and that was the figures he gave for expenditure for this year are revised estimates whereas the figures \$159 million for next year was what one sought appropriation for, it was not necessary to expect to spend all that you sought sanction for.

Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili asked the Minister for Local Government to state whether Government would afford facilities by way of educational grants under the Turtle Trust Fund to students of Muslim Religious Schools in Sarawak so as to enable them to continue their studies at the Muslim College, Klang.

The Minister for Local Government: "I do not find question entirely clear.

"The expenditure of Turtle Trust Funds is a matter entirely within the competence of the Trustees appointed under Section 4(i) of the Turtle Trust Ordinance (Cap. 109) and not a matter over which government exercises control".

Pipe Water For Rural Areas

Replying to a question by Penghulu Jinggut anak Attan as to whether the Government would provide piped water supply for the people in the rural areas and, if so, when, the Minister for Communications and Works said that the Government policy on water supply was clearly set out in paragraphs 218 - 221 of the 1964-68 Development Plan and no change in that policy was envisaged.

Large sums would be appropriated for the provision of water supply to new Land

Development Scheme Villages and provision was also made in the funds for minor rural projects for the provision and improvements of smaller supplies in longhouses and kampongs.

He went on to say that loan funds would also be made available where the existing rural settlement could meet the cost of an economic supply.

Mr Stephen Yong also asked whether Inche Taib could inform the House if the time had not come for the local authorities to take over the functions of the Water Board.

"Inche Taib replied the two Water Boards were doing quite well and he did not think that they would like to be anybody at the moment.

Abang Haji Abdulrahim bin Abang Haji Moasili (Panas) asked the Minister for Communications and Works if he would extend the water supply to Siol Kandis and Samariang villages.

The Minister for Communications and Works: "I refer the Honourable Member to the answer which I gave to a similar question on 24th September, 1964, Kuching Water Board has included in its second five-year development programme 1964-68 comprehensive schemes for the extension of piped supplies including the areas in the Kuching Rural District referred to by the Honourable Member.

"The implementation of these schemes is dependent on the Board's ability to obtain loans from sources outside Government. The Board is still negotiating with the Commonwealth Development Corporation for the necessary loan and if obtained there is no reason why these schemes should not be implemented. I cannot, however, give a definite undertaking as far as Siol Kandis and Samariang villages are concerned".

Mr Sim Kheng Hong asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether ferry fare could be waived for Kuching Rural District Council trucks transporting materials for maintaining and improving Matang Road.

Replying, the Minister for Communications and Works said that at present only Government vehicles and one Red Cross ambulance were exempted from paying ferry fares. It was not the usual practice for Government to charge itself for the use of small services.

The ambulance was exempted as an act of charity for the sake of sick persons. Other statutory bodies and the Armed Forces were not exempted and it was not proposed to change that policy.

Abang Othman also wanted to know

whether Inche Taib was aware that in Malaya all the various services were exempted from paying ferry fares.

Inche Taib replied he was well aware there were six crossings in the Federal road. The situation in Sarawak was different and further more the State was subsidising the ferries by granting \$150,000 a year.

Abang Othman then wanted to know whether the Minister would try to seek clarification from the Federal Government.

Inche Taib replied there was no necessity for it.

State Not Bound By Local Council By-Laws

Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether it was the policy of the Government not to submit Government building plans to Local Councils having town planning functions.

The Minister for Communications and Works replied that the State was not bound by Local Authority By-laws. However, as a matter of courtesy, it was Government's policy to submit all drawings and plans to Local Authorities vested with Town Planning functions for the information of the local authorities.

Replying to a question by Mr Ling Beng Siong as to whether Borneo Airways Limited would amalgamate with Malaysian Airways Limited so that the public would be provided with a better service and if so, when, the Minister for Communications and Works said: "The negotiation for merger has reached its final stage now and a proposal is currently before the shareholders meeting. It is definitely the wish of this Government that the two Airlines should merge to provide one national Air System and if things develop as we expect, merger may take place on 1st April, 1965.

Mr Stephen Yong also asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether he was in a position to inform the House that in the event of the merger on amalgamation, the fare charged at present by Borneo Airways would be brought down to the level expected of ordinary airline.

The Minister replied that one of the aims under which the merger was envisaged was to reduce fares and one of the stipulations which he obtained from Malaysian Airways was a standardisation of all fares throughout Malaysia which in effect would bring about reduction of fares.

Mr Ong Kee Hui enquired of the Minister whether he would consider introducing an element of competition which might achieve the same purpose, that is reducing the air fares.

The Minister pointed out that the standards of safety of an airline must be kept at a high level, and said that he would not like an air company, because of financial difficulty, being forced to reduce its standards of safety.

Penghulu Francis Umpau asked the Minister for Communications and Works when would the Government start constructing roads from Kanowit to connect Julau Road/Durin Road so that the land along the road could be used for cultivation and the rearing of animals in order to increase the source of income of the people in Kanowit.

The Minister for Communications and Works replied that the present allocation for road construction under the 1964-68 Development Plan had been fully committed as could be seen from pages 126 and 127 of the Draft Development Expenditure Estimate for 1965. The plan was drawn up in strict adherence to the present policy contained in our Development Plan, i.e. largely on the recommendations of the Divisional Development Committee. '

Bitumen For Feeder Roads—Not Govt. Policy

As there was no known land development scheme along the proposed Kanowit/Julau/Durin Road, and as no priority had been made by the Third Divisional Development Committee for that road, that road had not been included in the present Development Plan period.

The proposed should first be considered by the Divisional Development Committee and if it was accepted by that body it would receive consideration by the State Development Planning Committee, he said.

Mr Sim Boon Liang asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether his Ministry would expedite the Bitumen surfacing of the roads between Mukah and Oya.

In another question, Mr Stephen Yong asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether road construction and building equipment bought by the Government, if not utilised by the Government, could be made available to local authorities which required the same.

The Minister for Communications and

Works: "As Plant and Equipment are purchased by Government for specific development projects, all items are usually committed to the development programmes which are currently implemented.

"There may be occasions when, while waiting for reassignment, these plant and equipment can be made available for other works. On such occasions, requests from Local Authorities to use these plant and equipment are usually acceded to, in accordance with long established procedure of permitting plant and equipment to be so used by local authorities on hire basis.

In a supplementary question, Mr Stephen Yong wanted to know, appreciating that the State Government building plans could not be objected to structurally or from the health point of view, would the Government be prepared to make it a standing regulation to submit such plans to the local council on the town planning aspect for approval?

Inche Taib replied it was Government's policy to submit such plans.

Mr Yong: Do we take it then that the decision of the local council, having two planning functions in this respect, its view prevails on the intentions of the Government in this regard?

Inche Taib: The submission to the local council was a matter of courtesy and for information, not for approval.

Mr Yong: Would the Minister take upon himself the duties of an arbiter in the case of any dispute. In the case of conflicts whose views would the Minister take?

Here, the State Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, interposed to say that it was always the policy of the Government to attempt to bring its plans into line with the requirements of the local authority. As far as he was aware Government usually regarded it as falling within the requirements of the town planning legislation.

Concession To Local Authorities?

Mr Ong Kee Hui then asked the Minister whether he was aware of instances where there were conflicts on this point where the local authority was embarrassed when the Government decided to go forward with the structure which did not comply with existing town planning regulations.

Would it be possible for the Minister to ensure that in all such cases he would, on representations by the local authority go into it before the building is actually put up.

Inche Taib assured Mr Ong he would do

so.

In another supplementary question, Mr Yong wanted to know whether the Minister would make concessions to local authorities who were poorer so that the hire charges sought could be waived.

Inche Taib replied that he would not like to consider it off hand. If there was any really befitting case it could be submitted for consideration.

Replying, the Minister for Communications and Works said that the total length of the Mukah/Oya Road was approximately $15\frac{1}{4}$ miles. Of that distance, a sand-cement stabilised base with bitumen seal coat had been provided to $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road. The remaining $7\frac{3}{4}$ miles consisted of sand-filled formation with a grassed verge and on this section deviations were at present being constructed to provide a better road alignment. There was at present no provision in the Development Programme for constructing a base and bitumen seal to this $7\frac{3}{4}$ miles of road the estimated cost of which would amount to the order of \$400,000.

He went on to say that at present, it was not the policy to provide a bitumenous surface for feeder roads.

Mr Sim Boon Liang also asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether his Ministry intended to construct a Public Wharf at Dalat for the use of Motor Launches similar to the one at Mukah.

In his reply the Minister for Communications and Works said that the proposals for the construction of minor wharfage included in the 1964-1968 Development Plan were based on the submission of the Divisional Development Committees and as the Third Divisional Development Committee had not accorded priority to the construction of a wharf at Dalat at the moment, the work had not been included in the present plan.

The Ministry, he said, was of course always prepared to consider any suggestions put forward by the Divisional Development Committees.

The Minister for Natural Resources was asked by Mr Sim Boon Liang what measures had been taken by his Ministry to quicken agricultural development especially in allotting land for sago planting to meet the needs of the people of Mukah, Dalat and Balingian.

In his reply, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Teo Kui Seng, said: "I am not aware of any problem in the allocation of land for sago cultivation. In the first half of 1964, 727 titles were issued for 5,570 acres of sago land. Since 1946 to the end of 1963, 56,500

acres have been alienated for the cultivation of sago in the Third Division. The real demand for sago land in the Third Division has been met through the normal channels.

Sago Industry

"Government is fully aware of the depressed condition of the sago industry. A report on this industry in the Mukah/Oya District has been made by Dr H.S. Morris recently and is under study by the Government.

"Agricultural Development in the area in question is extremely difficult, since the whole region comprises a narrow sandy coastal strip backed by very extensive peat swamp broken only by very narrow alluvial plains along the banks of the Balingian, Mukah and Oya Rivers.

"The peat is, generally speaking, too deep to drain and therefore cannot be developed. The sandy coastal belt although low in fertility can be planted with coconuts provided heavy applications of fertiliser are used, and it was with such conditions in mind that fertiliser subsidy was introduced as an element of the Coconut Planting Scheme in the 1964-68 Development Plan.

"The most important areas agriculturally are the alluvial plains but these represent a very small percentage of the total area and are in any event to a greater or lesser extent planted with sago. These alluvial plains are well suited to padi planting and whenever possible every effort is made to introduce the Assistance to Padi Planter's Scheme.

"These areas can also be used for off-season cash cropping which can contribute greatly to the economy of the area.

"The Honourable Member may be interested to know that there are at present 16 Assistance to Padi Planter's Scheme totalling 855 acres, and 11 Coconut Planting Schemes blocks totalling 2,069 acres being developed in the Oya, Mukah and Dalat areas."

Penghulu Francis Umbau asked the Minister for Natural Resources whether the Government would consider a better distribution scheme for fruit budgrafts so that every district could get equal shares of the distribution, because the fruit trees destined for Kanowit seldom arrived at that district.

Mr Teo Kui Seng explained that the fault lay, not with the system of distribution, but with the means of production. The Agricultural Station operating at Rantau Panjang in the Third Division to date has, by reason of the low-lying nature of the land, proved a poor producer of fruit budgrafts.

He continued: "Thus in 1963 a total of

1,309 budgrafts was issued while in 1964 the figures was 1,151; of these, however, 235, or 16 percent, were issued to Kanowit District in 1963, and 157 or 14 percent, were issued to Kanowit in 1964. Having regard to the needs of the other eight Agricultural Districts in the Division, it is a fair proportion.

"Currently a new Agricultural Station is being opened on the Oya Road to serve the needs of the Division. This Station will be operational in 1965, whereupon it will be possible to implement the Agricultural Department's Fruit Production scheme in the Division, and the production of budgrafts will then be substantially increased.

"In addition recent advances in the method of propagation offer prospects of speeding up the production of such plants."

Rubber Planting Schemes

On the implementation of the Rubber Planting Scheme, Penghulu Francis Umbau asked the Minister for Natural Resources to clarify the present Government stand on the implementation of the Rubber Planting Scheme in 1964 as only 400 out of not less than 2,000 applications for participation in the scheme in Kanowit District were approved and would the Government state what it proposed to do with the rest of the applications.

Mr Teo, replying, said that he would like to correct the figures quoted in the question. "My records show that in the Kanowit District 926 applications representing an area of 2,775 acres were made in 1964 for the 1965 planting. The figure of 2,000 applications is therefore quite misleading," he said.

The Minister continued: "The Rubber Planting Scheme 'A' is designed and financed to plant a total of 50,000 acres of rubber in the Development period 1964-68. Of this total, Third Division has so far been allocated almost 25 percent of the total for the five-year period namely 12,000 acres. The total approved acreage for the 1964 planting in the Third Division was 4,995 and of these 799 acres were for the Kanowit District i.e. 16 percent of the total.

"For the 1965 planting 4,120 acres have been approved for the whole Division and Kanowit has been allocated 346 acres i.e. eight percent of the total. The acreage approved for planting in Kanowit District for the first two years of the 1964-68 Development period therefore represents 12.2 percent of the total allocations for the Division, which, in all fairness to other

Districts, is slightly more than its proper proportion of the Divisional total.

"Since there are nine agricultural Districts in Third Division, a fair allocation of acreage per district would be roughly 11 percent or 1,320 acres.

"It is appreciated that applicants in Kanowit District had to be refused entry to the Scheme in 1965 and this is also the case in many other Districts. It is hoped, however, that those persons turned down for 1965 will, subject to their land being suitable, receive first consideration for admission to the Scheme for 1966.

"I would like to mention here that in the last two years i.e. 1963 and 1964 a total of 1,643 acres of approved planting in the Upper Rejang area of Third Division have been cancelled in account of poor maintenance and breach of the RPS 'A' Rules and of these 860 acres are in the Kanowit District."

In a supplementary question, Mr Stephen Yong asked the Minister whether these districts were equal in size and whether the population was equal, if not he said, the population must be equal to the size of the area.

Mr Teo replied that all these factors had been taken into consideration by the Divisional Development Committee.

Mr Ong Kee Hui then asked if in view of the large demand from Kanowit some alternative arrangements could be made to satisfy their needs.

Mr Teo pointed out that he had mentioned earlier that the Advisory Board had decided to increase next year the RPS 'A' by 10,000 acres.

The Question of Acreage

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Minister for Natural Resources whether he would increase the present minimum acreage of ten acres to planters who participated in the Coconut Planting Scheme to whatever acreage that might be reasonably undertaken by individual planters.

Mr. Teo Kui Seng replied that it was assumed that the question referred to the maximum acreage which an individual may plant under the Scheme and not the minimum

"A maximum of ten acres per applicant is stipulated under the Coconut Planting Scheme in order to ensure that the benefits of the Scheme are spread over the country as a whole and enjoyed by the greatest possible number of people," he said.

He went on to say that the question of maximum acreage permissible was constantly under review and should it at any time be found that it was possible to increase the maximum acreage to more than ten across and still satisfy all the demands from the public then he would certainly look closer into the question of increasing the maximum acreage for which subsidy could be paid under the scheme.

Referring to the same subject, Mr Yong, is a supplementary question asked Mr Teo to confirm whether ten acres of coconut estate could be an economic unit for an average size family of four to five persons.

Mr Teo replied that according to his records a holding of ten acres by a family of about six persons would give a gross income of something like \$350 per month.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen then asked whether the ten acres of coconut estate mentioned were all good land, and Mr Teo replied that the gross income of \$350 had been calculated on well maintained good land.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Minister for Natural Resources if he would disclose to the House the Government's policy with regard to giving forest concessions to the present saw-millers and to new applications and under what conditions could their licences be cancelled or withdrawn?

Replying, the Minister for Natural Resources said that the forest concessions were given to applicants after consideration of the answers they gave to the questions which were contained in a form of application for forest area.

The questions referred to are as follows:

- i) give full details of investigations carried out in the forest area;
- ii) give full details of previous experience of extraction with tractors or other mechanical logging equipment;
- iii) state what mechanical equipment he intends to use for road building and timber extraction;
- iv) give plans for working the area, with proposed roads or railways, rafting points, etc. and proposed scale of operation;
- v) state how the main timber species in the area will be utilised and what use will be made of logs that are merchantable but unsuitable for export owing to hollows or other defects or because the species is not saleable abroad;
- vi) state capital available for the project;
- vii) give details of marketing and shipping organisation and business associates

- overseas!
- viii) give details of expatriate technicians required and proposed arrangements for recruiting and training local personnel to replace them;
 - ix) put forward proposals for training natives for various jobs in the company.

The applicant must also demonstrate his intention of commencing work within 30 days of the date on which his licence is issued and the licence is liable to cancellation if the requisite number of tractors are not working in the area within a specific reasonable number of months from the date of issue of the licence.

Licences must be limited companies registered in Sarawak.

All licences for the exploitation of timber produce are controlled by timber licences issued by the Forest Department. These licences issued by the Forest Department contain numerous clauses. The Conservator of Forests with the approved of the Minister for Natural Resources may terminate the licence by three months' notice in writing if a licence fails to comply with any of the provisions and conditions of the licence.

However such severe action is only likely to be taken for a serious breach of condition and is in practice very rare indeed. One such cancellation took place in 1958 as a result of a conviction in Court for serious offences under the Reimin Order, Forest Rules and Customs Ordinance.

Mr Yong in a supplementary question asked whether the Minister were aware that the present sawmill had applied for forest areas and there had been cases of discrimination.

Mr Teo replied that the forest areas applied for had been submitted for the consideration of the Conservator of Forests and was finally decided upon by the Supreme Council. Therefore he was not in a position to make any further comments.

Mr Yong then asked whether Mr Teo would be able to enlighten the House as to whether there had been discrimination in the allocation of forest areas to sawmillers.

Mr Teo replied that he was not aware of any case of discrimination and if there were any complaints it should be submitted in writing and he would look into the matter.

The Reason For Having Two Secretaries

Mr Chan Siew Hee asked the Chief Minister why was it necessary for the Chief Minister to take with him two secretaries

including his personal political secretary to attend meetings in Kuala Lumpur.

The Chief Minister replied and said that the two secretaries referred had entirely separate functions. One was a public officer in the true sense of the term and deals with normal Government business as far as he was concerned. The other was a Political Secretary and dealt with the political side of the Chief Minister's work.

"When I go to Kuala Lumpur I can never be certain just what may crop up, and on nearly every occasion there has been good reason to take both secretaries. There have been occasions when I have only taken one or the other," he explained.

Mr Chan Siaw Hee further asked whether the Chief Minister would not incur a lot of unnecessary expenditure by taking two secretaries to attend meetings in Kuala Lumpur.

C.M.: "No".

Mr Chan then asked whether the Chief Minister was aware that there was an additional provision of the sum of \$30,000 in the Supplementary Estimates for expenditure for 1964 in connection with the travelling expenses incurred by the Chief Minister and his two secretaries.

The Chief Minister replied that he had every right as head of the Government to take along two secretaries or more to Kuala Lumpur or any part of the world.

The Chief Minister went on to explain that when there were only political matters to be dealt with during his visits he brought his political secretary only but when he was not sine what matters would crop up then he brought along two secretaries.

Mr Stephen Yong then asked whether the Chief Minister did not think it wiser to ascertain what matters he would be required to deal with before his departure.

After a short argument Mr Yong and Mr Chan sought an assurance from the Chief Minister that he would not, in future, take two secretaries without first ascertaining the nature of the business he would be required to attend.

The Chief Minister, after further heated exchanges between Mr Yong and Mr Chan, replied that he would not be able to give such assurances before hand as several unscheduled matters crop up very often during his visits to Kuala Lumpur.

Mr Stephen Yong asked the Chief Minister at whose request that he went to Sabah to be a mediator in the internal squabble between the ruling party there and

what is the result of his mediation.

Replying the Chief Minister said that he was grateful to the Honourable Member for asking that question. "I proceed to Jesselton recently at the express invitation of all the three political parties which constitute the Government of Sabah. As far as I can judge, it seems that any mediation which I was able to perform has, in fact, been a success," he said.

In a supplementary question, Mr Yong asked whether the Chief Minister could inform the House whether the Sabah Government would pay for the trip in gratitude for the successful trip.

The Chief Minister replied that he had not received from the Sabah Government that they would pay for the expenses incurred.

Sabah Govt. Grateful

Here the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, interposed to say that one would not expect payment for helping a neighbour in trouble.

Mr Yong then asked on a point of order that the Deputy Chief Minister should not speak when the Chief Minister had been asked questions.

He said he only wanted to know whether good deed rendered had been appreciated.

The Chief Minister then replied the Sabah Government was grateful for the services rendered but they did not express any intention to pay for expenses incurred either in Sabah or Kuala Lumpur.

Mr Stephen Yong went on to ask the Chief Minister whether the Government would require all ministers to declare the interests in business or firms whatsoever and wheresoever held directly or indirectly in their names or in the names of their wives.

In his reply the Chief Minister explained that the Government did not intend to require more than was demanded by the provisions of Article 9(2) of the State Constitution, which read as follows:

"(2) A member of the Supreme Council shall not engage in any trade, business or profession connected with any subject or department of government for which he is responsible and shall not, so long as he is engaged in any trade, business or profession, take part in any decision of the Supreme Council relating to that trade, business or profession or in any decision likely to affect his pecuniary interests therein."

The Government satisfied itself that these provisions were observed at the time

Ministers took office and had no reason to believe that these provisions were not still observed.

Mr Stephen Yong then asked if the Chief Minister would not consider to require the Ministers to declare their interests as a matter of policy.

The Chief Minister replied that it had nothing to do with Mr Yong. If he had any accusations against any Minister he was at liberty to make his accusation either in the House or direct to the Government.

The Chief Minister was asked by Mr Leong Ho Yuen to what extent was autonomy on Education exercised by the State Government that would ensure the introduction of free primary education to Sarawak which was long overdue.

The Chief Minister replied that the extent of the State's autonomy on the subject of Education was given in paragraph 17 of the IGC Report — Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1963 and also under Item 13 in the Federal List — Annex A to the Report.

It was not clear, the Chief Minister said, what the Honourable Member's question meant, but it must be remembered that the abolition of primary school fees would cost a substantial sum of money which could only be found by a painful increase in State taxation.

Discussion on Free Primary Education

Mr Stephen Yong also asked the Chief Minister how many formal meetings had been held between the State and the Federal Governments on the question of introducing free primary education to Sarawak and whether he was in a position to state, and if so, what conditions had been demanded by the Federal Government.

In his reply the Chief Minister said that formal and informal exchanges had taken place between the State and Federal Governments on that issue, both at ministerial and professional level, in the course of which there had been a useful exchange of views on the issues involved. "The Minister for Local Government has been to Kuala Lumpur to meet the former Minister of Education and Ministry officials have been to Kuching to meet members of the Education Department," he said.

"I cannot at this stage disclose any details of discussions already held. We shall have further discussions and I have already indicated that I am prepared to consult the Leader of the Opposition when appropriate," added Datu Ningkan.

Mr Stephen Yong asked the Chief Minister would the State Government abandon the safeguard on education contained in the Inter-Governmental Committee Report as the price of accepting the introduction of free primary education to Sarawak, to which the Chief Minister replied:

"I cannot say at present what exactly will be the line which this Government will adopt. It would be unwise to do at this juncture and it is by no means clear that any abandoning of safeguards will be involved.

"We must wait until we get an opportunity of further discussion and we must also wait to hear what else the Federal Minister of Education has to say. I do, however, give an undertaking that I shall be glad to consult the Leader of the Opposition on this subject at the appropriate time."

PenghuluJinggut asked the Chief Minister to state, in view of the fact that both Singapore and Sabah have State Houses in Kuala Lumpur, whether Sarawak would also built its own House in the Nation's capital and, if so, when it would be completed.

The Chief Minister replying, said that application was first made to the Federal Government for a suitable house, to be known as Sarawak House, in Kuala Lumpur just over a year ago in October 1963. Since then, he said they had been unfortunate in the series of events, which followed. The Sarawak Government was, very soon after that date, October 1963, offered an excellent site in the vicinity of the Prime Minister's Office which had on it an old Government house which could had been demolished to provide for a new one being built.

"Unfortunately this site covered a hill which was required by the Federal Government for earth fill, and the offer was withdrawn. The hill and house have since disappeared," he said.

The Chief Minister continued: "We were next offered a suitable building in the form of the residence of the former Indonesian Ambassador.

"It was thought advisable to proceed warily on this, and while we were making further enquiries the kitchen quarters to this building were burnt down. It subsequently became apparent that it would be most unwise to take over, or to attempt to take over, a building which proved to belong to the Indonesian Government.

Sarawak House

"There have been two proposals which involved buying a house and land in the open

market. The price in both cases was considered to be unwarrantably high.

"The Federal Government has indicated that we can hope to qualify for a site which would be very suitable in an area which is known as the Diplomatic Enclave, but we have been warned that it may take some time before arrangements in this direction could reach any finality.

"An enquiry is currently being made about a site which believed to be vacant in the Kenny Hill area. We shall await the Federal Government's reply on this, but it may prove necessary, if we are to get Sarawak House built reasonably soon, to accept the fact that we shall have to go out into the open market and pay substantially more money."

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Chief Minister if he would disclose to the House how many new expatriate officers had been recruited to work in the Sarawak Civil Service since Malaysia Day and how many to each department.

Replying the Chief Minister said that to give a clearer picture, he would divide the number of new expatriate officers between those who had been recruited since Malaysia Day on indents which were despatched before Malaysia Day and those expatriate officers who had been recruited on indents despatched since Malaysia Day.

The Chief Minister went on to say that the number of induced expatriate officers who had arrived in Sarawak since Malaysia Day in respect of indents issued before Malaysia Day was as follows:

STATE DEPARTMENTS: Public Works — 7; Agriculture — 5; Forests — 2; Total — 14.

FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS: Government Analyst, Analytical Laboratory— 1; Medical — 7; Education — 1; Constabulary—2; Posts and Telecommunications — 1; Total — 16. OVERALL TOTAL - 30.

Dato Ningkan added that induced expatriate officers who had arrived in Sarawak after Malaysia Day in respect of indents issued after Malaysia Day were as follows:

STATE DEPARTMENTS: Public Works— 16; Treasury— 1; Lands & Surveys— 1; Total — 18.

FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS: Medical—5; Education — 1; Geological Survey— 1; Legal — 1; Judicial— 1; Audit— 1; Constabulary— 3; Marine— 1; Total—14. OVERALL TOTAL — 32.

Those Recruited Since Malaysia Day

There were in addition some non-induced expatriate officers recruited since Malaysia

Day. These are officers whose homes are, for example, in Hong Kong or India.

STATE DEPARTMENTS: Agriculture — 1.

FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS: Medical — 1.
OVERALL TOTAL — 2.

It may be of interest that there are still a number of outstanding indents waiting to be

filled. These are as follows:

STATE DEPARTMENTS: Public Works — 17; Agriculture — 6; Forests — 1; Lands & Surveys — 8; Total — 32.

FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS: Medical — 8; Education — 5; Geological Survey — 1; Judicial — 1; Constabulary — 7; Total — 22.
OVERALL TOTAL — 54.

Mr Ong Kee Hui asked the Chief Minister whether the State Government will recommend to the Federal Government to make payment of adequate compensation to farmers in the Controlled Area who lost their personal belongings as a result of the enforced absence from their homes during the curfew hours.

The Chief Minister in reply said that he would pass the question to the Federal Government, and added, "Much as I sympathise with those who have lost belongings as a result of a curfew I am not prepared to make any recommendation that the Federal Government pay *ex-gratia* compensation, either in this case or in other cases where losses or inconvenience have been suffered

through curfews."

Thefts In Controlled Area

Mr Chong Kiun Kong asked the final question of the session. He asked the Chief Minister whether he was aware that thefts of property such as pepper and other crops and livestock were still occurring in the Controlled Area in the Kuching Serian Road and whether he would seek information from the Federal Government what steps were being taken to protect the people against such thefts.

The Chief Minister said that he would pass the question to the Federal Government.

COUNCIL NEGRI PASSES SUPPLY BILL

The Council Negri last week passed the Supply (1965) Bill, amounting estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1965, amounting to \$49,111,317, after full discussions.

The Opposition member asked questions on more than 250 items. These questions

lasted nearly four hours during which more than 700 questions were asked and answered.

The council also passed the Development Estimates for 1965 contained in Command Paper 18 of 1964: this amounted to \$31,025,085.

"I DEPLORE SUCH ACTION..." —SPEAKER

The Speaker of the Council Negri, Dato (Dr) M. Sockalingam, in the Council Negri last week said he deplored the action by certain members of the House in giving to the press copies of questions they sought to ask before those questions had been admitted by him.

Even though the Standing Orders contained no provision prohibiting that, it was, in his view, a breach of parliamentary etiquette, he said.

"I would remind Honourable Members as

well as the Press that the publication of questions, motions or speeches before they have been actually asked, moved or delivered in the Council is not privileged, and should any such publication contain libellous matter, they are liable to be prosecuted by the injured party. There is absolute freedom of speech in this House but such privilege does not go beyond the four walls of this House. I do hope that Honourable Members will forthwith cease such practice," he said.

SESSIONAL SELECT COMMITTEES

The following members were re-nominated to the various Sessional Select Committees — (of the Council Negri):

House Committee

The Speaker of Council Negri (Chairman); Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud (Minister for Communications and Works); Mr Dunstan Endawie anak Enchana (Minister for Local Government); Mr Ling Beng Siong; Mr Leong Ho Yuen; Mr Charles Linang; Mr Racha Umong.

Public Petitions Committee

The Speaker of Council Negri (Chairman); Mr James Wong (Deputy Chief

Minister); The State Attorney-General; Penghulu Tawi anak Sli; Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze; Abang Haji Abdulrahim bin Abang Haji Moasili; Mr Mak Yau Lim

Committee of Privileges

The Speaker of Council Negri (Chairman); Awang Hipni bin Pengiran Annu; State Attorney-General; Penghulu Jinggut anak Attan; Abang Haji Abdulrahim bin Abang Haji Moasili; Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze; Pengarah Storey anak Ngumbang.

Public Accounts Committees

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Chairman); State Financial Secretary; Mr Kadam anak Kiai; Mr Sim Boon Liang; Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili; Mr Dagok anak Randen, and Penghulu Tawi anak Sli.

COUNCIL NEGRI: ADJOURNMENT SPEECHES

January 3 to January 9

IMPORTANCE OF RACIAL HARMONY STRESSED

The importance of racial harmony in the plural society was stressed by members of the Council Negri in their adjournment speeches during the third session of the Council Negri.

Speaking on "racial unity" Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp), said he wholly supported and welcomed the call for racial unity made earlier, by the Governor, in his address.

Mr Chan said racial harmony and racial unity were of great importance in a plural society.

He continued: "Without racial unity there can be no prosperity and peace in the country. It is so vitally important to the people of all races. It is only right to say that those who intend to destroy it should be regarded as traitors or being disloyal to this country.

"History, experience and reality of our daily life constantly prove that in a multi-racial country racial unity is a prerequisite for social progress and peaceful life. Besides this prerequisite there are other conditions. Our country is a practical example of a multi-racial one. The population of the main races are nearly in equal ratio. Every one should remember this existing fact, especially Persons who are active politically. Thus any speech made concerning the racial problems

should be a cautious one.

"From fact we can see that racial problems are always made use of by persons with ill intentions and thus become the main issues in political struggle. Narrow-minded racialsists always instigate to rouse high feelings of racialism as a means of gaining their political ends. We strongly condemn and oppose any one who employs this means in order to crush their political opponents.

Playing With Fire

"This is because the idea of narrow-minded racialsists are entirely contrary to our ideas of racial unity. Racial feeling is a sensitive thing. When roused it can cause the loss of prudence and clear thinking. Consequently trouble will come. Thus people playing with racialism are playing with fire. They entirely forget the welfare of our country. More serious still is the combination of racialism with political power, because when such time comes we shall never have a peaceful day. We can see this going on in a number of countries.

"If any one wishes to create division among our people by this means to strengthen his political power, we must be ready to con-

demn this dangerous act. In the past the colonialists used "divide and rule" method as a means to rule us. They exaggerated the difference in educational advancement and economical advancement among the races. They further emphasised that the difference in education and economic advancement was due to the domination of one race over the other, who are comparatively backward. This kind of talk was aimed at dividing our people and causing ill feelings. Conscientious people should strongly condemn this type of instigation because it is disastrous to the unity of our people. Unfortunately this type of dangerous talk is now repeated by some thoughtless people. I want to give the warning that if they do not stop such a talk they will have to face the serious problems of racial disharmony.

"Recently we heard of a type of anti-Chinese talk. Some people made speeches grossly accusing the Chinese as not being loyal. I want to point out that the contribution made by Chinese in social advancement is an undeniable fact and is visible. Chinese loyalty to our country should never be suspected. Only persons who have practically no knowledge of Sarawak History and the hardwork of Chinese will suspect the loyalty to Chinese. The childish speeches of narrow-minded racialists are undoubtedly a stumbling block to our unity and social advancement and prosperity. I hope that any speech which jeopardises the traditional racial harmony should never be condoned. If any person talks loudly about racial unity and at the same time utters speeches of racialism, his intentions would be questionable.

"I want to emphasise that the relation among our people has been harmonious, and co-operation among our people is strong. We are proud of this. It is our duty to promote this excellent tradition. Any speech or action intended to cause ill feelings among our people, any act of racial discrimination, should be totally suppressed. Then we shall be able to strengthen unity of and co-operation among our people. In view of the above it is important that people of all races in this country should be kept vigilant at all times, so as not to allow provocators of racial ill feeling to have any chance to succeed in their tricks. In order to achieve this, people of all races must do their best to foster racial unity in the following ways:

- (i) To have a closer link between the races in respect of social activities and even in the field of business enterprise;
- (ii) To eliminate total suspicion and fear of one another among the various races

through the building up of better understanding;

- (iii) To show respect to one another in the matters of religion, creed, language and culture; and
- (iv) To relinquish the idea of racial superiority".

Abhor Racialism

Speaking next, the Chief Minister said:

"May I take the opportunity to congratulate the Hon. Member of the Opposite side (Chan Siaw Hee) for his excellent speech on Racial Unity. I earnestly hope that he abide by his statement.

"One of the main objects of the Sarawak Alliance, as clearly stated in its Constitution, is to promote and maintain inter-racial goodwill and harmony and to protect the rights of minorities.

"In building our Malaysian nation, racial unity is indeed of paramount importance. I am glad that this is also recognised by the Hon'ble Member on the other side.

"In his speech to this House on Monday, His Excellency the Governor made an appeal to this country. He said:

"Whatever the cost may be we must all abhor racialism. We must cut it out at the first sign of its rearing its ugly head. You have been what irreparable harm has been done by the sudden inflaming of a communal feelings a few months ago in a neighbouring State,

"We in Sarawak have hitherto been mercifully free from such dangerous passions, and I assure you that it is the intention of the Government that we shall continue to be so free. There will be a fair deal for all races in Sarawak, and the Government binds itself to stand by such an undertaking, with particular reference to the safeguards in this respect provided for in the London Agreement."

"Mr Speaker, Sir, temptations are strong for some politicians to harp on certain racial subjects so as to cater to the base instincts of some particular race or community, without much regard for the feelings of other races.

"Often-time they do so, even without any regard to their own conscience. For instance, some of the most outspoken critics of English-medium schools, have themselves benefitted from English

education and are sending their children to English-medium schools. Such people are not honest to themselves, nor are they honest to the people they claim to represent. It is my sincere hope, Sir, that all our political leaders, irrespective of whether they are in the Opposition or otherwise, will resist the temptations to play on racial feelings.

"We in Sarawak have a history of racial tolerance".

A Dynamic Concept

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, said that the subject of racial harmony had been brought up in Council quite often, and it did seem that both sides of the House realised the importance of racial harmony in Sarawak and Malaysia.

Inche Taib said that the very fact that Malaysia was striving to preserve its own identity in what was originally a Malay area spoke powerfully for the sincerity of those who wish to preserve its own identity. He said that the Malaysian leaders were working towards a dynamic concept — a concept of progress and democracy based on a plural society.

This, Inche Taib said, should be nourished and nurtured so that it could continue to contribute to the existing racial harmony. However, this was not enough: they should also guard against the impact of outside politics and ideologies which might split the unity of Malaysians.

The duty of all Malaysian, Inche Taib said, was to build good will between all races. Everyone should realise that it was not only the duty of the Government but the bounden duty of each and every Malaysian.

Touching on the recent racial disturbances in Singapore, Inche Taib said, that one of the factors which caused it was the difference in economic status between the various races. He added that as long as there were difference in economic status between one race and another there was bound to be dissatisfaction and a feeling of inferiority by the race which was economically weak.

Continuing, Inche Taib said, the Chinese particularly had a greater role to play in allaying any feelings of suspicion by other races, he added the Chinese were a very intelligent race and their role in Asia could be compared with the role of the Jews in Europe. The Chinese in Malaysia would eventually assimilate themselves with other races as the

Jews had done in Europe. He added that the Chinese should emulate the Jews and become a really dynamic force in the building of Malaysia.

The Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong who spoke next said that he objected to the comparison between the Chinese and the Jews and added that he would however like to share the views expressed by Mr Chan Siaw Hee "for once" in connection with racial unity.

He exalted leaders of all races to set an example and to practise what they preach. He said that the Chinese leaders especially had a great responsibility in this respect and their assimilation of Chinese with other races in Malaysia.

"There is no earthly reason why all the races in Malaysia should not become assimilated if the respective leaders bear in mind that we are all now one nation in Malaysia," Mr Wong said, adding "if you remember this then half the battle is won".

Council then adjourned when the Chief Minister addressing the Speaker wished him on behalf of the House a "Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year" and thanked him for his valuable service and able guidance.

The leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui also associated himself with the sentiment expressed by the Chief Minister on behalf of his colleagues.

The Speaker thanked the members of their kind wishes and wish those who had come from afar a safe returned journey to their respective homes.

Multi-Lingualism Inevitable

Earlier, Mr Sim Kheng Hong, spoke on the subject of multi-lingualism in Sarawak. He said that in a country with a polyglot population such as ours, multi-lingualism was inevitable, but with a strong tradition of tolerance and goodwill between the races here, multi-lingualism in Sarawak, like its multi-racial society, provided interesting contrasts and harmonious variety.

He said: "Multi-lingualism has always existed in this country but it has never become a problem to national unity. It has never before even become a subject of dissident voices such as have recently been raised from time to time under the convenient guise of promoting interest in the national language. To my mind every newly independent nation has the right to give itself new identity by substituting the language of its past masters

with its own. There is no quarrel with that. But the process must be both gradual and voluntary".

Mr Sim continued: "I think that Malay can still be taught in schools of all medium of instruction even as compulsory subject but it would be a mistake to demand of all schools that examination should be conducted in that language. In my view, the present media of instruction i.e. English, Malay, Iban or other different language or Chinese being used in different schools throughout Sarawak should be retained for as long as the people themselves wishes to be taught in their own language or a language of their choice".

National Language Interfere

Mr James Wong, the Deputy Chief Minister, said that Mr Sim had spoken at great length on multi-lingualism in Sarawak's plural society.

He added that Mr Sim appeared rather frightened about the demand for the introduction of the National Language which he said would interfere with the multi-lingualism

which he advocated and which he said should be encouraged and practised in Sarawak.

Mr Wong said that he would like to draw attention to the fact that there were provisions in the London Agreement that English could be used as the official language for a period of ten years. He pointed out that there was no intention on the part of the Sarawak Government to breach in any way that agreement.

On the question of multi-lingualism, advocated by Mr Sim there was no question of stopping anybody for using their own language, said Mr Wong. He however added that there was merit in learning the National Language, now that they were all in Malaysia.

He said: "It will be advantageous for us and for our children. This point has been commended time and time again by various leaders in Malaysia".

Mr Wong went on to say that learning to speak the Malay language better should be the object of each and every Malaysian as it was the lingua franca of Malaysia. "There is no reason why we should speak bazaar Malay when we can learn to read and write and speak Raja's Malay," concluded Mr Wong.

COUNCIL NEGRI

THE SUPPLY BILL—DEBATE

Speaking on the Bill, moved by the Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan, Mr Mak Yau Lim said:

"In order to raise the standard of living of the rural people who form the majority of the Sarawak population, Government has introduced the Rural Development Schemes since last year. With the help of the Federal Government, the State Government should have achieved much in helping the rural people in various aspects.

He said that as the rural people depended very much on land or on agriculture produce, the best way to help them was to open up more land for them to farm and encourage them to take part in the various Development Schemes such as Rubber, Coconut and Padi Planting Schemes.

"I notice that many rural people including some of the farmers or planters do not yet have land to farm or plant. Although they are anxious to participate in the Rubber or Coconut Planting Schemes which would

benefit them, but they were debarred from doing so, as they possessed no land.

"These were the people that Government should pay special attention to i.e. help them to acquire land so that they could make use of it, and earn their living on it, he said.

He continued: "Broadly speaking, Sir, the rural people are generally backward as compared with those in the urban areas, it is therefore appropriate and justifiable that the rural people be given more Government assistance particularly to those who participate in the various Development Schemes, and also to those who are willing to help themselves.

"In the big towns today, we can see all sorts of facilities provided such as grand hospitals, health-centres, excellent communications, good water-supply, electricity and so on. There is no doubt that the town folks are happy with them. Whereas in the rural areas or in the outstations, things are entirely different, as the people there can

never expect such facilities. This could be the reason why many people wish to be in the urban areas, and do not like to remain in the outstation or villages.

Provide Rural People With Simple Facilities

"If Government really have the intention of helping the rural people or those in the outstations to improve their way of life, it is best to provide them with the simple facilities such as roads, water-supply and electricity which are very helpful and essential to them. I think, they will be quite happy, and grateful to Government if they are just provided with these.

"According to Government's plan, more Secondary Schools will be built next year including one in the Fifth Division. I hope that construction of these schools will begin early so that they will be completed in time and ready to open in January 1966 as scheduled. Furthermore, the staffing of these schools should also be planned ahead to avoid future inconvenience.

"I've occasionally visited both Government secondary schools in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, and come to know that the students of these two schools are doing quite well. Tribute should be given to the Principals and teachers of these schools for their devotion and hard work, particularly to those who come from other Commonwealth countries to assist us in Sarawak".

Mr Racha Umong asked when would electricity supplies be provided in Lawas Bazaar, Fifth Division. He said that many other places had not been provided with this facility.

"We in Lawas are urgently in need of proper town planning so that we will know where our District Council building, our market, and churches are, for we have the money ready for these projects long ago," he said.

Mr Dagok anak Randen, supporting the Bill said that most of the Local Authorities in the country were too young to stand on their own feet. But in spite of being young, they played very important role in the Government. "The Government should trust the Local Authorities at heart, as they have shown and proved in the past that all the grants paid to them were wisely and properly spent," he said.

Speaking on the question of "Remuneration for District Councillors," he said that the District Councillors were very active and willing to play their part in all

activities, but it was a pity that they could not devote their time very much, because they were not given fixed monthly allowances as those District Councillors in the Malaysian States.

He hoped that the Government would give a very serious consideration on the question of giving fixed monthly allowances to district councillors. He also suggested that a fixed monthly entertainment allowances should be given to village headmen, tuai rumahs, tua kampungs, and kapitan chinias, as these people are playing vital part in the country, linking the people and the Government, especially in giving information about the security of the country and also defending their Local Adat or Law, in order to secure peace, harmony, and prosperity of the country.

Mr Dagok also said that the Land Dayaks were very "happy and grateful" for the appointment of a Land Dayak Temenggong.

Deficit

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp), observed that it was a very unsatisfactory state of affair that there was still a deficit of \$5.29 millions appearing in the Estimates for 1965.

"Everyone will realise that if a country is under this circumstance of having heavy deficits every year, it means that the country is not being governed on a sound and healthy basis. It is also not a sound solution by adopting the method of increasing taxation in order to meet the deficit. As we know, by doing so, the burden of the people would no doubt be aggravated," he pointed out.

"In a country where a government is working towards the well being of the people, it should try its best to consider ways and means to reduce expenditure as low as possible, and on the other hand to increase revenue through the receipt of revenue from state owned enterprises or industries. This could be feasible if the Sarawak Alliance Government is willing to do so," he added.

Mr Chan said that the presentation of the budget (1964) did not give the people the feeling of a bright and optimistic future as big amount of deficit would undoubtedly occur in the ensuing years. "Unless there is a big slash taken on most of the items of Expenditure Heads, the people of Sarawak would have to be ready to tighten their belt, as the increase of State taxation is a matter of time. At this juncture, I feel that it is necessary to point out that how could the people of Sarawak be expected to improve effectively their standard of

living when they are facing heavy taxation, such as the new taxation system proposed by the Federal Government, for introduction soon into this country. So, before the people are actually achieving the stage of higher standard of living it is futile for anyone to propagate that we are already living in a prosperous and happy country," he concluded.

Mr Kadam Kiai, speaking next, strongly urged the Public Service Commission "to exercise the good judgement, based on the circumstances, in awarding the scholarship to the candidates bearing in mind that the special privileges had been embodied in the Constitution." He supported the Bill.

Mr Ong Kee Hui made some general observations on the budget. He pointed out that the budget, as presented to the Council was in fact a reflection of the changed status of Sarawak as a State within Malaysia and with certain of the powers which used to be vested in the State even in the days of colonial rule now taken over by a federal authority.

"Hon'ble members therefore would find certain heads of expenditure such as education, medical and health and constabulary and defence to mention a few no longer appear in the Estimates which are now submitted for the approval of Council," he said.

Mr Ong said that in his presentation of the budget the Chief Minister had pointed out of the large scale of expenditure which the State had to budget for in 1965 as a large portion of this expenditure was on development and also pointed out that but for the fact that Sarawak was now part of Malaysia, and large part of this expenditure were therefore derived from federal funds, Sarawak would not be able to embark on development on such a large scale.

Promised In London Agreement

He continued: "This point, I think, is accepted by all those who understand Sarawak's financial circumstances, but I feel that it should, at the same time, he pointed out that even prior to Malaysia a Development Plan for Sarawak has been drawn up which was to have cost a sum of some \$150 million. As Malaysia was presented to the people of Sarawak as a means of achieving accelerated development it was therefore considered by those who had to advise the Government of the day on matters of national policy that the only justification for Sarawak becoming a State within Malaysia rather than becoming

an independent state naturally with the consequent inferior status and reduced power vested in the Government would be if it means not only the end of colonial rule, but a rapid rise of the standard of living for the people. This was what the people wanted and this is what had been promised under the London Agreement. The Government therefore will be failing in its duty if it is unable to secure for the people of this country what had been pledged for them.

"The other point I wish to make is that any developing country achieving independence has to pass through a difficult phase when it has to finance expanding social services and to finance economic development which is necessary to take care of the recurrent cost of expanding social services.

"In some countries, which are more fortunate, such expenditure could be made out of recurrent revenue, but most countries who are not so fortunate have to raise loans for this purpose.

"In the case of Sarawak, we have in the past been able to meet economic development and expansion of social services out of surplus balances. Naturally, the pace at which this can take place was determined by our "available resources. The fact that we are able to provide for a faster pace for both development and expansion of the social services is the justification for our entry in Malaysia. I made this point because it must be considered that by being a State in Malaysia that we are accepting charity. We are in fact getting what we are entitled to under agreements which were entered into the component States of Malaysia. The fact, as the Chief Minister stated, is the Federal Government has not been grudging the State the vast sums of money as provided for in the Estimates as part of the federal expenditure augurs well for the future.

Mr Ong submitted that in the case of any nation which was undergoing a period of rapid economic development it was inevitable that national spending should exceed national income and we should therefore not be unduly pessimistic about the future.

"What is really important is that we should ensure that the vast sums of money that are being spent or will be spent in the next few years will achieve the objective, the results aimed for and get the terms that we expect in the form of increasing the revenue and national income.

"Unless this happens of course at the end of five years when our development funds have been spent we should be in dire straits.

"That there is justification for a more

sanguine outlook is supported by the figures which the Chief Minister himself quoted for our national income for the years 1961 to 1964. He estimated that the national income between 1961-1964 has increased from roughly \$408 million to \$455 million, indicating that the gross domestic productivity has increased at the rate of just under four percent per annum during this period," Mr Ong said.

Basically an Agricultural Country

Saying that Sarawak was basically an agricultural country where more than 80 percent of our population was engaged in subsistence farming, he pointed out that nothing but a drastic re-orientation of our form of farming would achieve the rapid economic growth which was so necessary to meet the increasing cost of expanding social services.

"This would not only call for more roads, more schools, more dispensaries, better cadre of agricultural extension workers but to require the ability of the Government to rally the people to greater efforts in the farming of agricultural productivity," Mr Ong observed.

"I gather from my recent tour of the United States of America that the reason why U.S. is so prosperous today is due to startling fact that it takes only 18 percent of the population to feed not only the whole nation, but to produce a surplus of agricultural produce which is distributed to many needy countries in the world today. And we think that 18 percent of a population only grows sufficient for barely 60 percent of our requirements in rice we have some idea of the magnitude of the task that lies before us to achieve a standard of living comparable to the more advanced countries in the West," he said, adding, "It is only by realisation of the magnitude of the task that lies before us that we can be spurred to greater efforts in the years to come."

Mr Leong Ho Yuen said that he found it difficult to agree with the Hon'ble Chief Minister that we owed a debt of gratitude to the Federal Government for its contribution to the Development expenditure in this State, for one of the conditions under which we joined Malaysia was that the Federal Government should share the expenditure required to implement the Development Plan, the final draft of which was accepted at the first session of the National Development Planning Committee at which the Deputy Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak, was present.

The Federal Government was therefore

under obligation to undertake to discharge its part of the bargain but the Hon'ble Chief Minister again chooses to lead the people to think that this obligatory contribution on the part of the Federal Government is a donation," said Mr Leong.

He said that it was apparent that the State Government had not been able to obtain what we had bargained by joining Malaysia. "For although the State Government boasts of its being able to make a more accurate prognostication of our prospective revenue, it does not seem to possess the ability (or the courage) to persuade the Federal Government to base the escalating grant accordingly. Consequently, we are not given what we should be given. In short, the Alliance Government has allowed itself to be harnessed to tread on the difficult and thorny path which is not of our own choice," he said.

Mr Sim Boon Liang, supporting the Bill, pointed out the sincere intention of the Alliance Government to assist the people of Sarawak in the development and towards the governance of their own affairs to ensure that all the races may have a fair share and a fair opportunity in the affairs of the State.

Keep Watchful Eye On Govt. Spending

Mr Chong Kiun Kong said that they of the Opposition had the responsibility to keep a watchful eye on Government spending to ensure that our limited financial resources were used to the best advantage.

He said he hoped that the money would not be spent on some pet schemes of any particular ministry or spent on "prestige of any kind or another, which brings no real benefit to the people of Sarawak, which inevitably adds a tax burden on them because it was the public's money that was spent".

Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili, said the Development Plan was not properly timed. He stated that he welcomed the post of Deputy State Secretary.

Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau said that since Malaysia, Sarawak had enjoyed much progress in the field of agriculture and other development covered by the Development Plan launched by the Government. It had affected the rural people favourably and being one from the rural area, the Temenggong said that he was very glad to hear of such progress.

He said that when conditions in Borneo had returned to normal, Sarawak would be the most advanced country in Borneo. He

hoped that all the peoples in the country would co-operate with the Government in order to further advance the progress of the State.

Speaking on the debate on this Bill, Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) said that they must rally on the call by His Excellency to abhor racialism, as it not only served no useful purpose but could be very destructive. He went on to say that they must not only maintain racial harmony, but rather to further foster it.

Turning to the budget, Mr Yong said there was a deficit but they must think of the best way of raising revenue without increasing taxes and also if possible to reduce expenditure. To increase revenue they must increase production. Regarding rubber, he said the world prices were unfavourable and there was competition with synthetic rubber. However, the Federal Government was trying to introduce a stable price for rubber. In connection with timber exports, he said that these were left entirely in the hands of individuals and to their own desires. The Government must try to find the best markets for this produce and sell the idea of using hill timber.

Regarding the granting of forest licences, Mr Yong urged the Government to be as fair as possible bearing in mind the requirements and rights of existing sawmills. It would be an act of folly to issue new forest licences to new operators without having regard for the needs of the existing ones. On the subject of pepper he asked why research into pepper diseases took so long. He wondered whether the slowness was due to lack of apparatus, machines, laboratory, personnel or funds. He said that the success of finding out the causes of pepper diseases would not only mean a boom for Sarawak, but it would save a lot of heartbreak.

Pepper, Sago, Mineral Resources

He advocated that steps should be taken to encourage more use of pepper. If a bigger consumer market for pepper could be found, then the price would be more stable. He said the Government ought not put the blame for the low prices for pepper on producers for producing more pepper, but should do something to stabilise the prices. Perhaps some ways could be devised whereby pepper prices would not be manipulated by brokers in London or New York.

On the question of sago, Mr Yong suggested that ways and means be found to reduce production costs and to find more

market for this commodity and find more land for the planting of sago.

Regarding mineral resources, Mr Yong said that when one type of mineral resources was exhausted, steps should be taken to survey for more resources. He urged that every encouragement be given to individual prospectors, and certain rights be promised them for their labour.

On the question of utilisation of land, Mr Yong said: "I hope very much that the Development Scheme is aiming towards the goal otherwise the land would be put to bad use. He referred to the thousands of acres of swampy land along the Rejang River which apparently he idle, and which I am told is very suitable for wet padi. This has been bome out because during the Japanese Occupation this area had been planted with padi and people had lived on the harvests of this land".

He went on to ask why this land was not used for this purpose as Sarawak had to spend so much money for the import of rice into this country. This was a matter we must look into,

He knew that Government was not proposing new taxation. This was some consolation though a little one because we had new Federal taxes imposed on us. It would be quite impossible to impose further taxation on Sarawak in view of the taxes already imposed by the Central Government.

On Local Government Mr Yong said that the Government policy on the matter of giving Local Councillors allowance had not changed. He appealed in the same spirit and with the same argument put forward by the Deputy Chief Minister for increasing the entertainment allowances for Ministers, that Councillors would be compensated for the time they spent on council work. He said that he was advocating the case on the matter of principle.

Government speakers included the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud; the Minister for Local Government, Mr Dunstan Endawiei the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong and the Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Teo Kui Seng.

The Chief Minister in his winding-up speech said:

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I begin by congratulating the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition on a very constructive speech and also other members of the Opposition who spoke constructively as well and who included most welcome assurances of their continuing their opposition in the best traditions of democratic practice. I regret some Hon'ble Members opposite were not so constructive, but the less

said here the better.

The reflections on Members of Parliament and Alliance backbenchers which were referred to by the Leader of the Opposition on the subject of education are out of place. I have already made it clear that as far as this Government is concerned we shall achieve more in unity than continuing political sniping on this issue. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition appreciates this point.

Magic Formula For Growing Rubber

On development generally, it seemed that the Hon'ble Member from Batu Kawa might even refer to him as the Hon'ble Towkay from Batu Kawa was under the impression that everything could be achieved in a year. Development, particularly agricultural development, takes time, and nobody has yet found a magic formula for growing rubber and bringing it into production in one year. It is, therefore, not surprising that there is not more to be seen on the ground. However, if the Hon'ble Member would stir himself from Batu Kawa or Kuching he would see more remarkable progress which has been made at Triboh beyond Serian and other rubber development schemes elsewhere in the country.

The Hon'ble Member also referred to lavish entertainment. He appeared somewhat obtuse in his inability to understand what I said on this subject which is, I would say, perfectly clear. The State, in any case, has not gone in for any lavish entertainment and as far as possible large-scale entertainment has been avoided.

On some occasions it has been impossible, and it would have been entirely out of place, to have cut out large-scale entertainment altogether. For example, I am quite certain that the people of Sarawak wanted to entertain Their Majesties the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Raja Permaisuri Agong in the best possible way.

It seems that these objections to public entertainments come from a relatively small minority, and to judge from the speech of another member of the Opposition, entertainment allowances are being sought for a whole number of Native officials. On this issue I will have the matter examined. As far as I am aware, it is possible for Native officials on certain occasions to receive assistance in entertainment. This is already done, but I can offer little hope of there being much expansion in this respect. However, I am sure

that an entertainment allowance is not, as the Hon'ble Member seems to suggest, a suitable way of rewarding the loyalty and brave conduct of the people of the border areas who have been subjected to attacks by Indonesians.

The provision of Native officials for 1965 includes, as you have seen, four Temenggongs. It is my intention to recommend to His Excellency the Governor that one of these posts be filled by a Land Dayak, but I cannot give any undertaking when this appointment will be. It will, I assure the House, be in the near future but it certainly cannot be by the 1st January 1965.

One Hon'ble Member criticises the inclusion of provision for a Political Secretary. Such provision was, in any case, made in 1963 under Secretarial Allowance. It is a perfectly normal practice to provide for Political Secretaries from Government funds. It is done by the Federal Government and, as far as I know, by nearly all the other State Governments. Here again, we are modest in our provision, paying less than is paid elsewhere, and at the same time restricting ourselves to one Political Secretary only, whereas in Sabah I believe I am right in saying there are at least two. On this issue I regret I beg to differ and the Government begs to differ with the views of the Hon'ble Member.

I was unable to understand exactly what the same Hon'ble Member meant on the subject of salaries for Ministers. He seemed to suggest that they should not be paid at all. I must take this opportunity to emphasise that the Ministers in Sarawak are the lowest paid in the whole of Malaysia. I would, in fact, be surprised if the same Hon'ble Member makes less a month than they do. He probably gets more. I suggest he is a comparatively rich man.

Money Improperly Spent?

There was a reference to not infrequent differences of opinion between the Federal and the State Governments. This is not surprising. What is however necessary is to see that differences of opinion are reasonably and amicably resolved. This is one of the many reasons why frequent meetings between Federal and State Ministers and officials are highly desirable, and I intend that these, if anything, will be more rather than less frequent. Misunderstandings can frequently be avoided by discussion and every effort must be made to bring Ministers and officials together as much as possible in

these earlier stages of Malaysia.

Nor was I able to understand what the same Member meant by it being more important to see that a job was done rather than money spent. He appears to imply that money which this House has approved for a project is being improperly spent. If he has any evidence of such malpractice, it is his duty to bring it to the Government's notice as soon as possible.

Returning to the economic and financial aspects of the speeches made by members on the opposite side of the House, I must first congratulate the Hon'ble Member the leader of the Opposition on the quality of his comments, which were up to the usual high standard that this House has come to expect.

In particular, I welcomed his recognition of the magnitude of the task ahead. Listening to the easy criticisms of some other members, one fears there is less understanding of the realities of life. One Hon'ble Member, who I might refer to as a supplementary member for Kuching, — Mr Speaker would no doubt rule me out of order if I called him "supplementary Stephen" — suggested that it was not sufficient to show that in monetary terms the target for development expenditure this year had been reached. He did not, however, suggest any other means of measuring achievement by which the results could be presented to this House. We use money terms because they are the most convenient measure. In the same way we use the national income statistics to show how the standard of living is rising, and the figures I have quoted show that over the past four years it has been rising.

The leader of the Opposition himself used these figures in an attempt to show that we are not bankrupt country depending on outside help. He said that the fact that gross capital formation amounted to 18 percent of the gross domestic product was a proof of this. But he ignored the point I made in my budget speech that over half of that gross capital formation was in the public sector, and that capital investment in the public sector must largely be financed by the Federal Government. The leader of the Opposition also pointed to the fact that before Malaysia we had a Development Plan of \$150 million. That is quite true. But what he failed to point out was that that Plan was completed last year, that it was largely financed from our reserves and that those reserves in the process have been very heavily run down. He suggested that this situation might be met, were we independent on our own, by borrowing. He must be aware that the expenditures proposed in the

Development Plan although concentrated upon economic projects designed to raise productivity, and hence the general level of living, include substantial expenditures on the improvement of social services.

Good Manners Hurt No-One

I am surprised that, as a Banker, he should think projects of this sort could be financed by loan funds. He must know that a great deal of aid in the form of grants is also required. It was suggested by another Hon'ble Member that such grants would readily be forthcoming from the developed countries, were we independent on our own. Sir, this seems to me an extraordinarily casual approach to such vital matters. When we were under British control, and therefore in a position where we could expect first call on British aid, we received considerably less by way of outside help than we are receiving within Malaysia. I do not dispute the claim of those who argued that this was one of the conditions on which we entered Malaysia. The fact that it was a condition does not make Federal action in this respect any less generous, nor does it render it unbecoming for me to express the gratitude of the people of this country for that generosity.

Good manners hurt no-one and help to secure constructive relationships. The leader of the Opposition has expressed the hope that this spirit of co-operation will continue in the years ahead. I am confident that it will, but bad manners would not help it to be so.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the fact that our imports are growing faster than our exports, to the fact that we are spending more than we earn, and suggested that at this stage of development any nation would be in such a situation. He suggested that I was overstating the argument that without Malaysia we should be in dire economic straits. I would remind him that I said that the deficit on the balance of trade was one indication of this fact. There are plenty of others, for example the fact that public sector expenditures in Sarawak this year are some \$78 million more than revenue, without taking into account defence expenditures. The Opposition in all its arguments, appears to assume that without Malaysia no defence expenditure would be necessary. In the context of this dangerous modern world of South East Asia, I find that attitude incredibly blind.

Both the leader of the Opposition and the Hon'ble Member sitting on his right drew particular attention to the need to raise

agricultural productivity. The leader of the Opposition by contrasting our farmers with those of the United State of America, particularly pointed out the magnitude of the task before us. Let me assure the House that the raising of agricultural productivity is the main aim of the Development Plan.

The Hon'ble Member, Mr Stephen Yong, expressed doubts whether rural living standards would be raised merely by giving amenities to rural people, and I am glad to see such realism on the other side of the House. He pointed out that electricity and water supply services must be paid for by the consumer, and that the people must be enabled to earn more so that they could do so. This exactly expresses the philosophy embodied in the Development Plan. It explains why the grants for rural water supplies and rural electricity supplies are concentrated in the land development scheme areas. In those areas we seek to change the farmer from the old wasteful methods of extensive cultivation over to the new and more highly productive intensive methods of cultivation, so that he will have a better income and will be able to pay for the amenities in those areas. This is the answer to the request of one of the Hon'ble Members from the Fifth Division who seemed to think that electricity supplies should be provided in every village in the Ulu Trusan. Such an approach would be quite unrealistic.

Water Supplies

I have not been able to get the full details on rural and village water supplies but the House can be assured that more is going ahead in this sector. The figures I have been able to get so far show that there are 30 village schemes in hand in the First Division and 15 in the Fourth Division. One must be realistic: we cannot for example afford to spend say half a million dollars on a kampung water supply for example Awat Awat but much more can be done in other villages in terms of an untreated supply if the people concerned are prepared to provide labour free of charge with the Government providing the materials — that is Gotong Royong. I suggest that this matter of village water supplies be re-examined in some divisions starting at the district level.

On the general question of development expenditures in the Fifth Division, the Hon'ble Members from that Division may be interested to know how generously they are already being treated. In 1964 it is expected that development expenditure per head in that Division will amount to \$220 compared

with an average for the State of about \$65. The Fifth Division is therefore on average receiving three times more than its population justifies. I do not think therefore that it can justifiably complain of being neglected.

The provision of amenities must be related to raise productivity. To divert funds from raising productivity to the mere provision of amenities would truly bankrupt the country and fulfil the fear of the Supp that they would have to take over a State with no reserves and no economic growth. But we do not intend that they should take over. The Alliance Government intends to see that there is economic growth, and provided it succeeds I do not think the Supp need worry about having to take over.

The Hon'ble Member representing Machinda suggested that the increased diversification of the economy was a result of confrontation. If that is true, it is something to thank President Sukarno for. Certainly in Singapore it would seem that the effect of confrontation on the entrepot trade has given greater impetus to industrialisation. So far as we in Sarawak are concerned, it would be unrealistic not to welcome a decreased reliance on our old low-yielding rubber in the context of probable price trends for rubber over the years ahead. The same Member appeared to doubt whether coal could replace bauxite as an earner of export income. He doubted whether there was an adequate market for this coal. I would remind him that the coking coal at Silantek is as good as the best coking coal from the United States. I would remind him that it is there in very adequate quantities. Doubts about finding a market for it appear to be entirely out of place.

The same Member said that the Development Plan expenditures for which authorisation was sought for 1965, namely \$72¹/₂ million, was eyewash. I explained in my budget speech, that this amount was larger than we were likely in fact to be able to spend, and that this amount was provided to give flexibility and to ensure that there was no delay in implementation. I reiterated that our target for actual expenditure on development next year is \$55 million, and that if our growing capacity enables us to spend more we shall do so. He criticised the fact that a lower State funds contribution to the Development Fund is to be made next year, while the bill for personal emoluments was increasing.

I explained in my budget speech that the reduction in the State funds contribution implied no slowing down of the pace of development, and that this was purely a

technical matter stemming from the agreed division of financial responsibilities between State and Federal Governments. On the question of personal emoluments I gave an assurance that all departmental requests for additional staff had received the most rigorous examination.

Investments Are Savings

While that increase may provide additional employment opportunities for our school leavers, it was not approved for that purpose, but because we must have additional staff to carry out the Development Plan. The same Member claimed that the Alliance Government had done nothing for us but sell off our investments. Our investments are our savings. For what better purpose can they be spent than to improve the level of living of this country? Those savings were built up in good times when we did not have the capacity to spend them. Now that we have the capacity this is the time to use them.

The Hon'ble Member, Mr Chong Kiun Kong, expressed surprise that in 1965 there is to be a deficit of some \$5 million. He therefore seems to think that we should leave our investments sitting in London instead of using them for our own development. As I explained in my speech, there is not a deficit on current account. Quite the contrary; there is a surplus on current amount and we are holding down recurrent expenditure so as to free more funds for development. The deficit arises entirely because of this need to proceed with development and, as the Hon'ble leader of the Opposition has correctly recognised, is perfectly normal for a country at this stage.

The Hon'ble Member for Panas talked about towkays coming like colonialists to the farmers. It is precisely because this Government recognises the need for rural credit that it has strengthened the organisation and expanded the funds available to the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation. As the years go by, that Corporation will make an increasing impact in this field.

But I am surprised that My Hon'ble friend Mr Chan Siaw Hee in talking about red tape in getting loans, should apparently suggest that the SDFC should casually throw its money away without proper examination. This was all the more surprising in view of his other remarks on the need for care in public expenditure. The Corporation does not indulge in unnecessary red tape, but must see that it does not impose a burden of debt upon the farmer more than the project can bear.

Were it to do so, then Abang Othman's fear of the farmer getting poorer and frustrated might well become true. My Hon'ble friend, Mr Chan Siaw Hee, also appeared to think the 1965 deficit very unsatisfactory. He too confuses capital and recurrent deficits. He suggested that repeated deficits mean that the country is not being governed properly.

This is in complete contradiction to the view taken by the leader of his party. He suggested that increased taxes were no solution as the people could not afford the additional burden. The State Government at this juncture does not propose any additional burden upon the people. What he appears to suggest therefore, is that expenditure should be cut down so that there is no deficit.

One can only conclude that he does not want any development expenditure to be undertaken and thereby hopes that the people will become dissatisfied with the present Government and turn to his party instead. The people should realise his apparent attitude that he would not spend money on development if he were elected to power. Apart from reducing expenditure, he appears to think that revenue can be increased by State owned industries.

Timber Price

I wonder if he is suggesting that this Government should commence this process by nationalising the Sarawak Transport Company. Does he imply that this Company in the hands of private enterprise is incompetently run, and that it would be better if it were nationalised; or does he imply that it is undertaxed and heavier taxes upon it should be imposed to increase our revenue?

Similarly, my Hon'ble and learned friend, Mr Stephen Yong, appears to suggest that individual timber exporters cannot get good prices for their products and that the Government should step in and organise a marketing board. As a lawyer, he practices free enterprise, as a parliamentarian he preaches socialism. I was under the impression that as a lawyer in private practice, he did not find the rewards unsatisfactory. I would be most surprised if they were as satisfactory in a nationalised legal aid system. I have no reason to think that such nationalisation would work any better in the field of timber marketing. He said that research on our hill timbers was needed. The Government entirely agrees with him. It is for this reason that the Timber Research Centre has been established. It is precisely in order to avoid

leaving things to luck as we did with ramin, that this expenditure is being incurred.

On the question of consultation with officials on tax charges provided for in the IGC Report, such consultation has taken place. The officers consulted by the Federal Minister of Finance were the State Financial Secretary, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and the Regional Controller of Customs and Excise. Such consultation is not political consultation; the officers concerned are not permitted to inform Ministers of what has been said prior to Budget Day. It is technical consultation designed to avoid errors based on lack of knowledge of the particular circumstances of Sarawak.

The Federal Finance Minister made it abundantly clear in his budget speech in the Dewan Ra'ayat — and I quote — "that the purpose of these consultations was to obtain technical, economic and general information and advice. This advice was informed and

very useful, but the final decision on these matters is the prerogative of the Federal Government".

I am informed that as a result of this consultation two proposals for extra taxes made by Mr Tan Siew Sin were abandoned. For that relief much thanks! Evidently the process of consultation on technical points has its value.

On the question of membership of the Malayan Board of Income Tax, I understand the whole membership of this Board is under review, and I have no reason to doubt that there will be Sarawak membership when this review is completed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I find the Opposition views on the budget both confused and contradictory, and I am forced to the conclusion that in their heart of hearts they recognise that financially and economically it is a sound budget, and that the Development Plan is a sound plan. In that spirit, Sir, I commend the Supply Bill to this House.

Council Negri Meets

From May 9 to May 15, 1965

Land Bills Withdrawn

The State Government this week withdrew an important land legislation from being introduced into Council Negri when the State Legislative Council met on Tuesday, May 11.

Announcing the withdrawal of the legislation — the Land Bills — the Minister of Natural Resources, Mr Teo Kui Seng said that it could "never be the policy of the Alliance Government to hurry through legislation that is not properly understood by those who are intended to benefit from it".

He said that such action could only lead to misunderstandings and divisions amongst the people of our State.

In answer to a question by Mr Stephen Yong (Supp), why the Bills were put on the Order Paper to be discussed but only to be withdrawn, the Minister said: "In the opinion of the Government the unity of the country, and its security transcends everything. You must not allow any action which may lead to disunity at this stage. That is the reason why".

The Land Bills are:

- The Land Adjudication Bill
- The Land Acquisition Bill

- The State Lands and Registration Bill

Moving the withdrawal of the Bills, the Minister said:

It is with much personal regret that I move the withdrawal of this important land legislation. The Bills are the culmination of several years of careful preparation and I do not believe that the purpose of any former legislation has been more thoroughly explained to the public.

Most Honourable Members will have attended a meeting of their Local Council at which a former Senior Administrative Officer, Mr A.J.N. Richards, who was a member of the Land Committee, explained what this new legislation aimed to accomplish. Almost all Local Councils accepted the Bills as a step forward on the road to progress.

These Bills are based on the Land Committee Report 1962 which was accepted by this House in March 1963 as Sessional Paper No. 7/1963.

Nevertheless the Alliance Government has reluctantly concluded that there is still a fairly widespread uneasiness amongst rural peoples that any change from the existing

Land Code will in some manner imperil the only solid asset many Natives have, namely their holdings of land.

It can never be the policy of the Alliance Government to hurry through legislation that is not properly understood by those who are intended to benefit from it. Such action could only lead to misunderstandings and divisions amongst the people of our State. Nothing can be more dangerous in these days, when our unity is being tested by hostile forces along our borders and subversive forces within our State, than to allow our people to become divided over a subject so sensitive and explosive as land.

For this reason the Alliance Government has decided that the Bills must be withdrawn for the time being until public opinion is ready for them to be re-introduced. In this I appeal to every member of the House to guard against complacency. It will not do for Honourable Members to return home next week saying to themselves "This worrying land business is over, let's forget all about it now". Sarawak is a rural country and cannot progress unless farmers in the rural areas have three important things — LAND, EDUCATION and CAPITAL. If any one of these three keys to progress are missing, then the individual farmer is frustrated.

Our existing Land Code is out of date and the protection it affords works against the interest of those it is supposed to help. Many farmers without enough capital have land

which they cannot afford to develop, many with money have no land, and much of the difficulty is arising from land laws which are no longer in keeping with our needs.

I would also appeal to every member of this House to ignore any insinuations or rumours that these land bills are framed to deprive a section of the people of the only solid assets they possess.

I have begged Honourable Members not to be complacent. Every year some 17,000 children leave school and the majority of them have no choice but to work on a farm. If we do not put our land legislation in order these young people will become more and more frustrated by lack of progress and opportunity in rural areas. If we sit back and forget about land legislation and deceive ourselves that in some magical way the Development Plan will take care of every energetic young man and woman, then we will be like a sleeping man drifting down the Batang Lupar in a perahu during the period of a full moon.

Suddenly we will be overturned by the tidal bore — benat as it rushes in. Educated young men are in a hurry and will overwhelm us like a tidal bore if rural progress is hindered. Members of this House must be in a hurry too. I ask every one of you who believe in these Bills to go home and convince your people of their importance to the progress of this country.

We cannot delay too long.

COUNCIL NEGRI SAYS 'THANK YOU' TO NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT

The Council Negri this week placed on record its grateful thanks and appreciation to the New Zealand Government for its handsome gift of despatch boxes and letter racks to the Council. The motion, standing under the Chief Minister's name read:

"That this Council places on record its grateful thanks and appreciation for the handsome despatch boxes and letter racks presented to the Council by the New Zealand Government to mark the independence of Sarawak within the Federation of Malaysia and to serve as a token of friendship and goodwill on the part of the

Government and people of New Zealand towards the Government and people of Sarawak".

Moving the motion, Dato Ningkan said: "New Zealand has extended her generosity to us in many ways. This House is well aware that New Zealand has been helping us for many years though the Colombo Plan, economically, educationally and socially.

The Government and people of New Zealand have opened the door of their beautiful country and have given free education to a great number of our scholars. Many of these students have now returned to Sarawak,

bringing back with them to knowledge that they have gained from the donor country, this knowledge which is so much needed by our nation.

"The New Zealand Government has also made available to us virtually free of charge, the services of a number of Government officers with both wide and valuable experience in many fields.

"We are truly grateful for the invaluable work and advice we have had from New Zealanders working in this country in particular with the Education Department, not forgetting the long association in this country with New Zealand in terms of officers, both past and present, in the Department of Lands and Surveys.

"Apart from this, New Zealand has showered upon us grants, equipment and training facilities.

"And recently, as Honourable Members do well know Mr McCready, leader of the New Zealand Parliamentarians, while visiting our country, did assure us that so long as we have problems in this part of the world, New Zealand, as fellow members of the Commonwealth, would stand by us.

"Indonesia has attacked us and New Zealand has indeed stood by us, giving us valuable moral and material support.

"With their help and the help of friends in the Commonwealth, we will triumph over Indonesian aggression no matter how massive the Indonesian Army is.

"Honourable Members, we are grateful to the generosity, warmth, hospitality and understanding of the Government and people of New Zealand. The friendship that has been built between our country and New Zealand is strong, and this friendship, I have no doubt, will grow from strength to strength.

"To go back to the despatch boxes and letter racks I mentioned in my motion, I would like to quote here Mr Speaker's noble words when he thanked the New Zealand Parliamentarians recently at a reception in their honour.

"This gift is symbolic of the very close links which Sarawak, as part of the Federation of Malaysia, has with New Zealand, and it will no doubt strengthen further the bond of friendship which has extended over very many years'."

Gesture Of Goodwill

Seconding the Chief Minister's motion the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui, said that he would like to associate himself with the sentiments expressed.

Although the gifts in themselves, in terms of money, were not very valuable they were a gesture of goodwill from the people of New Zealand to the people of Sarawak.

"It is in that spirit that we receive these gifts and it is in this spirit that we express our appreciation not only for this but also for the many assistance that the New Zealand Government and people have extended to us here in Sarawak, and it is with much pleasure that I on behalf of members on this side of the House support this motion by the Honourable the Chief Minister," concluded Mr Ong Kee Hui.

The following then spoke in support of the Motion: Mr Sim Boon Liang; Mr Stephen Yong and Mr Mak Yau Lim.

Mr Sim Boon Liang said: "Before supporting the Motion, I wish to add further, that during my tour with my colleagues to New Zealand last year, we were very pleased to hear the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr Keith Holyoake, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Arnold Nordmeyer, and their colleagues both Government and Opposition Members at the Parliament House, clearly and strongly supporting our Independence within the Federation of Malaysia.

"They showed great understanding and sympathy towards our cause, and are 100 percent behind us in our present conflict with Indonesia.

"The expressions of support both material and moral which the New Zealand Government and its people had shown us, had warmed our hearts. During the tour to New Zealand, we were amazed at the 'overwhelming hospitality' shown to us by the New Zealand Government and its people.

"Now, we can see the benefits that we have derived from the New Zealand Government's generosity is not only receiving our students for training in New Zealand, but also providing teachers and trainers throughout Sarawak to help in education and development, and not least, the assistance in the military field against Indonesian aggression.

"Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Hon'ble the Chief Minister for his valuable motion put to this House this morning for recording our grateful thanks to the generosity of the Government and people of New Zealand towards us."

Mr Yong's Support

Mr Stephen Yong also supporting the motion, said that he could not doubt the good intentions of the New Zealand Government in

presenting the "very handsome" despatch boxes, "but perhaps thereby implying or reminding us that all these years we have been following a course of parliamentary democracy".

Mr Yong went on to say that it would be a good thing if they adopted that line in the course of our history. "In accepting this present if we can keep alive the spirit of parliamentary democracy it will be a worthy gift that has been given to us," concluded Mr Yong.

Valuable Gift

Mr Mak Yau Lim said: "The valuable gifts of despatch boxes and letter racks presented to our Council by the New Zealand Government is of great significance, as it marks the independence of Sarawak within the Federation of Malaysia and to serve as a token of

friendship and goodwill on the part of the Government and people of New Zealand towards Sarawak and its people.

"Sir, New Zealand has not only given us these gifts, but also assisted Sarawak in Education and other fields such as providing us with educationists and well-qualified teachers to educate our boys and girls in the schools and colleges, and so on.

"It is appropriate that our Council records its appreciation for the generous gifts; and we are also grateful to the New Zealand Government for all the assistance rendered to Sarawak and the people of Sarawak.

"It should also be made known to them that we, Sarawakians or Malaysians, are good friends of theirs, and that we will stand side by side and work together for mutual interests, and for the common good of all".

The Council passed the motion un-animously.

QUESTION TIME IN COUNCIL NEGRI

Mr Dago anak Randen asked the Chief Minister to enquire from the Federal Government whether it would consider paying house allowance to aided school teachers, since their services were also for the good of the people and country as a whole.

The Chief Minister replied that he would ask the Federal Government accordingly.

Mr Sim Boon Liang wanted to know from the Minister for Natural Resources whether the people of Batang Oya would get any share of land in order to participate in the Rubber Planting Scheme 'B' or 'A' along the Sibul/Oya Road when that part of the road from 26th mile to 29th mile (at Stapang in Batang Oya) is completed.

Replying, the Minister said: "Land between 26th and 29th Mile, Sibul/Oya Road lies within or adjoins the block of State land which is known as the Tanggi Block. Government is at present negotiating for the purchase of some small areas of Native Customary Land which lies within the Block.

"The first stages of the Sibintek Land Development Scheme and the Sekuau Group Settlement Scheme have been planned to utilise part of the Tanggi Block and subsequent phases of these Schemes will take up more of this land.

"The future settlers of the first phase of these two Schemes have already been selected by the Third Division Selection Committee, but if the people of Batang Oya wish to participate in these Schemes they should apply when applications are called for lots in the next phases of the Schemes.

"For the information of Honourable Members, the Sibintek Land Development Scheme is being developed with RPS 'B' subsidy Scheme whereas there is no subsidy available at the Sekuau Land Development Scheme.

"The allocation of Scheme 'A' acreage to Districts is carried out by the Divisional Development Committee and the selection of applicants made by the District Development Committee.

"When the new road reaches the Oya river it will be much easier for the Ulu Oya residents to take advantage of Scheme 'A'.

"It is not, however, intended at present to make any State land available in this area for RPS 'A' planting until it is known whether adequate and suitable State land is available".

In a supplementary question, Mr Yong asked: "Do we understand from the Minister that on the one hand he says that the Third

Division Advisory Development Committee had already allotted to the applicants and on the other he said that the people of Batang Oya can also apply. Mr Yong asked whether that meant that there were still vacancies available.

Mr Teo replied that the Sibintek Scheme was to be expanded. That was the first phase and the second phase was now in progress, he said.

There would be extra areas for people in Oya Road or Ulu Oya who wanted to participate, said the Minister. He added that applications would be invited when the scheme was ready.

Mr Yong: Do we understand then that there are no more land available to the people of Batang Oya until the second phase is put in hand?

Mr Teo: The road to Oya has not reached Ulu Oya yet. Until the road is there, we are not sure whether the land will be available and also whether the soil itself will be suitable. As and when these are investigated and are found available, we will of course implement the Scheme 'A' there.

Mr Yong: From what the Minister has now told us does it not really mean promising something which was not really known — whether the land was suitable for the people of Batang Oya or not, because he now said it was not known whether the land could be developed as suitable for the purpose.

Mr Teo: This development scheme must progress stage by stage. We cannot jump from one spot to another like a grasshopper. The scheme now at Sibintek could be expanded as I said just now. If the road comes up to Ulu Oya, people in Ulu Oya can always apply in the Sibintek Tanggi Block.

Mr Ong Kee Hui then asked whether the Minister could confirm that there was no plan ahead in this development because he said: "We have first to make a survey".

Mr Ong wanted to know whether there was any planning ahead in this case.

Plan on Facts and Figures

Mr Teo: We must plan; we must plan on facts and figures, the availability of land and the suitability of soil. Once the road has reached Ulu Oya then investigations will be put on hand. And when these are found suitable and when land is available, which is most important, then the Government will look into these and implement the scheme there.

Mr Ong then asked whether the Ministry did not think it desirable to make a

preliminary survey at least of the area which was to be brought in.

Mr Teo: The question of soil survey is a big problem, and a big programme for this country. We have, apart from aerial photography survey, to go on the ground which takes time and a lot of work on the part of the staff. We must go ahead with the scheme in a place where the soil is known to be good for rubber planting or any other cash crop.

We know that in the Tanggi Block the land is suitable, and that is where we should expand. Apart from that, once the scheme is expanded, we can have a bigger crop of settlers in the village, and when there is a bigger concentration of population there will be better chances for facilities such as electric light, water, medical services, schools and so on to be implemented in the village.

Mr Ong then referred to Mr Teo's previous reply concerning the District Selection Committee and asked: "Can this House be informed whether there is any set of rules governing the selection of applicants for land?"

Mr Teo: There is a certain formula being given by the Selection Committee as a sort of guidance for them as to how they should choose the settlers and how they should select the applicants. Basically this depends first of all on whether the person concerned is a genuine farmer who has no land; the size of his family, and also if he is prepared to undertake to work on the scheme himself. These are the basic points which have to be taken into consideration by the Selection Committee.

Mr Ong asked whether the political affiliation of the applicant has anything to do with selection.

Mr Teo replied: "I am afraid the Leader of the Opposition is asking a leading question. I refuse to be drawn into it. I will deny that there is any political manipulation in the Selection Committee.

The Question of Official Languages

Mr Chong Kiun Kong asked the Chief Minister whether the State Government would seek the consent of the Federal Government to adopt Iban and Chinese as official languages in the State of Sarawak.

The Chief Minister replied that he would pass the Honourable Member's question to the Federal Government.

Mr Yong asked the Minister in a supplementary question, in passing this information to the Federal Government whether he would also indicate in advance as to what his own Government policy would be in this matter.

The Chief Minister replied that he could not indicate what the policy was, but he would try his best as an Iban himself he was anxious that Iban could be used as an official language.

Pointing out that Iban and Chinese were already being used in the Information Service publications, the Chief Minister said that he would refer the question to the Federal Government.

Mr Yong asked: "Do we take it then that the Chief Minister is in fact sympathetic to getting these two languages, if not as official languages, but recognised to be important languages in this State.

In reply the Chief Minister said that he would do his best to see that Iban and Chinese were recognised as official languages but pointed out that they were already being used widely in the State.

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib Mahmud was asked by Mr Sim Boon Liang, when Government would provide a piped water supply to Dalat where people were using dark river water which was very dangerous to health.

The Minister replied, "Without wishing to appear to be unduly facetious, Sir, I am informed that dark water is very highly regarded in some places, and is exclusively used in the manufacture of strong whiskies.

"Nevertheless, I appreciate the Hon'ble Member's concern in this matter. The answer, in short, is that Dalat will be supplied with a piped water supply if it is accorded a high priority and if funds are available. Our financial resources are limited, and the funds available for providing water supplies under the Development Plan have been ear-marked for establishing such supplies in land schemes.

"However, it seems that it now might just be possible to make some funds available for some of the long established communities to be provided with piped water supplies.

"I am now examining this prospect in fact, and if funds can be made available I will ask Divisional Development Committees to submit their recommendations in order of priority. The Government will then select final priorities, according to the funds which might be available".

Ulu Dressers

Mr Tajang Laeng asked the Chief Minister whether he would request the Federal Government to continue the training of Ulu

Dressers for the benefit of people living in upriver areas of Sarawak far away from dispensaries.

Replying the Chief Minister said: "The anxiety of the Honourable Member and his deep concern over the health of the rural people is appreciated but the Honourable Member may be pleased to know that the health of the rural population is now being increasingly looked after by a number of enthusiastic voluntary helpers who are trained at Divisional level under the current 'home helps' scheme.

"These voluntary helpers who come from the various parts of the country are people recommended to do the job by their own village folk, the administration and the Councils. They come to the Divisional Headquarters for their training after which they return to their home areas. They get medical supplies from the Divisional centres.

"They are popular in their villages and there is a great degree of prestige they carry with them. To date there are about 320 of these voluntary nurses and the number is on the increase.

"It is found that the 'home helps' scheme is not only more economical and practicable but is also producing better results. Somehow, their prestige and their popularity give these voluntary nurses that incentive and that added energy to give excellent services to the country people.

"The 'Ulu Dresser' scheme was only an experiment. Government has decided that this experiment has not met with the success anticipated and that the rural health needs which the 'Ulu Dresser' scheme was intended to meet are now being increasingly served by the expanding coverage of trained voluntary helpers under the present 'home helps' scheme.

"For this reason, the Federal Government has stopped training 'Ulu Dressers' and does not intend to resume the training of these men. The Honourable Member may not therefore consider it desirable to request the Federal Government to continue the training of Ulu Dressers".

Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze asked the Minister for Communications and Works —

- (a) Whether there are any plans for improving the river communications in the Belaga area by removing the dangerous rocks under the rapids; and
- (b) Whether consultation would be held as a practice with the local people in the area about the rocks before blasting.

The Minister replied: "A scheme for removing dangerous rocks in the rapids has been in progress for the past number of years now, and there is only one large remaining rock obstacle to be removed. This, however, can only be done under extremely low water which very seldom occurs.

"The scheme was designed with the full consultation and consent of the local people who, in fact, initially requested it. I can assure the Honourable Member that local communities are always fully consulted when such schemes are undertaken, and it is, in fact, the local people who normally request to have the schemes to be implemented".

Wrong Rocks Removed?

In a supplementary question, Mr Yong asked whether the Minister was aware that there were six points between Belaga and Long Linau where the rocks had been removed.

According to his information the wrong rocks have been removed, not the proper ones, he said.

This was because the local inhabitants were not consulted before the operations. As a result, although much money and time had been spent it did not improve communications as originally designed.

Mr Yong then said that local people would be prepared to render voluntary service if a scheme would be drawn up to do this blasting.

Inche Taib replied that he was not aware that the blasting had been done without consultation with the local people. His information revealed that normally the local people were consulted before blasting rocks. It did not necessarily mean that the people only asked for the blasting of six rocks.

Normally the idea of removing rocks — and which particular rocks — as initiated by the people, might not coincide with the final technical survey, said the Minister, pointing out that removing rocks was very dangerous.

It might have an effect of impairing communications rather than improving them. For instance, said Inche Taib, when blasting a certain big rock which was proving obstructive, one might cause one section of the river bed to go dry. So one has got to be very careful to see that the local people's request did not conflict with the technical advice.

Hedge Planting System

'Research into improved methods of Pepper planting have reached the stage at

which the Director of Agriculture is prepared to make a definite recommendation to pepper gardeners or farmers to use the hedge planting system to plant pepper.

This was disclosed by the Minister for Natural Resources when he replied to a question from Mr Dago anak Randen who asked the Minister what progress had been made regarding an investigation on the new system of pepper planting.

The Minister continued: "Hedge-planting of pepper consists of growing vines in continuous rows spaced about six feet apart and six feet high which on sloping land will follow the contour: where terraces have to be made the number of rows per terrace will depend on the width of the terrace but will be spaced six feet apart.

"The advantage of this method, compared with the traditional method of planting pepper on twelve foot high posts eight feet apart is that it makes the working of the crop such as pruning, pest control, harvesting, etc., very much easier and indications also show that yields per acre are higher and production costs per picul of pepper lower.

"It is suggested that the interested pepper farmers should try out the method for themselves on a small scale. Details of this system are set out in a pamphlet entitled 'Hedge training of Pepper', issued by the Agriculture Department and if the farmers require, I'll be very happy to supply them".

Mr Chong Kiun Kong asked in a supplementary question whether the new system of planting pepper could help to control disease.

Mr Teo replied that research into this root disease had been going on for several years. They were now coming to a stage where they could find a certain type of vine that would withstand this type of disease. "We hope to announce this in the not-too-distant future," said the Minister.

Mr Chong Kiun Kong wanted to know whether the Deputy State Secretary had been appointed. "If so, who he is and how the appointment was made. If not, when will the appointment be made and whether there is any person in view," he asked.

The Chief Minister replied that the appointment had been made and it was made by the Public Service Commission. It is to take effect from May 17, 1965 and the officer appointed was Mr Gerunsin Lembang.

Mr Kamar bin Bubin asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether Government would consider improving the roads in Bintulu Town and surrounding villages by surfacing them with stones and

bitumen as they were at present in poor condition.

Reply by the Minister for Communications and Works:

I am giving every consideration to the matter of improving the roads in Bintulu Town and the surrounding villages.

The people of Bintulu have intimated that a sum of \$660,000 may be required for this purpose. I think this estimate is perhaps a bit on the high side, but, whatever the estimate, the cost is going to be high and almost certainly will not be less than \$200,000. I have given instructions for a full estimate to be prepared.

At present funds to this extent are not yet available. As I have repeatedly said in the past this sort of thing is a matter of funds and priorities again. Provided sufficient funds are available in the near future we are going to consider making good roads to Bintulu.

Mr Yong in a supplementary question said that he understood that proposals have been made to build an airfield at Bintulu. He wished to know whether the Minister would consider, in order to save costs (since the operation would involve heavy machinery and so on) he would take advantage of using them in road building.

Inche Taib replied that if fluids were available that was what the Ministry was contemplating to do.

The qualifications for appointment to the full professional Civil Engineer grades in the P.W.D. are as follows:

University degree or diploma exempting from the Parts I and II Examinations of the recognised Institution of Civil Engineers together with two years approved practical experience.

Persons holding this qualifications, but without the requisite experience are offered appointment as Assistant Engineer and are eligible for appointment to the full professional grade of Executive Engineer once they have obtained the required experience.

As the Associateship in Civil Engineering of the Perth Technical College does not grant exemption from the Parts I and II Examinations of the recognised Institution of Civil Engineers, holders of this qualifications only are therefore not eligible for appointment to the full professional Engineer grade.

Similarly, as the diploma of the Chu Hai College does not grant exemption from the Parts I and II Examinations of the Institution of Civil Engineers, the holder of this diploma is not eligible for appointment to the full professional Engineer grade and no such diploma

holder has been recognised as a qualified Civil Engineer in the P.W.D.

This was stated by the Chief Minister when he answered a question by Mr Sim Kheng Hong, who asked the Chief Minister whether holder of Associateship in Civil Engineering of the Perth Technical College was recognised by the State as a qualified engineer, in view of the fact that holder of a diploma in Accountancy from the same College was being recognised as a qualified accountant by the Government and that holder of diploma in Civil Engineering of Chu Hai College, Hong Kong, has been recognised as a qualified engineer in the State service.

Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether the minimum wage of unskilled labourers on the Belaga airfield was \$3.40 per day and if so why was each one of them paid only \$3 per day.

The Minister for Communications and Works replied that it was quite correct that the minimum wage for PWD labourers on the Belaga airfield was \$3.40 a day, and all such unskilled labourers employed by the Public Works Department were in fact paid this sum of \$3.40.

"If the Hon'ble Member can quote me specific cases, by name if possible, when PWD labourers at that time was underpaid I shall be very happy to make further investigations. But, I must add here the record cards in respect of all persons employed by the Public Works Department at Belaga at that time have been inspected and they were all found to be correctly paid at the rate of \$3.40 a day," he said.

A Tough Job

Mr Yong asked in a supplementary question whether the Minister was aware that although the unskilled labourers were paid \$3.40 a day, 40 cents had been deducted on the grounds that the airfield would assist the people there in getting rubber seedlings over.

Inche Taib replied that he would not look into the matter, because he knew. He said that the Civil Aviation Department did come into an arrangement with the settlers there. He went on to say that as the building of the Belaga airfield was a tough job, they had to employ manual labour, rather than machinery. Credit must be given to the Civil Aviation Department for a coming to certain arrangements with the local people whereby

as a sort of self-help project, they were prepared to accept a lesser sum of money.

He added that the Ministry encouraged local people to participate in self-help projects provided they were done above board. He said that they could save a lot of money on the Development Plan and at the same time improve the standard of work if they could persuade local labourers to embark on that type of voluntary service.

Mr Yong agreed that encouraging self-help was very good, but his question was that whether the Minister was aware that the deduction of 40 cents was on the understanding that these people would benefit by having rubber seedlings being sent by air, and that understanding did not seem to materialise.

Inche Taib replied that the Belaga airport had opened up the area for the people there but he said he was not a competent authority to speak on rubber seedlings.

On the same subject, Mr Ong Kee Hui wanted to know if the people's contribution towards this Development Project was solicited, would it not be better for them to turn up and work with no salary than rather "mess around with their paysheets because on the face of this \$3.40 was supposed to have been paid", when, in fact, they received only \$3 and that he thought, opened to a lot of abuse.

He asked: "Who is to know and who is to check that 40 cents in fact, were accounted for. Would not the Minister think it more desirable, if such a scheme were to be put forward, that he would rather invite the

people to come out on a Sunday morning and work free of charge".

Inche Taib replied that he would like to see people coming out and volunteer whether on Sunday or Saturday afternoons.

The Chief Minister said he would seek information accordingly to a question by Mr Sim Kheng Hong who asked the Chief Minister to seek information from the Federal Government as to whether it was the policy of the Federal Government that Malay would be the only official language throughout Malaysia within two years, and if so whether this implied an intention on the part of the Federal Government to over-ride the provisions of Article 161 of the Federal Constitution which provided, in relation to the Borneo States, for the use of English for a period of ten years after Malaysia Day for specified purposes including its use in Parliament by a member from a Borneo State.

Mr Dagok anak Randen asked the Chief Minister whether Government would consider paying fixed entertainment allowances to Dayak Tua Kampongs, Tuai Rumahs and Kapitan China who were at present not paid such allowances.

The Chief Minister replied that Dayak Tua Kampung, Tuai Rumahs and Kapitan China were not expected to entertain Official Visitors, so there was no case for paying fixed entertainment allowances. If they were faced with having to pay for official entertainment they should put a case to the District Officer beforehand.

THE SARAWAK CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED

The Sarawak Constitution (Amendment) Bill which seeks to remove from the Supreme Council the three ex-officio members — the State Secretary! the State Attorney-General and the State Financial Secretary—passed its third reading on Thursday, May 13.

The Council also passed five other Bills which included The Mining (Amendment) Bill; The Council Negri (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) (Amendment) Bill;

The Clerks (Council Negri and Supreme Council) Separation of Functions Bill; The Development Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill; and the Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill.

An attempt by an Opposition leader, Mr Stephen Yong to introduce a new clause during the Committee Stage as an amendment to the Bill was not accepted by the Government.

QUESTION TIME IN COUNCIL NEGRI

Mr Dagok anak Randen, asked the Chief Minister three questions:

- (i) to urge the Federal Government to consider giving immediate financial and other necessary assistance to the families of the three members of the Medical staff abducted by Indonesian terrorists on Good Friday while walking in the area Tebedu and Kampung Entabuh;
- (ii) to obtain information from the Federal Government as to what action has been taken regarding and three men; and
- (iii) to urge the Federal Government to give every possible help to get them released as soon as possible.

The Chief Minister, answering, said: "The Honourable Member should be aware of the fact that everything they ask for in the three parts of his questions have already been dealt with. The wives of the three officers who were abducted have on my representations been paid full salary over since the date of the abduction.

"We are trying to get information from the Federal Government as to what action has been taken and I have also initiated action through the International Red Cross. I have also urged the Federal Government to do everything possible to get these brave officers released as soon as possible and I would like to take this opportunity to extend this House's sympathy to the wives and families of these officers and assure them that we are not forgetting the plight in which they find themselves.

"I know that the Federal Government will continue to pay the salaries in these circumstances and I am determined that we shall continue to do all we can to secure the release of these officers.

Arrangements Considered Satisfactory

"There is one further point which emerges regarding precautionary measures. I have already explained publicly that the arrangements dealing with Government officers who have to work in border areas are considered satisfactory. They have been in operation for nearly two years.

"Briefly, all officers who are required to work in areas where the enemy may be must

clear their movements beforehand with the District Officer and Military Commander concerned. If the Military Commander believes there is a danger he will not permit the Government Officer to go forward. If however the Government officer's duties are of such an urgent nature that there can be no delay in carrying them out and if there is known to be enemy in the area, a Security Force escort will be provided.

In a supplementary question, Mr Stephen Yong asked the Chief Minister whether he had sought information about the whereabouts of the three unfortunate men abducted by the Indonesians.

The Chief Minister replied that it was not possible for them to know where the abducted men were now but the matter has been referred to the International Red Cross who were trying to find out the whereabouts of these people.

The squatters on the State Land in the Sekama/Simpang Tiga area were breaking the law, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Teo Kui Seng, said. The Minister was answering questions by Mr Leong Ho Yuen and Mr Sim Kheng Hong who wanted to know what measures had the Government taken to settle the squatters evicted from State land in the area.

Mr Teo continued: "It will never be the policy of this Government nor any other Government to reward those who break the law with special consideration at the expense of equally poor people who obey the law. This appears to be suggested in this question.

"The squatters in the Sekama Simpang Tiga area were squatting on the very land that Borneo Housing Development Ltd. has purchased from Government for the purpose of constructing houses for lower income groups.

"Nevertheless, it is realised that there are many people in urban areas who are too poor to purchase land and build their own houses. They are also too poor to pay an economic rent for any accommodation built to standards that would pass local authority building regulations.

"The answer to the problem lies in the building of low cost subsidised housing. Because a question specifically on this subject has been tabled, I will not therefore refer further to low cost housing but leave the

answer to the Minister for Local Government".

Mr Stephen Yong asked what the Government's policy was with regards to squatters generally apart from a special case of the Sekama/Simpang Tiga squatters; Mr Yong added whether in all genuine cases of squatters Government would provide alternative accommodation for them.

Mr Teo Kui Seng, (Minister for Natural Resources) in reply, said that from a human angle he had as much sympathy for these squatters as Mr Yong himself. He added: "However, as a Government, we just cannot condone and encourage squatters to squat either on State land or anybody else's land by offering them alternatives".

Social Problem

He went on to say that they could not differentiate between 'genuine' squatters and non-genuine squatters. If they did so lots of people would begin to squat and then ask for alternatives. He had, however, advised the squatters to apply to the land office to find out whether there were land that could be offered.

Mr Yong: "Do we understand Government has no scheme whereby people of this category would be held?"

Mr Teo: "We come now to the question of a social problem. This is one of the problems outside my jurisdiction. However, as I said just now, I can go no further than give these people my sympathy but there is a danger in the suggestion that Government should give them alternative accommodation at Kuching".

This suggestion, Mr Teo said, was fraught with danger because as a matter of act, quite a number of squatters were not genuine squatters.

Mr Teo here recalled that in 1963 "a suggestion was made by some naughty person" in public that the squatters could carry on squatting and that Government would give them accommodation.

Finally, he said that this kind of policy would be a wrong step for the Government to take.

On the Low Cost Housing projects, Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Chief Minister whether the Government would be prepared to embark on the projects in Kuching and Sibuluan in order to alleviate the acute housing shortage now prevailing especially among the people of the lower income group.

The Minister for Local Government, Mr

Dunstan Endawie, replied on behalf of the Chief Minister to whom it was directed, that the State Government's dealings in this matter had been conducted, so far, with the Federal Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

He added: "Although housing is a state subject, the scale of finance involved necessitates financial provisions being made available by the Federal Authorities. To this extent, the state is dependent upon the provision which the Federal Government proposes to make for low cost housing purposes in the First Malaysian Development Plan.

"A useful meeting was held in late 1964 during the visit to Kuching of the Federal Minister for Housing and Local Government. A brief outline was then given of the Federal Government's proposals for hire purchase schemes and loan assistance, both to private purchasers and local authorities. The terms seemed attractive and the State Government has asked for further details.

"These are now awaited and I am not in a position to add anything further until they have been received and studied".

Contract Preference

Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili asked the Chief Minister whether arrangements can be made so that contracts below \$25,000 are reserved for native contractors and for contracts between \$25,000 and \$75,000 preference is given to native contractors.

The Chief Minister replied that all tenders boards in Sarawak dealt with both Federal and State tenders, and there would therefore have to be consultation with the Federal Government before any firm reply to this proposal could be given.

"I am informed that an enquiry has already been despatched to Kuala Lumpur to discover what the policy of the Federal Government is in this matter. As soon as the process of consultation with the Federal Government is completed, I will provide a written reply to the Honourable Member's question," he said.

The Minister for Local Government was asked by Mr Sim Kheng Hong whether in revising rating structure of local councils and compiling rateable properties in the local councils area throughout the State, consideration would be given to exempt properties in areas near the border. "If not, what measures will be taken to protect the Councils officials

assigned to carry out the task," he said.

Reply by the Minister for Local Government:

"With respect, Mr Speaker, I do not find the Honourable Member's question very clear and, in case he should be under any misapprehension regarding the nature of rateable revaluation now being undertaken by my ministry, I welcome this opportunity to offer clarification.

"The current exercise has nothing to do with revising rating structures; the fixing of rates is a matter for District Councils. As Honourable Members will recall, I gave an undertaking at the last session of this House to carry out a uniform and independent valuation of rateable premises as a necessary pre-requisite to the introduction of equalisation grants for local authorities. This is now being done.

"The 'referencing' of rateable premises (i.e. the collection of the necessary information for a valuation to be made) by District Council staff will be confined, in the main, to town and sub-urban areas. Referencing in the remaining rural areas will be largely the responsibility of District Officers and normal arrangements currently in force regarding security during necessary travel in border areas will apply.

"All properties will, of course, be valued and appear in the final valuation lists. This facts, however, will not affect the rates which any particular property may attract — or, indeed, whether it will be rated at all. Premises which are exempt from payment of rates by law, will be designated to this effect. Where an owner of premises liable to pay rates is unable to do so, because of hardship, there is adequate provision in the law for remission - in whole or in part - at the discretion of the local authority".

Mr Yong: "Will the Minister tell this House in the case of exemption whether it will affect the equalisation grant".

Mr Endawie: "The exemption will not affect the equalisation grant".

The Question of Ministers' Cars

Mr Sim Kheng Hong asked the Chief Minister whether any of the Ministers had sold his car to the Government and after sale continued to use the same and, if so, how much was paid for each car and by Whom was the valuation made.

The Chief Minister replied that following the passing by the House on December 22, 1964, of a resolution to amend Sessional Paper

No. 5 of 1963, "a Minister who resides in Kuching may, instead of obtaining a loan from Government, elect to be provided with an official car costing not more than \$8,000. Three Ministers have so far elected to be provided with such an official car and Government has done this by taking over the cars of the Ministers concerned at cost price, each of the cars in question having been purchases by the Ministers since the date on which they were appointed to office. In these circumstances, no question of valuation arises. The amount paid for each car were as follows:-

Minister of Natural Resources	\$7,965
Minister of Communications & Works	\$7,965
Minister of Local Government	\$7,770

Mr Yong: "Do we under that these second hand cars were paid the cost price of a new car?"

Mr John Pike, State Financial Secretary, explained that the effect of the amendment to the Sessional Paper was to change the system from one in which Ministers other than the Chief Minister were not entitled to an official car but only entitled to a loan.

To change that to a system whereby they had a choice of either an official car costing not more than \$8,000 or a loan, as the Chief Minister has explained, Mr Pike said that three Ministers had elected for this system.

He added: "And what has been done to treat that retrospectively.

"It was a quite complicated exercise. We have worked out the finances of this as though it operated from the date on which they obtained the car.

"In other words as though they have come to Government and said: 'Would prefer to have an official car rather than a loan for a car'.

"This is the only practical way actually to work out the complicated game of having the loan repaid to Government or having the Ministers refund to Government the Fixed Conveyance Allowance which they received while they were using their own car.

"On the other hand the Government has refunded to the Ministers the road tax, the number plate and the insurance on the loan paid by the Minister. The only practical way to get this put in order was to start from the beginning as though the Minister had elected to be provided with an official car rather than a loan.

"This is the only possible course where the Minister has bought that car since his appointment. It would not be practicable had any Minister purchased a car before his

appointment. Then the point about it being second-hand in its use by a Minister would certainly be a valid one".

Conveyance Allowance

Mr Yong then asked whether any fixed mileage allowance has been paid to the Ministers.

Mr Pike replied that where a Minister had a car he was entitled to a Fixed Conveyance Allowance! also to what is known as F.C.A. 'A' which was at the rate of \$65 a month.

Mr Pike added that the arrangements made were where an official car was provided the Minister would be responsible for providing the petrol and oil. It was assumed that part of the running of a car would be on Government account. Accordingly half of the \$65 was deducted from the monthly F.C.A.

Mr Yong then wanted to know whether any F.C.A. payments were made to the Ministers between the time of the first purchase of the car and the time it was purchased by the State.

Mr Pike replied that while the cars were deemed to be the Ministers' own cars on a loan basis, the Ministers were entitled to a full fixed conveyance allowance. They drew that during last year. When this retrospective adjustment was made, the Ministers were required to refund to Government half of the fixed conveyance allowance. The cars, had they been Government property, they would still have been entitled to half of the fixed conveyance allowance.

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) then asked whether the interpretation given by the Council was correct, and that it was with retrospective effect.

Mr Pike then pointed out that there was nothing so far in the Amendment of the Sessional Paper to lay down a specific date of operation. He concluded by saying that there was no other practicable way of doing this.

Questions On Land and Forest

Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze asked the Minister for Natural Resources -

- (a) What is the total area of the State land classified as Mixed Zone Land and the approximate area thereof under cultivation and utilisation;
- (b) What is the total area of the State land classified as Native Area Land and Native Communal Land and the approximate area thereof under cultivation and utilisation;

- (c) What are the approximate areas respectively of the State land -
 - (i) classified as Forest Reserve; and
 - (ii) granted to sawmill operators as forest concessions;
- (d) What is the number of applicants for land so far received and how many of these applicants have been granted the land and the average area alienated to each.

The Minister for Natural Resources replying, said, the question referred both to land and forests.

- (a) Approximately 4,600 sq. miles of land is classified as Mixed Zone Land. Within these areas so classified there is still Native Customary Land, that is, land occupied by natives under customary tenure, which does not become Mixed Zone Land until titles are issued and registered. Exact figures are not available but it is estimated that, within the 4,600 sq. miles classified generally as Mixed Zone Land — there are:
 - (i) 500 sq. miles of land are held by non-Natives under title;
 - (ii) 180 sq. miles are held by Natives under title
 - (iii) 3,050 sq. miles are held by Natives under customary tenure and used mainly for hill padi cultivation but also for swamp padi, rubber and other permanent crops;
 - (iv) 870 sq. miles is still under swamp forest and is at present considered unsuitable for agriculture.
- (b) Approximately 2,600 sq. miles of land is classified as Native Area Land. With the areas so classified, the majority of land is still Native Customary Land which does not become Native Area Land until it is registered. It is estimated that, within the area of 2,600 sq. miles classified generally as Native Area Land —
 - (i) 358 sq. miles are held by Natives under title;
 - (ii) 1,742 sq. miles are owned and occupied by Natives under customary tenure; and
 - (iii) 500 sq. miles are unsuitable for agriculture.
- (c) The approximate areas of reserved forest are: Forest Reserves 2,700 square miles; Protected Forests 9,185 square miles. The area of State Land under forest licence is 6,169 square miles approximately, which includes areas of

forest reserves and protected forests under licence.

The figures for the precise division of the 6,169 square miles of land under forest licence between saw-millers who consume the timber in their own saw-mills, saw-millers who consume part of the timber and export part of the timber in log form, and operators who export part of the timber and sell part of the logs to other saw-mills, are not available,

- (d) The old system of applications for land has been abolished. This was one of the recommendations of the 1962 Land Committee which has already been put into effect. As soon as State Land is available for alienation a public notice is issued inviting applications which are considered by a selection committee. I previously gave the Council, at its meeting in December 1964, details of applications received for participation in Land Development Schemes and other block alienation schemes.

During the period 1st January, 1963 to 31st December, 1964, 13,885 titles were issued for 106,174 acres, the average acreage of each lot being about 7 acres. Where possible all new land is alienated in lots of economic size, having regard to the type of land and the crop to be grown but titles replacing native customary tenure, which are included in the total I have quoted, usually cover lots of a smaller size than what is now regarded as an economic holding. The size of such lots is determined in most cases by the area of jungle originally felled for hill padi cultivation.

Forest Areas Statistics

Mr Yong then asked that as soon as the figures of the forest areas allocated had been made available they should be placed in the House.

Mr Teo Kui Seng then wanted to know whether Mr Yong required the information regarding the forest area allocated to each licensee. He said the total was 6,169 square miles under licence.

There is at present no vacancy for a further member to be appointed to the Public Service Commission, said the Chief Minister when he replied to a question by Mr Chong Kiun Kong who asked him whether he would not recommend for inclusion in the Public Service Commission a Land Dayak as a member.

The Chief Minister continued: "It would

not be proper, in fact, it will be highly undesirable for me to make recommendations for such appointment on a racial basis.

"Nevertheless, when a vacancy arises, which will be in September this year, I have no doubt that if there is suitable Land Dayak he will be appointed but it will be because such person is in himself considered suitable and well qualified for such appointment," he added.

To a question by Mr Leong Ho Yuen the Chief Minister said that the last two members appointed to the Public Service Commission were selected because they had qualifications which fitted them admirably for such appointment.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Minister for Local Government whether the Government would explain why was it that local District Councillors were not entitled to monthly allowances as that paid to local Councillors in Malaya, and did the Government realise that such discrimination provoked the local Councillors?

The Minister for Local Government replied: "I am surprised that any attempt should be made to raise this subject again, in view of the full and adequate replies I have given to the same question in previous sessions of this Council. I can only assume political motives in the Honourable Member who now introduces the subject again and not any genuine interest in local government welfare.

"Practice in the Peninsula States is not relevant to Sarawak conditions. There, in addition to a small 'Loss of Earnings' allowance, provision is made for subsistence and travelling allowances roughly equal to our own scales. But, in practice, these latter allowances are seldom payable as attendance of Council meetings in the Malayan States does not normally involve travelling and accommodation away from home.

Flat Rate Loss of Earning Formula Unfair

"Our system of allowances provides for out-of-pocket expenses in addition to reimbursement of actual transport and lodging charges whilst on Council business. This was designed to meet the difficulties of Sarawak travel and to ensure that rural Councillors were not placed at a financial disadvantage to their urban colleagues. Any attempt to apply a flat-rate loss of earnings formula to Sarawak conditions would be

grossly unfair to upriver Councillors and much to the advantage of Councillors living in or near the bazaars where the Council office is located. As the Honourable Member is a town Councillor, I can well understand his difficulty in grasping this point.

"In any event, the system of allowances in the Peninsula States is specifically dependent upon 'the financial circumstances of each local authority'. Here again, the poorer rural authorities would be placed at a disadvantage to the wealthier urban authorities if this test was applied in Sarawak. Even ignoring this aspect, no local authority in Sarawak — I repeat, no local authority — is yet financially autonomous; all rely heavily upon capital grant and loan assistance from the Federal and State Governments.

"With the many other pressing commitments in the field of social services, it is not in the public interest for funds to be diverted to regular remuneration for Councillors which can either directly or indirectly, only represent an additional burden on the rate-payers.

"This, I am quite sure is the general feeling of responsible ratepayers".

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Chief Minister -

- (a) to obtain information from Federal Government what progress has been made by the Elections Commission towards introducing Direct Elections in Sarawak; and
- (b) who represents Sarawak on the Commission.

The Chief Minister said he would ask the Federal Government for the information which the Hon'ble Member sought.

On the subject of tours to Malaya organised for Local District Councillors, Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Minister for Local Government whether he would ensure that those invited to tour are paid full subsistence allowances during the period of their absence from their districts and that decent accommodation be arranged for them while on transit.

The Minister for Local Government replied that he assumed Mr Leong referred to the rural study tours for Sarawak community leaders in the Peninsula States organised by the Federal Government.

He said; "The Federal Authorities meet the whole cost of travel from a participant's home-town and return. In addition, the Federal Government provides board and lodging whilst in Malaya and the cost of any necessary accommodation whilst in transit

within Sarawak, outside Kuching. The cost of any necessary accommodation in Kuching (e.g. whilst awaiting transport) is met by the State Government.

Accommodation Arrangements

"Subsistence allowance is paid by the Federal Government whilst in Malaya and by the State Government during transit within Sarawak. The rate of subsistence allowance in Malaya, where the Federal Government provides board and lodging, is \$3 p.d. The subsistence allowance whilst in transit within Sarawak, paid by the State Government is \$5 p.d.

"Accommodation and travel arrangements within Districts or Divisions is supervised generally by the R & D.O. Administration. In Kuching, my ministry will, in future, be making accommodation arrangements.

Mr Chong Kiun Kong asked the Minister for Natural Resources whether method of acquisition of customary land for public purposes such as schools and clinic, could be simplified without going through all the present cumbersome processes.

The Minister for Natural Resources replied; "Mr Speaker, I do not agree that the existing method of acquisition of customary land for public purposes is unsatisfactory. The fact that land is required for a public purpose does not absolve Government from exercising the greatest care whenever private individuals' land is being acquired by Government. This is just as important in the acquisition of customary land as in the acquisition of land under title.

Mr Yong asked the Minister in a supplementary question to assure the House that as far as possible red tape would be cut to the minimum?

Mr Teo: I am always against red tape.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen wanted to know from the Chief Minister what progress had so far been achieved towards making the Sarawak Social Welfare Council into a governmental department and would the Government give assurance that the Head of the Department when so established be a local person.

The Minister for Local Government replying on behalf of the Chief Minister said that a survey of Sarawak's needs in the field of social welfare are undertaken in late 1964 by two representatives from the Department of Welfare Services in Kuala Lumpur and their report is now awaited.

Whether the present Social Welfare

Council will be replaced by a government department and, if so, what form this will take, will depend upon the recommendations of this report and government's consideration of it. Until the report has been received and studied, I am not in a position to indicate any details, either of organisation or staffing, which any possible Social Welfare Department in Sarawak might require," he said.

The Chief Minister was also asked by Mr Leong Ho Yuen whether under its own declared policy on Bomeanisation, the Government would give assurance that all Heads of any State or Federal Departments in Sarawak when fall vacant be Med by local officers.

Reply by the Chief Minister:

No, Sir! The Government is only prepared to ensure that promotions in the Public

Service are constitutionally effected through the Public Service Commission in accordance with long accepted service principles, and in accordance with the provisions of the London Agreement.

State Govt. Can Take No Part

It should be readily understood that, in respect of Federal Departments, the State Government can take no part in the selection of Heads of Departments. This is a matter for the Sarawak Branch of the Federal Public Service Commission.

Nevertheless the term Bomeanisation implies that Borneans will fill appointments as far as this is constitutionally correct when posts, including those of heads of departments, fall vacant by virtue of their seniority or ability.

BILL TO ACHIEVE CONSTITUTIONAL ADVANCE PASSED

The Council Negri has passed the third reading of the Sarawak Constitution (Amendment) Ordinance, 1965. The Bill's object is to remove the ex-officio members from the Supreme Council. This means that the State Secretary, State Attorney General and the State Financial Secretary will no longer sit in the Supreme Council as full members with voting rights.

Moving the second reading of the Bill, the Deputy Chief Minister, said:

"This amendment represents a logical step in our movement towards bringing our State Constitution into line with the provisions of the Eighth Schedule of the Federal Constitution. This Schedule lays down certain essential and desirable provisions for State Constitutions generally, and the amendment which appears under Article 2 (2) of the Bill before Honourable Members is precisely in line with the Schedule.

"A further point in connection with the Eighth Schedule is that an amendment to the Constitution of the State, the effect of which is to bring out into accord with the provisions of the said Schedule, does not require the two-thirds majority which is otherwise necessary if any amendment to the Constitution of this State is to be passed in this House.

"The provision which makes the officers I have mentioned Members of Supreme

Council is a transitional one, being among others a method whereby the experience of certain officers is made use of during the initial period of ministerial Government.

"We must however always look to standing on our own feet and it is felt now, reluctant though we may be to lose the services of these officers in Supreme Council, that the time has come to dispense with their services in this particular respect, as now one-and-a-half years after Malaysia it is felt that Ministers are more conversant with their duties.

"Not only does this amendment bring us into line with the provisions of the Eighth Schedule, but it also brings us into line with developments which have taken place in other States in Malaysia.

Not Something Out of the Blue

"This move is a constitutional advancement compatible with the aspirations of an independent people who would, naturally, like to see that the decisions and formulations of State Policies should rest solely and entirely in the hands of their representatives.

"This step which has been taken after very careful consideration is completely within the spirit and terms of the London Agreement of our entry into Malaysia. As I said it is a step

which has been contemplated for some time and in point of fact this, our Constitutional change, was suggested originally as early as a year ago by the ex-officio members of the Supreme Council.

"Honourable Members can therefore see it is not something that has come out of the blue, in as far as the Government is concerned. If it appears to the Honourable Members of the House that this Constitutional change has been introduced to this August Body with unseemly haste, I would like to apologise for the short notice but as the next Council Negri will be another three or four months away and as it seems now there is strong feelings among the people that there should be a Cabinet more truly capable of representing the views of the people, it is now felt that the time has come to implement it."

The Deputy Chief Minister pointed out that the Government had published the positive steps taken to Bomeanise the Civil Service at top level. "Today, will see another constitutional advancement proposed to ensure that Malaysians are masters in their own house and of their own destiny," he said, and added: "There will be other measures taken progressively in the course of time but these calculated progressive steps will be taken step by step to ensure a gradual systematic progression to the attainment finally of what we all aspire to achieve as an independent sovereign people.

"I hope most sincerely that all Honourable Members would give the fullest support with a big 'Ay' to the step forward in Constitutional progress".

Suspension of Standing Order

The Attorney General moving the suspension of Standing Order No. 44(2) in order to enable the Bill to be read a second time and taking through all its remaining stages that day offered the Government's apologies to the Council members for the shortage of notice with which the Bill had been introduced. "However, I hope that such Bill is intended to achieve a constitutional advance in accordance with the Eighth Schedule Provisions of the Federal Constitution which sets out the proper provisions for State Constitution to contain that Honourable Members will accept this motion and enable the Government do what I believe is probably the wish of this country to advance along the constitutional road as quickly as possible," he said.

When Standing Order Could Be Suspended

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp), speaking on the motion by the Attorney General said that he did not wish to go into the merits on otherwise of the proposed Bill at that stage. He merely wished to speak on the suspension of Standing Order 44(2) which he said required at least publication of any Bill 14 days before it can be read a second time.

Mr Yong said that people could place different interpretations on the word 'democracy' but generally there were certain unwritten fundamental rules inherent and essential in parliamentary democracy.

He agreed that suspension of Standing Orders might be necessary at times in order to allow the Government function normally, but one could not do it as a right just because there was provision for suspension in the Standing Orders.

Mr Yong went on to say that he could think of only two occasions when suspensions of Standing Orders could be accepted — one, he said, could be of a trivial nature, and the other during extreme national urgency.

In the first, Standing Orders could be suspended when it was necessary to extend the sitting time of the Council in order to finish urgent business.

Mr Yong then asked whether the Sarawak Constitution (Amendment) Bill was a matter of public and national interest that it required the suspension of Standing Orders. He said that the Attorney General had mentioned that this Bill conformed to national advancement that they all wished for in this country.

He remarked that it would be suffice for him to say at that stage that any proposal for the changing of the Constitution must be of such a nature that opportunities must be given not only to members of the House, but to the public generally for scrutiny.

Mr Yong went on to say that although the Attorney General had offered apologies for the rather short notice he believed no one could escape the criticism that the Constitution had not been accorded the sanctity it received.

Continuing, Mr Yong observed that the provisions for the suspension of Standing Orders should only be used sparingly. Amendment of the Constitution, Mr Yong argued, might lead the public and members of this House to the conclusion that there was a crisis in the Government,

Mr Yong asked why they could not have time to look into this matter because it might

well be that the Government might get all the support from the Opposition if there was time given to study all the aspects of the Bill's implication.

"Why should the Government create for itself an atmosphere of speculation which must be in the minds of the general public?" asked Mr Yong.

Finally, Mr Yong said that he felt it was his duty as a representative of the people to point out to the Government that they will be well advised not to push this? Bill through though it was now put forward.

'Shocking' To Give Such Short Notice

Speaking next was Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Machinda) who said it was shocking to give such short notice for the introduction of an important Bill like this one. He felt that ample time should have been given for people outside the House to consider and reflect on the implications of this Bill.

Replying to Mr Yong and Mr Leong, the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr James Wong, pointed out that the Standing Orders were there to serve the interests of the House. He said that the whole object of the suspension of the Standing Orders was to allow for a debate on the Bill.

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that the Government did not intend to abuse the privileges provided by the Standing Orders, and added that this motion for the suspension of the Standing Orders was not meant as a disrespect to the House.

The Attorney-General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, said there was little with which he would disagree that had been said by Mr Stephen Yong.

He felt there was nobody in the House who would relish the idea of suspending Standing Orders.

He did not think the Council could suggest that the Government had in the past ever abused the right to suspend Standing Orders.

The Attorney General said that Mr Yong had picked a poor example in giving the alteration of the times of sitting, because under the Standing Orders that might be altered by the Speaker without suspension of the Standing Orders.

He assured the Council that the Government in the future would not abuse the powers of suspension and the powers which the majority gave it in the Council for purposes other than which it regarded as

urgent and important.

Ardent Wish of people

Mr Teo Kui Seng (Minister for Natural Resources), speaking in support of the Sarawak Constitution (Amendment) Bill, said that in introducing the Bill the Government in all sincerity had apologised to members across the floor.

He regretted that the Opposition had not accepted the apologies in the spirit they were offered. He said that it appeared to him that the "venomous vituperations" from across the floor stemmed from the fact that 14 days' notice had not been given to them to study the Bill.

Mr Teo said what was most regrettable was the suspicious and ulterior motives imputed by Opposition members in reading into "this straightforward Bill".

He emphasised that the object of the Bill was simply to allow "our own people to share and shoulder the responsibilities of looking after our own affairs in the concept of true independence".

Inche Taib bin Mahmud (Minister for Communications and Works) said that this Amendment Bill reflected what had been the ardent wish of the people who wanted to hasten the process of democratic independence.

He went on to say that they should look at this Amendment in the light of sociological background. They wanted three more ministers in the Cabinet in the place of the ex-officio. He said that if he had been one of the ex-officio members he would have been embarrassed to hold a post in the Cabinet.

Inche Taib added that the Alliance Government was going to get politicians who would play politics fully to come into the Cabinet. He said that the Council should not begrudge the appointment of three more ministers instead of allowing the three ex-officio members to stay.

Little Justification

Mr G.A.T. Shaw, State Secretary, supporting the Bill referred first to remarks by the Opposition regarding inefficiency and top-heaviness in the administration. He said that he had seen from the inside how the ministers were extremely hardworked.

He said that there could be little justification in the criticism against an increase of ministers, because the cost in itself was not likely to be a great deal, certainly not sufficient to warrant further taxation as had

been suggested. He said this could be regarded as an expenditure of public funds to increase efficiency not to increase inefficiency.

As far as the question of increase of ministers was concerned, Mr Shaw said, they were bound not only by the State Constitution but also the Federal Constitution, and the architects of the Federal Constitution had provided in their wisdom a Cabinet of eight for the State Government.

Mr Shaw said that all these matters had previously been referred to the House; Schedule 8 as part of the Federal Constitution had come before this House previously and had met with no comment or objection.

Touching on Borneanisation, Mr Shaw said that this subject was misunderstood to some extent. He said that Mr Ong Kee Hui had failed to appreciate that the effective date from which Borneanisation could take place in respect of designated officers without professional qualifications was in almost every case, 31st August, 1967.

"The corresponding date for designated officers with professional qualifications is 31st August, 1969. There are one or two cases in which lesser periods of minimum guaranteed service were given and in these instances Borneanisation can take place earlier," said Mr Shaw.

Referring to the recent appointments of three Acting Residents, Mr Shaw pointed out that these appointments were made possible by the creation of three supernumerary posts.

He added that it was more than puzzling to find the Opposition questioning this when the matter was fully covered in the 1965 Estimates and there was then no criticism on this issue at all.

Replying to criticism on the Borneanising of Residents' posts, he explained that it was perfectly normal procedure that officers in the first instance acted in posts whether there are substantive vacancies or not. In the past it has been the case of acting for 18 months, two years or more. So there was no stigma attached at all to Sarawak officers acting.

To some extent it was a trial quite reasonably to be regarded so, as there were very special factors in the present situation which affected Sarawak officers taking over such appointments as Residents. In the normal course of events their transition to such posts might have been a great deal smoother than it would be.

blems that it brought to a government officer, there were new circumstances and new responsibilities. Below them there had been progressive and very rapid Borneanisation in the Administration and before another two or two-and-a-half months had elapsed there would not be a single expatriate district officer.

Continuing Mr Shaw said that in the past expatriate officers had considerable experience in running districts. Now officers were not so experienced and that in turn threw a greater burden on the new Residents.

Again the local officers had a wider knowledge of the country but relative experience in other facets of Government.

Mr Shaw said that on these grounds alone extra assistance was necessary. This was not all. There are enormous extra responsibilities again thrown on the Residents as a result of external aggression, internal security problems, the running of the committees connected with these and so forth.

This applied specially in the First Division. In the Second and Fifth Divisions the administrative officers have been appointed to act in the Class IB posts in one case partially and in the other case fully responsible for development in addition.

Referring to the amendment to remove ex-officio members from the floor of the House, made by members of the Opposition, Mr Shaw wondered whether they were entirely sincere in making that suggestion. Mr Shaw said the member who made the suggestion must be fully aware of the fact that in the Supreme Council a Government officer could at any time be required to attend and produce, such as they can, the benefits of their experience or expertise.

In conclusion Mr Shaw said that he would like to finish on a slightly different note: he said that he was not the most senior member among the longest standing of the officials in Supreme Council, but assuming that this Bill was passed he would like to take the opportunity to say that it had been a great honour to be able to serve on this Council and on the State Cabinet "but nevertheless we are quite aware of the forces at work and we are glad under the circumstances to be of use in bowing out in the interests of the constitutional development".

New Responsibilities

In a state of independence, with extra pro-

THE MINING (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Mining (Amendment) Bill, 1965, also passed the third reading. Moving that the Bill be read the second time, the Minister for Natural Resources said:

"As the law now stands, the Mining Ordinance does not apply to the removal of clay or sand of any description. It is considered necessary that the controls and safeguards provided in the Mining Ordinance should apply to mining operations in the removal of fire-clay and glass sand. This amendment in the definition of 'minerals' in the Mining Ordinance will place clay and glass sand within the scope of the Ordinance".

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) speaking on the second reading of the Mining (Amendment) Bill said that he had no objection of the inclusion of this item in the Mining Ordinance.

He felt, however, that the House should be informed as to the potentialities of developing fire-clay in this country. He added that if the deposits were small there was no point at all in introducing this amendment, but if there was information that there were large deposits of fire-clay in this country, then there was such a

necessity.

Mr Yong said that from an economical point of view the public ought to be informed as to the extent of fire-clay deposits in Sarawak.

Another point was, according to the objects and reasons, the removal of ordinary sand might not come under this amendment. It was only in the removal of fire-clay and in the manufacture of glass in which glass-sand was used.

Mr Yong then asked whether they could assume that the removal of ordinary sand and gravel from rivers which had been carried on by people would not come under this amendment. If it did, Mr Yong said, many people would be affected. Therefore, in order to dispel any doubt, he said the Minister should clarify this point.

Mr P.E.H. Pike, State Attorney-General, said that since questions on law had been raised, he would like to give an assurance that the amendment proposed did not affect the taking of ordinary sand or gravel. They are covered under the Land Code and required permits. They did not come under the Mining Ordinance.

THE "CLERKS" BILL

The Clerks (Council Negri and Supreme Council) Separation of Functions Bill, was moved for the second reading by the Chief Minister. He said it was constitutionally proper, that this Council should have undivided control over its Clerk and therefore it was desirable that the past practice of one person performing the functions of Clerk both to this Council and to Supreme Council should cease.

"This Bill seeks to achieve this by removing from the Interpretation Ordinance the definition of Clerk of Councils and by providing that references in laws to that office shall in future be construed as references to

the Clerk to this Council or to the Supreme Council, as the case may require," he said.

Mr Yong speaking in support of the Clerks (Council Negri and Supreme Council) Separation of Functions Bill said that the Chief Minister had said correctly that this matter had been repeatedly raised on that side of the House. He added that it had been nearly two years with the Government before it had seen the light of day.

Mr Yong said that the move to get the Clerk of the Council to serve only the Council instead of having to serve another master, the Supreme Council, was a welcome one.

This, he said, conformed to the principle of

the separation of powers.

"Although we know that Government has majority in the Council but as Councillors we hope that when in Council we can function as much as possible separately as a mentor or a body to point out the direction to which the Government should go and the only way that can be done was to have a separate body, the Clerk and the Speaker assisted by the Clerk of Council to deal with matters concerning this Council," Mr Yong added.

Mr Mak Yau Lim speaking at the second reading of the Bill said:

"The functions of Clerks to the Council Negri and Clerk to the Supreme Council had, in the past, been all performed by the same person i.e. the Clerk of Councils. Despite of the heavy burdens, he was able to perform

them smoothly and effectively which shows that how able and efficient the Councils' Clerk was.

"Apart from functioning the two important and busy Councils, the Clerk was also able to render assistance to the members of these Councils, particularly to members of Council Negri such as explaining matters to them, helping them to arrange their travels and so on.

"I noticed that whenever members approached the Clerk for certain matters or business, he was always willing to attend them promptly with smiling face and cheerful manner. Tribute should be given to the past and previous Clerk of Councils including Mr Peter Chong, Inche Mazlan and Mr Yao Peng Hua for their handsome spirit and willingness to serve the Councils as well as the members".

QUESTION TIME IN COUNCIL NEGRI

May 23 - May 29 1965

All the RPS 'B' Schemes so far approved or included in current plans for the Second Division are primarily designed to resettle families from border longhouses.

This was stated by the Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Teo Kui Seng in answer to a question by Mr Tutong anak Ningkan.

Mr Ningkan had asked when would Government open up the area of land between Bukit Antu and Lubok Antu to resettle the people in the area and those from near the Sarawak side of the border since there were people from hundreds of doors of longhouses waiting to participate in any land development scheme, particularly Scheme B.

Mr Teo said that in the Skrang Scheme, 130 families from the Ulu Delok and other border areas in Lubok Antu District were now temporarily housed in the Skrang Transit Camp awaiting a move to permanent houses which were to be built in the new village which was planned as part of that Scheme.

He continued: "The Melugu Land Development Scheme is likewise intended to provide for the resettlement of upwards of some 200 families from houses in the area between Melugu and the border. The extension of the Melugu Scheme are in the Undup region, again, is designed to resettle

families from the Ulu Undup border areas.

"As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, the road which is currently under construction from the Engkilili/Saratok Trunk Road towards the Lemanak in the vicinity of Ridan and Bukit Batu is intended to be continued in a generally south-easterly direction as far as Lubok Antu itself.

"The construction-work on this road has now reached the vicinity of Ridan. Approximately 1,000 acres of land have been acquired on the far (i.e. south-eastern) side of the Lemanak River and negotiations and surveys with a view to acquiring further land are now being carried out. The precise timing of this will, of course, depend not only on the progress made with the road construction, but also on the availability of the necessary staff to carry out the other processes (e.g. survey, negotiation with landowners, etc.). Highly important to this will be the willingness of the landowners or right-holders concerned to dispose of their land.

Lack of Accommodation

"Surveys which have lately been carried out in the Ulu Ai areas of Lubok Antu District by Administration and Development staff,

with the active co-operation of the Honourable Member who has reused this question, have indicated that there are at present some 97 "doors" who were unable to move to the Skrang Transit Camp last year owing to the lack of further accommodation there, but who are still anxious to move from their present locations to a resettlement or Development Scheme.

"The land which has already been acquired in the Bukit Batu (Lemanak) area is sufficient to permit some 50 families from the Ulu Ai being accepted into the Scheme in that area at the present time and plans, with estimates, for such a move are now being prepared as a matter of urgency. It is also hoped that the balance of the 97 "doors" who wish to move from the Ulu Ai, as mentioned above, can in time be accommodated in the Skrang Scheme.

"However, this will create even more formidable problems than already exist in the provision of permanent housing, in a planned village, for all the settlers — the total of which would be increased well beyond the maximum previously envisaged. These aspects, too, are at the moment engaging the urgent attention of all Government staff concerned.

"The survey in the Ulu Ai referred to earlier in this reply has also revealed that a total of 66 doors of Iban longhouses which have for the last year been farming on borrowed land near Nanga Mepi, where the people have constructed temporary houses for themselves, are prepared and willing to remain in their present general area for at least one further season, by which time it is expected that further acquisitions of land near the Bukit Batu/Lubok Antu road, in particular, will have taken place and thus make possible a move to the new areas of these ulu families.

"Finally, it may be noted that current plans in this connection in the Second Division provide for the eventual resettlement in Land Development Schemes of some 600 families from the border areas of the Division.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Chief Minister to obtain information from Federal Government as to what steps had been taken regarding the unintentional killing of three loggers at Sematan last February and whether any compensation had been paid to the surviving families of the victims.

The Chief Minister said he would refer the question to the Federal Government.

Represent Sarawak—Urges Leong

Mr Sim Kheng Hong asked the Minister

for Natural Resources whether political considerations were given to those applications made by persons for rubber planting under Scheme B.

The Minister for Natural Resources replied that it was the policy of the Alliance Government to give special consideration to the poor and landless and inasmuch as this was favouring the poor and landless farmer at the expense of the more wealthy section of the farming community, and all were voters, he supposed it could be said that the applications were subject to political considerations.

If, however, the question was intended to suggest that consideration was given to the political party to which applicants belonged, then the answer was definitely no.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Chief Minister whether the Government was aware that the local people were not happy when Sarawak was not represented on the recent Afro-Asian tour led by the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and whether the State Government would urge the Federal Government to assure that Sarawak would in future be represented either on such similar tour or conference involving Sarawak.

The Chief Minister replied that he would pass Mr Leong's question to the Federal Government.

Mr Tutong anak Ningkan asked the Minister for Natural Resources whether he was aware that people in the Ulu Ai were not given subsidy while those rubber planters nearer to Lubok Antu were given, although both groups of rubber planters did apply for subsidy and plant seedlings approved by the Agriculture Department, and why must there be this difference of treatment.

The Minister replied that the difference of treatment was primarily one of communications and would improve as new roads were constructed. It was difficult for the Agricultural Department to give the advice and supervision necessary under Rubber Planting Scheme 'A' in remote ulu areas.

"Nevertheless, Government realises that the people of the Ulu Ai have every right to share in the Rubber Planting Scheme and for this reason the Assisted Rubber Planting Scheme, which was introduced in September, 1960, is being offered," he said.

"It has been found that many farmers in the ulu prefer the easier terms of the Assisted Rubber Planting Scheme which was designed especially to suit the different conditions in the ulu, and do not like the strict rules of RPS 'A' even though the subsidy is higher," he added.

Scholarships

On the question of scholarships Mr Tutong anak Ningkan asked the Chief Minister why the Government gave more scholarships to the non-Natives now when Natives had been promised extra help by Government before Sarawak joined Malaysia.

The Chief Minister said that it was not clear whether the Honourable Member's question referred to local or overseas scholarships or in-service training or all three. "The short answer is that Natives have been given increasingly greater opportunities than non-Natives in all these categories since Malaysia Day," he said, and continued, "The following figures bear this out. The total number of local scholarships in secondary schools awarded to Natives in 1962 was 789, in 1963 it was 994, in 1964 it was 1,121, and in 1965 the figure for local scholarships for Natives looks like being 1,500. This can be compared against 12 scholarships for non-Natives in 1964 and 15 in 1965.

"As far as overseas scholarships are concerned the figures are as follows:-

In 1962, 23 for Natives and 49 for non-Natives. In 1963, 17 for Natives, a slight reduction, and 68 for non-Natives.

In 1964, 18 for Natives and 74 for non-Natives. In 1965, an estimated 29 for Natives against an estimated 70 for non-Natives, a slight reduction in the case of non-Natives, and a substantial increase in the case of Natives.

"The same pattern is to be seen in terms of overseas inservice training awards, the figures for Natives being 58, 60 and 151 against 98, 123 and 125 for non-Natives for the years 1962, 1963 and 1964. It is too early to give any definite figures for this year, but I have no reason to believe that the pattern that emerges from the figures I have given, that is that there are now more and more scholarships going to non-Natives, will not continue.

"A limiting factor for overseas scholarships is the absolute necessity for high academic qualification. As a normal rule, no university will take students who have not passed the Higher School Certificate examination or the equivalent. Figures show that the number of Natives who are passing the Higher School Certificate examination is increasing and I anticipate that it will continue to do so.

"However, I must issue a word of warning which I have already mentioned in this House, and that is that the day will come when there will be more Native pupils

passing the Higher School Certificate than there will be scholarship awards. An element of greater competition must then come in and it must not be taken for granted that anyone who gets Higher School Certificate be he Native or non-Native automatically gets a scholarship".

Mr Chong Kiun Kong asked the Chief Minister whether a policy had been laid down for the Public Service Commission in awarding government scholarships and scholarships under the Colombo Plan for Higher studies and if so, what was the policy.

The Chief Minister replied: "Mr Speaker, yes, the policy laid down is that selection of candidates is to be made not only on the basis of academic records, but also on the candidate's character, personality and suitability for the profession chosen, having regard to the need to preserve a balanced racial proportion in recruitment to the Government Service".

Mr Leong Ho Yuen wanted to know from the Chief Minister whether the Government would state, apart from academic qualifications, what other requirements were necessary both from the student and the parents concerned to qualify for an award of scholarships for overseas studies or training.

The Chief Minister replied that he had already explained, in answer to the Honourable Mr Chong Kiun Kong's question, the policy to be followed by the body responsible for selecting candidates for overseas scholarships and training.

"Nothing is required of the parents of a prospective scholarship holder. It is only necessary for a candidate to be worthy of the grant of a scholarship," he added.

The Question of Primary School Fees

The Minister for Local Government was asked by Abang Othman whether primary school fees would be abolished with effect from June, 1965.

The Minister for Local Government replied that the Federal Minister for Education was due to visit Sarawak later this month and any further information regarding the abolition of school fees must await his visit.

Mr Ong Kee Hui said that there was some public announcement to the fact that the abolition of school fees will take effect in April and it was May now.

The Minister for Local Government replied that he did not agree with Mr Ong's statement because when the Federal Minister of Education visited Sarawak sometime ago they did not reach a final decision on the

matter.

Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze wanted to know from the Minister for Natural Resources:

- (a) how many rubber seedlings and seeds have been sent to Belaga for the purpose of rubber replanting or planting since 1955; and
- (b) what is the known result of the rubber seeds which were sent.

Reply by the Minister for Natural Resources:

Mr Speaker, by reason of its inaccessibility, Belaga has remained outside the orbit of Rubber Planting Scheme 'A'. It was, therefore, only with the introduction of the Assisted Rubber Planting Scheme in September, 1960, that the people of Belaga became eligible for high yielding planting material. Since then, 150,335 Rubber Seedlings have been delivered to Belaga.

In March, 1965, the Department of Agriculture despatched 50,000 Prang Besar Gough Garden Seed to Belaga with a view to establishing a clonal stump nursery for the subsequent issue of Clonal Stumps to farmers in the Belaga area. Germination of the seed was, however, every poor and it has proved possible to establish only some 3,200 seedlings from the 50,000 seed despatched. This, it should be noted, is entirely the fault of the seed. Seed from the same batch gave comparably poor germination in First and Third Divisions too and the fact that it was of poor quality has been admitted by the suppliers who have agreed to compensate Government for the loss.

A further effort to establish a nursery at Belaga will be made when supplies of fresh seed become available from Malaya in or about September this year.

Mr Yong asked in a supplementary question whether he would make sure this time that the seeds given would be in a better condition.

Mr Teo replied that every step would be taken to ensure that the next consignment of seeds would be good but he pointed out that one could not be sure until they were put to germinate.

More Clerical Staff Wanted

Abang Othman asked the Chief Minister to urge the Federal Government to bolster the personnel of the Registrar-General's Department especially those in the Clerical grade so as to speed up the routine work in connection with thousands of applications for Citizenship

and National Registration Identity Cards.

The Chief Minister replied that he would urge the Federal Government accordingly.

Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze asked the Minister for Natural Resources:

- (a) whether the strip of land from the bank of the Belaga River, lying between Sungai Taman and Sungai Penan, Belaga, Third Division, will be released to the people of the six kampungs living in this area for agricultural purposes as a means of earning their livelihood;
- (b) whether the fines imposed on some of them for having used part of the said land for planting padi would be refunded to them.

Reply by the Minister for Natural Resources:

"Mr Speaker, I regret that I have had some difficulty in identifying the area to which the question refers. The strip of land mentioned is presumably between Sungai Penuan and Sungai Taman on the banks of the Balui (not Belaga) river within the Taman Protected Forest.

"In 1959 the District Officer, Kapit, advised that as it was subject to flooding it was presumably unsuitable for agriculture, and therefore should not be excised. Furthermore, the Government is not in favour of excising small pieces of land from the Forest Estate unless definite proposals are put forward for the proper use and development of the land excised. It may be noted that the peoples of the Ulu Balui have adequate land outside the Taman Protected Forest. (2nd Part):-

"If the people were fined for farming within the Protected Forest they have contravened the Forest Ordinance and there is no question that the fines will be refunded.

"I realise that this answer might be considered rather vague and, if the Honourable Member will supply further details of the problem of my Ministry, I will arrange for a written reply to be prepared".

Mr Yong further asked whether the Minister would look into the matter further as to why these people should go and farm on a land which was said to be unsuitable and also run the risk of being fined.

In reply, Mr Teo pointed out that the area in question was subjected to floods and it was therefore not advisable for people to cultivate lands subjected to flooding.

Mr Yong: Then there must be a shortage of farming land.

Mr Teo: I have just said that the people the Ulu Balui have adequate land. So far 5 have received no request for land for farming

from the people in the Ulu Balui.

Mr Yong: Will the Minister take into account that these people have never really had much opportunity to make representation.

Mr Teo: If the Hon'ble Member is so concerned about the people in Belaga I will certainly make enquiries accordingly.

Schools and Teachers

Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) whether subsidies will be given to the people of Rumah Bakah at Long Bulan, Rumah Lesong of Batu Kilong, Rumah Lahanan of Long Pangi and Long Dugan, Belaga, for the costs of the school buildings put up by them; and
- (b) whether school teachers requested by them will be sent and if so, when.

Replying the Minister for Local Government said:

"The Hon'ble Member must be well aware that the exceedingly short notice given of this question is quite inadequate for me to give an informed reply. The interests of the communities to which he refers would have been better served had longer notice been given in order to enable local enquiry to ascertain the position.

"As far as I know, the three schools referred to are temporary buildings and erected without reference to and without the knowledge of the Kapit District Council. As the Hon'ble Member will be aware, the Council is the body responsible for primary school development in its area and this is possible only on the basis of carefully estimated planning.

"Nevertheless, I understand the Council has generously accepted this unforeseen commitment, for which no financial provision was made. Also, that the Education Department has agreed to extend grant-in-aid to the schools. Teachers' quarters have, I believe, been approved and doubtless the Kapit District Council will be recruiting these as soon as practicable.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Chief Minister whether the Government would consider:

- (a) extending the privilege of paying allowances to Malay Tua Kampung to include Bidayuh Tua Kampung who are also responsible for the same type and Size of Kampung; and
- (b) increasing the present scale of the allowances.

The Chief Minister replied that the question had come in too late to enable a studied reply to be given. I would send the Hon'ble Member a written reply, he said.

Licences For Extracting Jungle Produce

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Minister for Natural Resources whether he would explain his Ministry's policy towards issuing licences for extracting jungle produce with particular reference to timber and what concession be given to Native applicants for such business.

The Minister for Natural Resources replied that he had already given the Honourable Member an answer to his question in reply to a question in that House on 22nd December last. "I also referred to forest policy in answer to a question at the meeting of this House on 14th April, 1964. I trust that the Honourable Member will not expect me to recite Government's forest policy at each meeting of this House. If the Honourable Member feels that there is still some aspect of policy that he cannot find in Hansard, I will endeavour to clarify it," he said.

Mr Leong further asked whether licences for timber extracting could be revoked if it had come to the knowledge of the Government that natives had accepted money when applying for such licences from other sources.

Mr Teo replied that he was not aware of such mal-practices but if Mr Leong could cite specific cases he would make enquiries and would go into the matter.

Leong Ho Yuen asked the Chief Minister in view of the promised extension of the Federal Land Development Authority (FLDA) to Sarawak, what steps had the State Government taken towards the formation of such Authority in the State.

The Chief Minister replied that an approach had already been made to the Federal Land Development Authority and an officer from the Authority was currently conducting an examination of the situation in Sarawak in respect of land development and in respect of opportunities for the Authority. "I hope I shall have more to report when this examination has been completed," he added.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen finally asked the Minister for Natural Resources whether he would consider reducing the 50 percent surcharge imposed by the Department of Lands and Surveys on overdue quit rent.

The Minister for Natural Resources replied:

My answer is 'no'. Land rent becomes due on the 1st of January this year and land

owners have six months in which to pay. If rent remains unpaid on the 30th June, a 50 percent surcharge, as provided for in Rule No.

13 of the Land Premia Rents and Fees Rules, is in force.

ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENTS) BILL PASSED

May 30 - June 5 1965

The Road Traffic (Amendments) Bill passed its Third Reading during the last session of the Council Negri. Moving the Second Reading of the Bill, the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud said the amendments which the Bill sought were necessary as a result of Sarawak's entry into Malaysia.

He said the main purpose of most of the amendments was to transfer from the Governor to the Minister powers under the various provisions in clause 4.

"This is considered essential since matters relating to land transport are now within the portfolio of Ministry of Communications and Works," he said. He continued, "In clause 5 of the Bill, an amendment is made to section 61 to require a Land Transport Advisory Board to advise the Minister and, subject to any directions of the Minister, to give advice to the Divisional Transport Authorities. As it is at present, the Board gives such advice and directions to the Divisional Transport Authorities as it may seem desirable to the Board. This amendment is a measure to ensure desirable to the Board. This amendment is a measure to ensure that whatever advice or direction given by the Board to the Authorities does, in fact, fall in line with Government policy.

"The amendment to section 98 made by clause 8 removes the necessity for all cases of traffic offences of a minor nature in which notices have been served in lieu of applying to the court for summonses to be returnable before a Magistrate of the First Class. Most of these cases are of trifling nature and can easily be tried by the Magistrate having jurisdiction to try them."

A Rubber Stamp

Mr Chong Kiun Kong, speaking on the Bill said the proposed amendment provided for power to the Minister to give directive to the Advisory Committee, and asked whether the Government was going to make this Advisory Committee a rubber stamp? "If the Govern-

ment is sincere and realizes that the Advisory Committee is performing its function properly, is it wise to make it a rubber stamp? Why not leave it to do its function namely, to advise the government without having its function curtailed by having to act under the directive of the Minister?" he added.

"In fact it sounds quite contradictory in term when the law provides for the Advisory Committee to advise the Minister when at the same time we are asked to pass an amendment of the law that the same body should be subjected to directions of the Minister.

"Reduce it to simple term, the position seems to be, that the Advisory Committee is being appointed to advise the Minister, and may do so subject to any directions which the Minister may give. What is the purpose of such an Advisory Committee? I would seek assurance from the Government that there will be no fritting away of State control over Land Transport and that the Advisory Committee will not be made a rubber stamp," concluded Mr Chong.

The Attorney General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, speaking in support said that Mr Chong Kiun Kong had failed to notice the definition of 'Minister' in clause (2) of the Bill which made it clear that the Minister was a member of Supreme Council of Sarawak.

"This was so of course because Land Transport, under the Constitution, would be a State matter for another ten years. The reason why the powers were invested in the Minister was so that they did not have a spate of criticisms, which two honourable members made in respect of the last Bill, of delays in dealing with matters.

"It was necessary under our Constitution for the powers to be vested in the Governor so that the Governor to act on the advice of the Supreme Council. This necessarily took a rather longer time, than the time required for the Minister to give the advice. That was **una** of the reasons why these powers were transferred to the Minister."

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) referring to Clause (5) asked if the Advisory Committee was competent to advise the Minister, would it be also not competent to advise the Divisional Transport Authority?

As it was now put, it looked as if the Advisory Committee's function was to advise the Minister, but when that body advised a smaller body, namely the Divisional Transport Authority, the Minister who has already been advised by the Divisional Committee would have to give direction how to advise the smaller body. This seemed to be rather odd, he said.

General Feeling of Uneasiness

Mr Ong Kee Hui said that there was a general feeling of uneasiness prevailing among those who were connected with the road transport industry or business.

As the State Attorney General had pointed out the road transport would be under State control for the next ten years.

Referring to the situation prevailing in the mainland in connection with road transport, Mr Ong said that at the moment there was a general feeling of uneasiness among those connected with the industry. He said that this was due to the Government policy, and the administration of carrying out of that policy has resulted in a state of affairs which has been described as "the Ali Baba racket".

He hoped that this was not "the thin end of the wedge" and that a similar situation would not arise in this country.

He added that the point made by previous speakers on the functions of the Advisory Board was important because up to now this body had functioned very satisfactorily. He spoke with a certain amount of experience and sincerely hoped that the introduction of this new measure would not put the clock back but forward.

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind) said that at present there were many divisional transport authorities - almost one in each Division.

He hoped that the Minister after receiving his powers from the Governor would respect the decision made in those Divisional Trans-

port Authorities.

Inche Taib bin Mahmud, winding up, said that there seemed to be a lot of criticisms of this Bill which were wide of the mark. He said there was also a lot of misunderstanding that once the power was transferred to the Minister from the Governor there would be an abuse of power.

He added: "With due respect, Sir, I come almost very regularly to answer questions in Council Negri and that is the time to scrutinise whether I do really abuse my powers or not."

The Minister went on to say that if the power was retained with the Governor it would mean still retaining the old colonial system. It was something handled in fact by a Ministry.

He pointed out that Section (5) was carefully worded in order to preserve a certain amount of independence of the Divisional Transport Authority.

They could have amended it to say that the Advisory Board might give advice to the Minister and that the Minister could direct the Divisional Land Transport Authority, in which case the DLTA would have no say whatsoever.

But knowing the complications of the local problems that might crop up from time to time, and knowing that a political Government ought to have its own policy in accordance with the Government of the country and other sociological practice, they have got to compromise and say that the Advisory Board should itself think of the technical problems and then advise the Minister.

If the advice happened to conflict with the policy of the Government of the day then the Minister would give direction back to the Advisory Board, and then this Advisory Board would give advice and not direction to the Divisional Land Transport Authority.

Finally, Inche Taib said that he would invite members to think carefully how they should like to retain the independence of the Divisional Land Transport Authority which in fact was the executive referring to the Ali Baba racket mentioned by Mr Ong, Inche Taib said: "I hate Ah Baba practices".

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Chief Minister moving the second reading of the Development Finance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, said the purpose of the Bill was to amend section 7 of the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation Ordinance to prevent avoidable delays in the business of the Corporation by providing that the seal of the Corporation may be used in the presence of the secretary and one member.

As the law then stood two members and the secretary must be present.

Mr Mak Yau Lim speaking on the Bill said when it was brought up for discussion in the last Council Negri, several members spoke of the delay of having a loan approved by this Corporation, and they also suggested that the procedure of making a loan should be made simple and easy which was, of course, very constructive and reasonable. "I wonder what consideration has the Corporation given to those suggestions?" he asked.

He hoped that when passed, the Bill would act forcefully, and not merely in writings or in words.

Mr Ong Kee Hui said he had heard from people who thought that he was still on the Board of the Corporation about the slowness of the procedures which had to be encountered in this country, and this could cause great inconvenience to the people whom the Corporation was supposed to assist.

Mr Ong said he would therefore urge the Deputy Chief Minister, who is the Chairman of the Corporation, not only to improve the mechanics of the Corporation but also make those responsible for its running to step up development in this country.

Mr Stephen Yong said that the approach to the Corporation was like the case of the general pattern of going to the bank to raise a loan and the first thing that they asked for was your security.

If that was the attitude they were taking the poor man would never get the financial assistance he needed.

Mr Wong explained that the problem of despatch in dealing with applications was a mechanical one.

"As Chairman of the Corporation, I can assure honourable members we are doing everything we can within practical limits to make this organisation as efficient as possible.

"But the fact of the matter is this: we are now short of Field Officers; these officers have first to be trained".

Here, Mr Wong went on to mention that some Field Officers were already under training and they were expected back in a few months' time.

Stressing that Field Officers were not easy to come by and that they should be trained, Mr Wong said they must have a knowledge of agriculture and above all, in the interests of the applicants themselves, be able to say after investigation of the loan, whether a project was viable.

Not Just For The Fun of Approving

Mr Wong continued: "While we are very keen to give loans to farmers and fishermen and others, it is not the intention of the Corporation nor the Government to cause undue hardship by approving just for the fun of approving a loan which would prove to be a loss for the applicant. So far, in the years of the Corporation's history, we have had no occasion yet to foreclose on any single applicant".

He stressed on the great care taken to investigate applications and assured the House that the points made by the previous speakers would be noted and everything would be done to speed up the process of approving applications.

The Bill passed its Third Reading.

THE 'COUNCIL NEGRI' BILL

The Council Negri (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) (Amendment) Bill also passed the Third Reading.

Moving the second reading of the Bill, the Deputy Chief Minister said that under the present Standing Orders the only power of restraint over unruly behaviour by a Member was suspension for the remainder of the day's sitting.

"Happily even this limited power has not had to be used yet. If however the time came when the proceedings of this House became less gentlemanly and Members conduct became persistently rude or unruly, such a limited power might prove wholly in-

adequate," he said.

He explained that the main purpose of the Bill was to give a greater power of suspension under procedure to be set out in Standing Orders. "Clause 3 will accordingly insert a new section 10 (a) for this purpose and at a suitable opportunity Members will be asked to amend our Standing Orders so as to ensure the proper exercises of the wider power on the same lines as the Dewan Ra'ayat, he added, and continued:

"The opportunity has also been taken to bring our section creating offences more into line with the Houses of Parliament (Privileges and Powers) Ordinance, 1952 of the Federal Parliament by adding certain additional offences and by amending section 22(h) so as to make it clear that publishing a false or scandalous libel on the Speaker is also an offence".

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp), speaking on the Bill, observed that it may be said that they were becoming more sophisticated politically and perhaps more matured. "And the consequence of which mean we in here are becoming more unruly," he said.

Therefore, Mr Yong said, they had to adopt, as the Deputy Chief Minister had told them, provisions prevailing in other countries and the Dewan Ra'ayat.

Mr Yong went on to say they have had occasion to see more matured politicians in the Dewan Ra'ayat, in spite of these rules, of "engineering flying missiles" from one floor to another.

Mr Yong hoped that as they have had the good fortune here of such things not happening, these rules would not be ever applied.

He went on to say that it was a question of opinion whether certain laxity should not be given to members at times or allowing them an expression of emotion, of course, within limits.

Ensure Better Orderliness

What the limits were depended so much on the spirit in which they took it. This amendment in effect, Mr Yong said, would deny the Chief Minister the pleasure of throwing out challenges as he did. He for one, would have taken that exhibition of his emotion as nothing more but a natural reaction of a person being provoked.

Mr Yong said that they must have certain rules in which they should conduct themselves specially to uphold the dignity of the House. If so long as members had that in mind they should not be rigidly adhering to the letter of this rule, but its spirit.

Mr Mak Yau Lim said that he quite agree with the later of the Bill that more protection be given to the proceedings of the Council to ensure better orderliness, and also to enable members to express their views frankly and freely.

Mr Ong Kee Hui said that as one who has sat in this House for a considerable number of years, he must confess he regretted that it had now become necessary to lay down certain codes of conduct and impose penalties.

Mr Ong pointed out that the title of the Bill "was a bit misleading".

Under 'Privileges' Mr Ong asked: "What do members of this House enjoy?" He said that the public might think that they were a special class of people but in fact, they were not. Mr Ong went on to say that members of this House who were also members of the Federal Parliament, were accorded VIP treatment generally when they went abroad to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, but they were like prophets without honour in their own country when they returned.

He said it was a very sad reflection that even their luggages were opened when they returned. They who were given honourable treatment abroad were treated so shabbily in their own country when they returned. He said the same thing applied to "Immunities".

Regarding "Powers", Mr Ong said they certainly had powers to make rules and in this case, they were making powers or taking powers to make rules to govern themselves. This was in the correct spirit of Parliamentary democracy and generally speaking he had no objection to the Bill as such.

The State Attorney General, Mr P.E.H. Pike, said that he did not think that Government had ever suggested that these provisions were now necessary. The Government, he said, was doing a little bit of anticipation.

He hoped that they would never be necessary.

He added: "We too on this side are proud of the conduct of members of this Council. We have not, as was made clear by the mover, ever had to resort even to the suspension of a member for the remainder of the day's sitting, and I hope we never shall, but it is wise to be wise before the event. Even with these amendments, our Privileges, Powers and Immunities Legislation does not go to the extent of that of the Federal Parliament," said Mr Pike.

To Maintain Dignity And Decorum

Another speaker who supported the Bill

was Mr Sim Boon Liang, MP. He said that he welcomed the introduction of the Bill and added: "Let us remember that one cannot say or do anything he or she likes. There must always be a limit and no one can go beyond that in this House".

The Deputy Chief Minister in his winding up speech assured everyone on behalf of Government members that they would always be fair and strive to maintain the dignity and decorum of the House.

From Supp To Alliance Linang Crosses Floor

From October 17 to October 23, 1965

Mr Charles Linang, The only native member of The Sarawak United Peoples' party in the Council Negri, sprang a surprise at the meeting of The Council Negri on Tuesday when he crossed the floor to join the alliance.

Mr Linang told the Council that he had submitted a written declaration to the effect that he was switching over to the Sarawak Alliance, and asked permission of the Speaker to cross the floor.

The Speaker gave his assent, and as Mr Linang started to cross the floor, there were cries of "Traitor" from the Opposition Benches.

At the same time shouts of "welcome" greeted Mr Linang as he joined the Government side, and the Chief Minister rose and said: "On behalf of the Alliance I welcome you to our fold."

During this week's session the Council passed six Bills including The Supplementary Supply (1965) Bill which authorised an additional expenditure of \$789,284 for this year.

The other five Bills were:

- * The Council Negri (Members' Oaths) Validation Bill, moved by the Chief Minister;
- * The Port Authorities (Amendment) Bill, moved by the Deputy Chief Minister;
- * The National Parks (Amendment) Bill, moved by the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry;
- * The Charitable Trusts (Amendment) Bill, moved by the Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture; and
- * The Water Supply (Amendment) Bill, also moved by the Deputy Chief Minister in the absence of the Minister for Communications and Works.

The Council approved a motion by the Chief Minister granting a fixed conveyance allowance to the Speaker at the rate payable to Division I Officers. The Council also approved the payment of an allowance of \$130 a month or a driver, at the option of the Speaker.

Twenty-two questions were asked and answered and 25 Papers were laid on the Table - 14 by the Chief Minister; five by the Deputy Chief Minister; five by the Minister for Local Government and one by the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry.

The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Mr Ong Kee Hui, also laid on the Table the first report of the meeting of the Public Accounts Committee on January 22, 1965.

The meeting began with the election of the Acting Speaker, Abang Haji Abdul Rahim bin Abang Haji Moasili.

The motion, proposed by the Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan, was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui, and the Council unanimously elected Abang Haji Abdul Rahim.

A member of Party Pesaka, Mr Abing Nawan, who was absent at the meeting of the Council Negri in December 1963, when members took their oaths under the new Constitution, was then sworn in.

The Speaker then reported to the Council that the Hon'ble Mr Tan Chiaw Thong, Acting State Attorney-General, had taken and subscribed the Oath before him in order to enable him to attend and take part in the proceedings of the standing Orders and Business Committee.

On behalf of the Council, the Speaker extended a warm welcome to the Acting State Attorney-General,

He also announced that the following Members had been granted leave of absence from the meeting.

They were: The Minister for Communications and Works; Mr Sandom anak Nyuak and Penghulu Jinggut anak Attan.

Congratulations

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Taib bin Mahmud, is now in the United States of America attending a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly as a member of the Malaysian Delegation.

Mr Sandom anak Nyuak is in New Zealand on a Parliamentary study tour while Penghulu Jinggut anak Attan was unable to attend because a member of his family had fallen ill.

The Speaker then referred to the appointment of Dato P.E.H. Pike as Chief Justice of the High Court of Borneo, and said:

"I am sure Hon'ble Members will want to join me in offering our congratulations to Dato Pike and our thanks to him for the invaluable service he has rendered to Council. With leave of the House, I will instruct the clerk to convey our thanks and best wishes for the future to Dato Justice Pike."

He concluded: Hon'ble Members will also, I am sure, want to join me in offering our congratulations to those Members of Council who have been bestowed with various honours by His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of his birthday recently.

Speaker's Travel Allowances

Moving the motion for the grant of a fixed conveyance allowance to the Speaker, the Chief Minister said:

"The effect of this motion is to give the Speaker of Council Negri the same privileges as those which are accorded to a Minister of State.

"He is often required to travel in his own car on official business either in his capacity as Speaker or as President of the local branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Moreover, his counter-parts in some of the other States in Malaysia are paid fixed conveyance allowances and provided with Government paid drivers or allowances in lieu.

"When Sessional Paper No. 5/63 was amended by this Council in December, 1963, and again in April 1964, provision was not made for the privileges now sought. This was an over-sight and I am sure that all Hon'ble

Members will agree that the Speaker should be accorded the same treatment as Ministers of State."

Speaking on the motion, Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind.) said he agreed with the renumbering of items contained in the motion.

Referring to the insertion of new items, Mr Mak Yau Lim said: "I would like to refer first to item (iii) which reads: If the Speaker is in possession of a car he shall be paid Fixed Conveyance Allowance at the rate payable to Division I Officers'; I must admit that I do not know what a Fixed Conveyance Allowance is, and I also do not know at what rate it is payable to a Division I Officer.

"Nevertheless, I believe that the Division I officer is a full time officer, and that he may be paid at such rate. Now, the question is whether or not our Speaker is a full time Speaker. If he is, then it is fair that he should be entitled to the same rate as the Division I officers. But, if he is not a full time Speaker, then he should be receiving less than the rate as enjoyed by the Division I officers.

Preserve Dignity

"I now refer to item (iv). Under this item, if I'm not mistaken, the Speaker is also entitled to a car driver, or at the option of an allowance of \$130 per month in lieu thereof.

"Frankly speaking, Sir, I do not oppose the Speaker of having a car driver, as this will preserve the dignity of the Speaker; since the Ministers are entitled for car drivers, why not our Speaker be given a car driver too.

"What I cannot agree is that a fixed monthly allowance of \$130 be paid to the Speaker in lieu thereof. I gather that even if there is such an allowance, I doubt the Speaker will really be willing to take it, as it doesn't add any dignity to him by paying him such an exceptional allowance which is less significant.

"Whether there is such an allowance or not, I believe that the Speaker will not bother about it, and will continue to drive the car himself as usual without allowance to show that he is not only an expert in 'speaking' but also skilful in driving."

Speaking on the motion, Mr Stephen Yong commented that there was no need to 'chop and change' the schedule from time to time. He suggested that the Government must get into the habit of looking at things from all sides and not only concentrate on Minister's allowances and pay and forget about the others.

Touching on the Speaker's conveyance allowance, Mr Yong asked what happened if

the Speaker did not own a car and if he choose to travel by taxi. Would he be allowed to claim transport charges?

He did not mean to say that the present Speaker could not afford to have a car. Mr Yong again asked that if the Speaker choose to drive his car himself would be entitled to the Government should look at the question of allowances and payments "in a more comprehensive manner rather than in this haphazard and short-sighted way."

The Chief Minister replied that nobody in this world was 100 percent perfect. It did not mean that they were only thinking of themselves! on the other hand, they were thinking of many people. He said that they were not

taking advantage as the Government in power to introduce unnecessary amendment bills, but they were doing their best to get on with the job.

He said that it was not easy for them to know everything in detail in a short time. Rome was no built in a day, said the Chief Minister, adding that they might have unfortunately overlooked certain things, but they were in power. He said: "I have no doubt Mr Yong being an Opposition member has nothing else to say in order to provoke the Government."

The Motion was then put to the House, and passed.

Datu Tuanku Bujang Re- Elected To Senate

The Council then re-elected Datu Tuanku Bujang bin Datu Tuanku Haji Osman, Senator for a second term.

The nomination of Datu Tuanku Bujang was made by the Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan.

TWO ELECTED FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr Thomas Kana, Secretary-General of Party Pesaka and Mr Dagok anak Randan (PANAS) Chairman of Upper Sadong District Council were then elected to the House of Representatives.

Commenting on the election the Secretary-General of the Sarawak United Peoples' Party, Mr Stephen Yong said there was no need to be asked to sign a declaration as to what party the member belonged to. Mr Yong said that whenever there was a vacancy arising from that party from which the representative was elected, it would be for that party to elect a representative to fill that post.

Therefore he thought the declaration should not be required for any vacancy that might arise. He added: "We are prepared not to vote for or against because we feel that the two vacancies that are there, arise out of the Alliance Party."

Mr Yong said it had already been agreed constitutionally and verbally, that whenever there was a vacancy in the House of Representatives, relating to or in respect of persons of any party, then that party had the right to elect its own members to fill the vacancy.

However, one should not make a precedent that whenever there was a vacancy they should all make a declaration. Mr Yong then suggested that a ruling should be made that it should not be made a precedent that for every vacancy that occurred, there should be a declaration.

The Chief Minister replying said that on behalf of the Government he could not agree more with Mr Yong. It was unfortunate that it had been done before and the Federal Government would not now accept their nominees without the declaration and were

bound to say 'follow what you have done before.'

The Chief Minister ended by saying that the election to the House of Representatives in the Council Negri was a matter of formality since it had been already agreed between the parties concerned.

The Acting State Attorney General, Mr Tan Chiaw Thong, here interposed to say that if Mr Yong had examined the Order which had the force of law governing the election and any by-election by the House to the House of Representatives, the answer was clear and to the point.

Question of Declaration

The Acting Attorney-General said in his opinion there would be no necessity for the signing of declaration but this matter could not be ruled upon in the light of the provisions in the House of Representatives Election of

Members Order, 1963. It was clearly stated in that Order that its provisions applied to every election and by-election of members of the House of Representatives by Council Negri.

He added that in this instance it was a case of by-election by this House of two members of the House of Representatives and therefore provisions in that Order should and must be adhered to.

The relevant provision there was that the declaration by all members of the House as to the political group to which they belonged must be made, and then in the light of that the Speaker would work in accordance with Article No. 4, and ask the Chief Minister to work out the seats to which the new members should go to.

It was not a case where a ruling could be made. It was a case of having to follow the provisions of the House of Representatives Election of Members Order 1963, and that was mandatory.

Question Time In Council Negri

The Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan, stated in the Council Negri on Tuesday that it was proposed to spend a total of \$343 million on development in Sarawak for the five-year period, 1964-68.

He was replying to a question by Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp). Mr Ong asked: "What funds have been actually received by Sarawak under the Development Plan from the Central Government?"

Explaining the agreed arrangement between the State and the Federal Governments on the matter of financing of development projects, the Chief Minister said that paragraph 282 of the Plan sets out the source of finance for the development projects as follows:-

Direct Federal Expenditure	(1785 million)
Federal Grant	1148 million
Federal Loan	168 million
State Funds	334 million
	\$340 million

The Chief Minister said: "From the above figures, the Federal Government is expected and has in fact agreed to use its best endeavour to provide \$300 million for development in Sarawak in the form of (a) direct expenditure; (b) grant and (c) loan.

"As explained in paragraph 282 of the Plan, provision for work to be financed from State funds appears only in the State budget, whilst direct Federal expenditure is shown only in the Federal budget. Money for items shown as Federal grants and Federal loans are to be met from State funds in the first instance, and reimbursements are then claimed monthly from the Federal funds.

Actual Expenditure

"It is not therefore a matter that Federal funds are remitted to this Government merely because the Federal Government agrees to provide the funds. The arrangement is that in respect of projects which are a Federal responsibility the expenditure is charged direct to Federal funds, and in respect of projects which are a State responsibility and for which

the Federal Government has agreed to provide the finance as grant or loan, the expenditure is paid from State funds in the first instance and is subsequently reimbursed from Federal funds.

"The actual expenditure incurred by the Federal Government for development projects in Sarawak during 1964 was as follows:-

(a) Direct Federal Expenditure	\$20,027,533
(b) Federal Grant	\$14,009,685
(c) Federal Loan	\$3,107,137
TOTAL	\$37,344,355

"The actual expenditure on development in 1964 charged to State funds was \$6,767,659.

"It is not possible at this stage to give the actual expenditure figures on development in 1965. Based on the provision in the Federal and State budget, the State's and Federal share of development expenditure in Sarawak for 1965 is as follows:-

(a) Direct Expenditure	---	\$41,471,364
(b) Federal Grant	---	\$21,857,112
(c) Federal Loan	---	\$1,277,055
Total - Federal Funds	---	(64,605,531)
(d) State Funds	---	7,890,918
Total for Sarawak)		\$72,496,449

In reply to a supplementary question by Mr Stephen Yong, the Chief Minister said:

Approved provision for development expenditure financed from Federal funds compared with actual expenditure was as follows:-

	Approved Estimates 1964	Actual Expenditure 1964	Under Expenditure
(a) Direct Federal Expenditure	\$30,692,415	\$20,027,533	\$10,664,882
(b) Federal Grant	23,704,370	14,209,685	9,494,685
(c) Federal Loan	1,477,515	3,107,137	1,629,622 over
Total Federal Funds	\$55,874,300	\$37,344,355	\$18,529,945 net
	=====	=====	=====
(d) State Funds	6,099,076	6,767,659	668,583 over
	\$61,973,376	\$44,112,014	\$17,861,362

Mr Ong Kee Hui then said that the figures given by the Chief Minister were difficult to follow, and asked whether he would make these available in written form.

He also asked the Chief Minister whether he was satisfied they were getting funds from the Federal Government in accordance with their promise to Sarawak under the I.G.C. Report.

The Chief Minister replied that he was quite satisfied with the funds and the grants given by the Federal Government.

Mr Yong: According to the figures given by the Chief Minister it seems that the Federal Funds fall far short of what was expected or promised under the I.G.C. Report.

The Chief Minister denied that the funds were falling short of what was promised.

Mr Ong Kee Hui then sought clarification for the Chief Minister's reply and said that he understood negotiations were going on for funds under the First Malaysian Plan.

He wished to know whether the negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily and whether funds would be made available in accordance with what was promised.

The Chief Minister replied that question should be asked in the Federal Parliament.

Julau Bridge: 'Not Feasible'

It is not feasible to build any suitable bridge permanently above water level at Julau in the Third Division.

This was stated by the Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong in the Council Negri on Tuesday in reply to a question by Dato Pengarah Banyang.

Dato Banyang asked whether Government would give urgent consideration to the construction of the proposed Julau bridge near the Mission School at Julau.

Replying on behalf of the Minister for Communications and Works, Dato Wong said:

"At the meeting of Council Negri held in December, 1964, I gave the reasons why no financial provision had been included in the current Development Plan for the construction of a bridge from the end of the Julau Spur Road to Julau Bazaar, and indicated that cost of construction of such a bridge to carry vehicles of up to seven tons gross weight would cost about \$500,000. I also said that the project would be further examined to see whether a cheaper form of river crossing was feasible.

"This examination has shown that it is not feasible to build any suitable bridge permanently above water level at economic

cost."

Dato Wong added that investigations were still continuing into the possibilities of constructing a submersible bridge.

"This would provide access for vehicles to the Julau Bazaar at times when the river water levels are low but would be submerged during periods of flood. A thorough investigation during lands conditions is necessary to assess whether this proposal is feasible in view of the swift river flows and large amounts of debris at flood times," Dato Wong concluded.

Political Detainees

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) asked the Chief Minister whether the State Government would recommend to the Central Government that the political detainees now detained in Batu Gajah Detention Camp be sent back to Sarawak; the periodic visits by the relatives of Sarawak political detainees should not be disallowed by way of punishment; the families of Sarawak political detainees should be kept informed of their whereabouts and their health conditions when they are detained for more than a week.

The Chief Minister replied that he would pass Mr Chan's question to the Federal Government.

Land Bills

In the next question Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp) asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources when the proposed Land Bills would be introduced in Council Negri.

The Minister replied that no decision had yet been made.

Passports And Identity Cards

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind) asked the Chief Minister whether he would urge the Federal Government to assist persons born in Sarawak, "especially the rural people, who apply for Identity Cards or Malaysian Passports" but did not have birth certificates by simplifying the procedure of making such applications.

The Chief Minister replied he would pass the request to the Federal Government for consideration.

Late Registration of Births

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) wished to know if the State Government would recommend to the Federal Government that the procedure

for late registration of births be simplified and unnecessary red tape be abolished.

Reply by the Chief Minister

"I shall pass the Hon'ble Member's question to the Federal Government. I am, however, surprised that the Hon'ble Member does not ask the question in the House of Representatives himself being a Member of Parliament."

Compensations In Controlled Area

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources on what basis compensation was paid for land and crops acquired by Government in the controlled area in the Kuching/Serian Road.

The Minister replied that compensations were paid in accordance with the rules of the Land Code.

Rice - Poor Quality?

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) asked the Chief Minister whether he was aware of the importation by the Federal Government of poor-quality rice for distribution to the shopkeepers under quota system and whether he would recommend to the Federal Government that steps be taken to remedy this.

The Chief Minister replied he was not aware that poor quality rice has been imported for distribution to shopkeepers under a quota system, but he would pass the question as it stood to the Federal Government.

Mr Ong then wished to know "whether, in the light of the rising prices in essential commodities thereby affecting the livelihood particularly of the salaried class, the State Government would introduce appropriate measures to assist Government employees?"

The Chief Minister replied: "Much as I sympathise with the sentiments behind the Hon'ble Member's question this is a matter which must be left to the Malaysian Salaries Commission to which representations have been and can continue to be made."

Mr Stephen Yong asked in a supplementary question whether the Chief Minister would see that the price of essential commodities be kept at the proper level.

The Chief Minister said they were now doing their best to get the problem solved, but he could not promise when it could be done.

Welfare, Youth and Culture

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) then put two questions to the Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture. In his first question Mr Chong asked whether it was intended to recruit or second for service in Sarawak senior youth and welfare officers from outside Sarawak; or whether it was intended to give preference to suitably qualified or trained local welfare workers?

In his second question, Mr Chong wished to know:

- (a) What steps have been or are to be taken to integrate local youth voluntary organisations in order to gear them to greater efforts in nation-building and to ensure more financial aid from the State? and
- (b) What plans have been prepared or are likely to be implemented in 1966 towards the formation of a Social Welfare Department?

The Minister replying to both questions said he would deal with them together as they were inter-related.

He said: "A survey of Sarawak's needs in the welfare field generally was conducted in late 1964 by two representatives of the Department of Welfare Services in Kuala Lumpur and their report was received by my ministry in late July this year. This report - running to 130 pages - is an extremely detailed one. Its recommendations are now being studied with a view to preparation of a paper for consideration by the State Cabinet.

Cabinet Consideration

"Whether, in fact, a Social Welfare Department will be established in 1966 and, if so, what precise form this will take must depend upon the outcome of cabinet consideration of my ministry's recommendations.

"I am not yet in a position to indicate any details, either of organisation or staffing, which any possible Social Welfare Department in Sarawak at this time might require.

"The extent of specialised staff likely to be needed or its possible source, remains, therefore, somewhat hypothetical at the moment. However, I can give an assurance that preference will be given to local welfare workers, provided these are properly qualified and experienced, and that efforts will be intensified to train local candidates where this is required.

"On the question of local voluntary youth organisation, I must make it clear that the state is not yet in a position to afford a paid

youth service (even assuming this to be desirable) and it is likely that we shall have to continue to depend very much upon voluntary effort. I do not rule-out further limited financial assistance to voluntary bodies, but government must be satisfied that funds get to the right place. It is in the youth clubs and so on where the money is most wanted. I want to avoid our limited funds being drained away into unproductive conferences and torus.

"In the process of ensuring a greater degree of co-ordination of existing activity, I am sure the Government must play an increasing part. But, we have to be careful to avoid setting-up yet another organisation which merely holds conferences and passes resolutions. What is wanted is leadership and determination to get things done. To instil into our youth the vital role they have to play in the nation's development and activity to associate them with this process.

"This is easy to say, but not so easy to do. If it is decided to set-up some form of Department of Welfare Services in Sarawak next year, this may provide a means for more direct Government supervision over the development of youth activities outside the conventional education system."

Singapore Separation

Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp) referred to Singapore's separation and asked the Chief Minister what steps the State Government intended to take to ascertain the wishes of the people of Sarawak on the future of Sarawak "in the light of the changed situation brought about by the separation of Singapore from Malaysia."

In reply the Chief Minister said: "The Government does not intend to take any steps so long as it remains the Government of this State commanding the confidence of the majority of the representatives of the people of Sarawak sitting in this House."

In a supplementary question Mr Stephen Yong asked whether the Chief Minister agreed that Malaysia without Singapore was no longer the Malaysia that the Chief Minister and his party had first contemplated.

The Chief Minister replied that Malaysia was still Malaysia whatever changes might have taken place.

Mr Chan Siaw Hee asked why the Sarawak Government was not thinking of holding a referendum.

The Chief Minister answered that the reason was very clear that they were the re-

preservatives of the majority of the people in Sarawak. It was not necessary to hold a referendum knowing that they were in the majority.

Mr Chan Siaw Hee then asked whether the State Government was afraid to hold a referendum.

The Chief Minister replied that they were not afraid to hold a referendum. He added: "We do not want to hold a referendum because we do not want to waste time and money".

Controlled Area Houses

In his next question Mr Sim Kheng Hong asked the Chief Minister "what control the State Government has over the contractors who build houses in the controlled area along the Kuching/Serian Road?"

The Chief Minister replied: "In cases where a settler arranges for a contractor to erect his house, the matter is one between him and the contractor, subject to compliance with any conditions the Government may lay down regarding location and standard of building or any local authority by-laws in this respect which may be applicable."

Mr Stephen Yong asked in a supple-

mentary question what the conditions were that the Government had laid down.

The Chief Minister said that the Government allowed an individual to look for a contractor to build his own house. Sometimes they built their own houses.

Immigration Examiner

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind) asked the Chief Minister whether he would urge the Federal Government to consider posting an Immigration Examiner at Lawas where at present his duties were carried out by the R. & D. O. clerk who, Mr Mak said, was not trained to do so and who had other duties to perform.

The Chief Minister replied that he would pass Mr Mak's question to the Federal Government. He said he believed action might have been taken already.

In a supplementary question Mr Mak Yau Lim said that this was a small matter, and wished to know whether it was necessary to bring it up to the Federal Government.

The Chief Minister replied that he agreed that it was a small matter, but since the subject fell under the Federal category it had, as a matter of principle, to be referred to the Federal Government.

COUNCIL NEGRI PASSES SIX BILLS

October 24-30 1965

Each of the six Bills passed by the Council Negri last week were debated at the Second Reading before they were passed.

Moving the first Bill - The Council Negri (Members' Oaths) Validation Bill, the Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan, said:

"The Objects and Reasons as set out at the foot of this Bill are clear and I have little to add.

"Honourable Members will remember that the Council Negri (Members' Oaths) Validation Ordinance, 1963, validated their oaths taken and subscribed on 2nd December, 1963.

"However, that Ordinance did not cover the two Honourable Members who are named in this Bill, as one of them took his oath on 24th February, 1964 and the other yesterday (Tuesday, October 19).

"I am sure that Honourable Members would not wish that these two Honourable Members should incur the penalties to which 'strangers' are liable for having taken part in the proceedings of this House.

"There is no doubt that had these two Honourable Members been present in the House on 2nd December, 1963, they would then have, like the rest of the Honourable Members, taken and subscribed their oaths accordingly, and the position which this Bill seeks to regularise, would not have arisen."

Speaking on the Bill, Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) said that he did not wish to touch on the contents of this Bill, but what he was going to suggest was that since the Bill was dealing with the validation and confirmation of certain acts of certain members of the House, certain clauses should be added to this Bill, or

a new Bill introduced in future, to prevent a member of the House from betraying his party or bought over by the rival party from his side of the House, or the other side.

Referring to the incident on Tuesday, October 19, when Mr Charles Linang crossed the floor, Mr Chan Siaw Hee said that they did not want any act of the House to be invalidated by such action as he had mentioned "on the part of any honourable or dishonourable members."

D. C. M. Objects

The Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong, objected to the word "dishonourable" by Mr Chan Siaw Hee and pointed out that all the members of the House were honourable, and not "dishonourable."

He requested the Speaker to ask the member to withdraw the word "dishonourable."

The Speaker then asked Mr Chan Siaw Hee to withdraw the word "dishonourable", and he did so.

Speaking on the second reading of the Bill, the Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong, referred to the suggestion made by Mr Chan Siaw Hee as 'most unparliamentary'. Dato Wong said that it had been the tradition that where an Opposition member felt bitter or frustrated it was completely within his right to

walk across the floor, to the other side of the House.

"There is nothing unparliamentary or undignified about this," said Dato Wong.

He ended by saying that possibly one of these days some more members from the Opposition might walk across the floor to his side.

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) said that in this case the member was not elected, but represented only the local authority on which he was elected to the Council, and therefore he was quite different from a member of parliament.

On this Mr Yong said there was something to be said for what the other member on his side of the House had said.

Here the Deputy Chief Minister interposed to ask whether the member was speaking against the Constitution, and if so, whether he was prepared to move a motion to this effect.

Mr Yong replied that he was not speaking against the Constitution.

Dato Teo Kui Seng, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, said it was only natural that the Opposition felt strongly and bitterly over the issue. He said that they had his full sympathy. He said rather than calling Mr Linang a traitor he thought he was a man of courage who had admitted in public that he had gone to the wrong party.

THE PORT AUTHORITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Bill was moved by the Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong.

In moving the second reading of this Bill, Dato Wong said: "The Kuching Port Authority is an independent statutory body established under an Ordinance, The Port Authorities Ordinance, which gives the Government essential control over policy and finance.

"As the law now stands, terms and conditions of service must be contained in Rules made with the approval of the Governor-in-Council. The effect of this provision is that all such Rules and any variation of them must be published in the Gazette as subsidiary legislation. This is considered to be an inappropriate and cumbersome method.

"The Bill, by Clause 3, therefore, requires

terms and conditions of employment to be laid down by Standing Orders which do not have to be published in the Gazette. They will, however, still require to be approved by the Governor-in-Council and will, of course, be promulgated to the Port Authorities staff.

"It is also considered that certain other matters required in the present Ordinance to be prescribed by Regulations made with the approval of the Governor-in-Council are within the competence of the Authority to prescribe by its own By-Laws which do not require approval. These are the matters to be included under paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (3) of section 64 of the Ordinance as sought to be amended.

"Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 64 as sought to be amended prescribes the

means by which the Authority is to exercise its powers under section 44 of the Ordinance.

"The only other matter to which I should draw your attention, Sir, is that section 64 subsection (1) paragraph (d) of the present Ordinance which Clause 5 of the Bill seeks to delete is not regarded as necessary since in approving rates under paragraph (a) of that subsection the Governor-in-Council will also approve the conditions under which the rates are to be levied.

"I should mention that there is a misprint in the first line of paragraph 5 of the objects and reasons. Clause 3 should read Clause 5."

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) said that since the Port Authority was an independent body subject only to the direction and policy made by Government, he would like to mention that it would not be desirable for an independent body to limit its liability as carriers of passengers, as wharfingers and as warehousemen, because this limitation could mean a loss to somebody.

He said either the Port Authority had to pay in full the damages suffered by customers through the negligence of the Port Authority or its servants, or the Port Authority could get away with damages which it would have to pay if a case of negligence should occur.

He urged the Government to pay special attention when giving the conditions of business to which liability of the Port

Authority should be subject so as not to limit it.

The limitation to be imposed must be such as to bear some relation to the damage which might be caused, or injury that might be suffered by the customers.

Limitation of Liabilities

Mr Ong Kee Hui, touching on the subject of imposition of rates by the Port Authority, said he thought that Government should examine the proposals carefully because it might have a very important effect on the economy of this country, both in the respect of imports and exports.

If high rates were charged by the Port Authority no matter what they did in the way of development, it would be nullified by a high rate imposed by the Port Authority in the handling of cargo.

The Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong, in reply, said these points would be noted by the Government. He said that it was only fair and right that there should be some limitations or limit which the Port Authority could be asked to pay on their liabilities.

In connection with the levy of rates this was nothing new, and the Bill did not change the position. He promised that the Government would carefully scrutinise the official rates to make sure that they would not be too exorbitant.

THE NATIONAL PARKS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Dato Teo Kui Seng, who moved the introduction of the National Parks (Amendment) Bill, said:

"The Board of Trustees for National Parks have expressed the opinion that the present constitution of the Board is no longer satisfactory under a ministerial form of government.

"The Trustees believe that the Board would operate more satisfactorily if an officer other than the Conservator of Forests was appointed Chairman. At present this appointment is a statutory requirement under section 8(2) of the National Parks Ordinance (Cap. 127).

"Honourable Members will, I am sure, agree that now that we have a political Government it is inappropriate that the

management of our National Parks, an important function of which is to provide healthy recreation for the public, should be tied by law to the chairmanship of the Conservator of Forests and certain Government officers. I fear that such statutory provisions have created a feeling in the public mind that National Parks are in some way part of the Forest Department.

"The amendments will enable the Minister to appoint a 'neutral' person not specifically committed to the interests of the Forest Department, to be Chairman, and also to provide either an official or unofficial majority on the Board according to Government policy at the time of the Chairman's appointment because the remaining six appointments would be equally balanced between official and unofficial members.

Appoint Genuinely Interested Persons

"A further weakness in the present constitution of the Board results from the cumbersome provisions for the removal of any Trustee provided for in section 8(6) of the Ordinance. Although one member has not attended a meeting of the Board for nearly eight years, the Minister would be reluctant to cause embarrassment by making application to Council Negri for his removal.

"The Amendment Repeal of subsection 5 and 6 of section 8 will rectify this and enable the more normal procedure of appointing a Trustee for a fixed term of years with the opportunity of re-appointment on the expiry of his term of office."

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) said he hoped the Minister would appoint such persons as would have a genuine interest in the National Parks. He told members of the House of his visit to a proposed National Park at Belaga and said that he had tried to find out why, if a national park had been proposed, there were no proper facilities.

The point he wished to make was that whatever proposals were made by the Department concerned, this Board of Trustees must be kept closely informed, otherwise it would become a mere rubber stamp.

Mr Ong Kee Hui said that if the object of

the Bill was to improve the administration of National Parks then they were all for it. He then mentioned the National Park at Bako, and said he thought it was correct to say that this was becoming an increasingly popular place, but there was difficulty in getting there, and in getting accommodation.

He would like the Minister to consider that if there were going to be National Parks, these should be developed so that they provided the facilities which people expected from the Parks.

He thought consideration should be given to an alternative access, perhaps by footpath from Bako which would make access easier, particularly in the monsoon season.

He would like to ask the Minister to put this proposal to the Board of Trustees for consideration. Mr Ong felt that the use of the National Parks was a form of recreation for young people in this country, and facilities should be improved.

Mr Teo Kui Seng said in reply that the object of the amendment was to put more life into the Board of Trustees, so that the National Parks in Sarawak are properly looked after, as apart from the beauty of the place for the people of Sarawak, they would be a very great attraction for tourists.

He hoped that members who had spoken so capably and ably on this would, if he were to appoint them, be prepared to serve on his Board Trustees.

THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Moving the Second Reading of the Charitable Trusts (Amendment) Bill, the Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture, Dato Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili, said:

"The purpose of this Bill is sufficiently explained in its Objects and Reasons. It is introduced on the advice of the State Attorney General who has drawn attention to the fact that, in the process of law revision, the proviso to Section 3 of the Charitable Trusts Ordinance (Cap. 102) was re-cast by the Commissioners in a form which appears to alter in substance the meaning of the original provision.

"As the Commissioners for Law Revision had no power to make amendments of substance, the present position is clearly the

result of error rather than intention. The object of the present Bill, therefore, is to re-instate the law as it was before the Revised Edition came into force."

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) said that in practice he understood that the Charitable Trusts Board to be appointed was initiated by the Resident of the Division, and after it had been investigated it was instated.

He usually found that the terms of the Trust were such that sometimes they were either too narrow or too wide for the Board to administer the trusts properly, and therefore when this Trust Board was formed and there were properties to be invested in the Trusts and applications were made to the court, the court sometimes in his experience, although

agreeing to make the vesting order, found rather vague as to the terms.

Therefore, he would like the Minister to bear in mind the fact that the persons to be appointed as Trustees to the Board ought to be consulted as to what they want for the properties. If the demand or request were reasonable

it should be written in the terms of trust.

The Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture, Dato Abang Othman, replied that he would bear in mind the remarks made by Mr Yong when improvements were being considered.

THE WATER SUPPLY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Moving the motion be read a second time, the Deputy Chief Minister said:

"Negotiations are in progress for a loan by CDC to the Kuching Water Board of \$3 million with the repayment period of 25 years. The proposed loan is essential for the capital development of the Kuching Water Board which would otherwise have to be financed from Government loan funds.

"Now, in order to provide security for the loan the CDC requires that it should be guaranteed by the Federal Government under the External Loans (Singapore and Bodies Corporate) Act 1965. The terms of the guarantee agreement are now being negotiated by CDC with the Federal Ministry of Finance.

"Because of the Federal Government's obligation to the World Bank which precludes a statutory body from pledging its assets in a preferential manner in respect of foreign borrowing, it will be necessary for paragraph 6(2) of the Schedule to the Water Supply Ordinance to be amended in order to remove the automatic charge which arises whenever a Treasury advance is made to the Board.

"The loss of the Sarawak Government security over its previous advances is acceptable since the Kuching Water Board is a subsidiary organisation of the Government and under Government financial control."

Made Same Point

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) said he wished to make the same point as he had made already, in respect of Kuching Port Authority and that is, in respect of rates charged by the Kuching Water Board. He did not know what control the government exercised over the charging of such rates and whether the Water Board was free to charge what it liked.

From his own experience, not as an in-

dividual but as one who had to administer a local authority, it sometimes puzzled him how the Water Board arrived at certain figures in respect of contributions which local authorities were expected to make.

He said that in agreement between the Kuching Municipal Council and the Kuching Water Board, the K.M.C. charged a water-rate on the rate-payers, and they had the uneasy feeling that the rate charged did not represent actually the amount of service, or the water consumed, by the rate-payers.

They had been negotiating with the Water Board on this point, that the two per cent, overall charge was in the K.M.C.'s view, an automatic charge on every property and was not exactly fair, because as development proceeded the two per cent, grew in amount and they felt now that it was an excessive charge.

A compromise had been reached on this point, whereby the Water Board charge one per cent rate on the supply of water to markets and other public institutions operated by the K.M.C.

Mr Ong said he wished Government to pay attention to these points, that some control should be exercised on the rate that was imposed on the citizens of Kuching, and he thought the same would apply elsewhere.

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) suggested that the functions of the Water Board be vested in the local authorities. The various water boards fell into local authority areas, and it was usual for local authorities to be in charge of these essential services.

If there was an overall water board to co-ordinate and to plan an overall scheme of water supply services to all areas in the country then, of course, he would support the idea. But if the water boards were confined to local authorities and it still had to be an economic project, he felt that it was only

duplicating the functions of the local-authorities. In fact the functions could well be taken care of by the local authorities. He urged that this matter be looked into.

Extend Water Supplies, Call

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind.) requested that the Government considered extending water supplies to rural and coastal areas. He said that the Government should also consider applying for loans for this purpose.

The Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong, said the points made by Mr Ong would be borne in mind.

Replying to Mr Yong, he said it was not possible to equate the various local councils, some of which were larger than others, with the same ability and resources to control water boards. He did not think that this was desirable in the interests of the State.

He also referred to Mr Yong's suggestion of having a State wide water board authority, and said that in fact the Government was giving serious thought to it. He hoped that if and when the Government decided to have this State-wide water authority the members across the House would give it the approval it deserved.

Replying to Mr Mak, Dato Wong stressed that the Government always had the interests of the rural people at heart. He pointed out

that it was the Government's policy to make the rural areas as attractive places to live in as the urban areas.

In fact, the Government would provide essential services such as water and lighting which were enjoyed by urban dwellers to rural areas as far as was practicable and within the Government's means.

But, Mr Mak was no doubt aware that Sarawak was a large country with tremendous problems, and with the best will in the world it was not possible to provide water supplies to isolated areas. The Government, however, was continually providing grants under its Minor Rural Projects to coastal and rural areas to build wells and provide for other forms of water supply.

On the question of raising loans to provide water supplies in rural areas, the Deputy Chief Minister explained that this was not practicable because such loans had to be paid up over a certain period and there was the question of interest to be considered.

He reiterated that the immediate solution to the water problem in rural areas was to provide assistance under the Minor Rural Projects for wells to be built. He added that if Mr Mak could put forward a proposition whereby water supplies could be extended to rural areas and be self-supporting, the Government would certainly give it careful consideration.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLY (1965) BILL

When the House resolved itself into the Committee stage to consider the Supplementary Supply (1965) Bill, Mr Stephen Yong asked what the State Government's policy was with regard to the membership of the Public Service Commission, particularly the Chairman.

He wished to know whether on the expiration of the term of the present holder of this office the Government policy would be to appoint a local man to take his place. He also wished to know whether it was Government policy that a member of the Commission should not have any party affiliation.

The Chief Minister replied that as regards the appointment of the Chairman of the Public Services Commission they had not yet

finalised any policy, and he pointed out that the appointment was made by the Governor.

He added: "Article 35(1) of the Constitution of the State of Sarawak provides that the Public Service Commission shall consist of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and not less than two or more than four other members, each of whom shall be appointed by the Governor after consultation with the Chief Minister.

"In exercise of the powers conferred on him by the said Article, His Excellency the Governor has early this year appointed two additional members (Pengaruh Montegrai anak Tugang of Betong and Haji Satem bin Haji Sulong of Kuching) making a total of four.

"Under Section 2 of the Public Service Commission (Remuneration) Ordinance, 1963, the remuneration of each member shall consist of a monthly salary of \$500.

"As provision was made for two members in the 1965 Approved Estimates, an additional sum of \$9,550 is therefore necessary to cover the salaries of the two new members for the period 15th March to 31st December, 1965."

The Bill which authorised an additional expenditure of \$789,284 for this year, was passed.

ADJOURNMENT SPEECH WELFARE DEPT? "IT DEPENDS..." SAYS MINISTER

The extent to which the present responsibilities of the Social Welfare Council may be taken over by a Government department must depend upon the precise form any possible Department of Welfare Services (or possibly, Division within the Ministry of Welfare, Youth and Culture) finally takes.

This was stated by the Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture, Dato Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili, in reply to an adjournment speech by Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) in the Council Negri session on Wednesday.

The Minister said: "Undoubtedly, if a Social Welfare Department, in any form, is established in the State in 1966 it is reasonable to assume that at least some of the present commitments of the Social Welfare Council would be taken over by it."

Mr Chong suggested that the Ministry should take immediate steps to train local persons with suitable qualifications to take on jobs in the Ministry.

He wished to know what programme the Ministry had drawn up for social services in Sarawak. He also said that the Ministry "has to pay close attention to questions such as probation, penal reform, reformatory schools, training of field workers and to the relationship between the voluntary organisation (including local authorities) and the Ministry."

Mr Chong also hoped that the Ministry would find out the causes of evils such as prostitution and delinquency and find ways and means of preventing such evils.

Summary of Main Points Wanted

The following is the full text of the Minister's speech:

Before replying to the speech on the Adjournment, I would like to mention that I

have earlier requested from the Honourable Member a summary of the main points he intended including in his address. Although this is in keeping with practice in the Federal Parliament, the summary has not been forthcoming.

I must make it clear, Sir, that failure of the Honourable Member to provide us with a prior summary prevents me from undertaking any necessary research to reply and he runs the risk, therefore, of receiving a reply somewhat less comprehensive than he deserves.

The report on Sarawak's welfare needs, following the survey conducted in this field to which I have referred earlier in this Session in reply to question, was prepared after consultation with all interested local bodies or persons with specialised local knowledge in this field. I am not in a position to divulge its contents or to indicate the likely nature of my ministry's recommendations until these have been considered by the State Cabinet.

The extent to which the present responsibilities of the Social Welfare Council may be taken over by a Government department must depend upon the precise form any possible Department of Welfare Services (or, possibly, Division within the Ministry of Welfare, Youth and Culture) finally takes.

Undoubtedly, if a social Welfare Department, in any form, is established in the State in 1966 it is reasonable to assume that at least some of the present commitments of the Social Welfare Council would be taken over by it.

Very specialised qualifications are required for senior Welfare appointments and the number of qualified persons available for such posts locally are very limited. For example, recent advertisement for a comparatively junior welfare post attracted only three local applicants who could be regarded as properly qualified. I think it can be said that preference will be given to local welfare workers, provided these are properly qualified and experienced. In practice, however, I feel that Sarawak may well have to rely upon assistance from the Federal Government which has longer experience in this field, and, therefore, a greater number of qualified personnel upon which to draw.

The Honourable member, in the course of his speech, has touched upon a number of subjects (e.g. probation and remand homes) which do not properly belong to the welfare field as matters stand. But social welfare itself is a concurrent subject and he may rest assured that initiative along the lines that I have indicated will be taken by the State Government.

The Council has adjourned indefinitely.

Question Time In Council Negri

More questions were asked and answered on the second day of the meeting.

Mr Stephen Yong asked the Chief Minister who was the representative for Sarawak in the Council of the University of Malaya and how was he nominated.

The Chief Minister replied: "I am myself Sarawak's representative of the University Council of the University of Malaya. The appointment was made by His Excellency the Governor.

"The reason behind my decision in this matter is that my Ministry is responsible for matters connected with Secondary and Higher Education and for relationships on these subjects with the Federal Government. The Ministry of Local Government is responsible for Primary Education.

Mr Stephen Yong then asked the Chief Minister how long his appointment was for.

The Chief Minister said that he was appointed Sarawak's representative on the University Council of the University of Malaya on January 1, 1965, until December 31, 1967.

Forest Concessions

The Minister for Agriculture and Forestry was asked by Mr Stephen Yong whether Government would publish the grounds on which licences were issued for working forest concessions to those whose tenders were accepted in preference to others.

The Minister replied that the Government would not publish the grounds but factors on which recommendations concerning the award of forest tenders were based included:-

Previous record of applicant - if any - as a forest licensee in Sarawak; Applicant's present commitments and ability to expand his operations; Previous experience in timber extraction with equipment appropriate to the area being tendered; Technical soundness of the proposals submitted for working the area and method of disposing of products; Financial resources of applicant if known; Applicant's need for logs to feed an existing sawmill and location thereof in relation to the area being tendered; Applicant's connection with marketing and shipping organisations; Applicant's plans for training local natives and allowing participation of natives in the

business as a whole; Indications of intended speculation with licence area, if successful; Indications of duplicated applications by virtually identical organisations using different names; Indications of natives being used as a front for non-natives.

"From all these factors the Honourable Member will realise that the consideration of tenders is rather like a school examination. It is neither in the public interest nor a practicable proposition to publish the reasons why a particular applicant came out on top," he said and added.

"I would like to take the opportunity, Mr Speaker, to make it clear that decisions on the allocation of licences for the more important forest areas are not made by the Minister alone, but are considered by the Supreme Council as a whole.

"I would also be pleased to supply the Honourable Member with a specimen of a Forest Department Notice calling for applications for a particular area. From the study of this Notice you will see that the applicant, who gives all the information asked for, covers the essential factors to which I have referred above."

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked two supplementary questions: First he wished to know whether any applicant would have to be a big businessman to fulfil all the conditions that had been mentioned, and therefore small capitalists, particularly the native capitalists would never have a chance?

Secondly, Mr Yong asked whether the Minister would inform the House whether in the case of the sawmill concerned they had been operating a forest concession for a long time and when the area was exhausted, whether these particular sawmill operators would be given priority for a new forest concession?

The Minister replying to the first question assured Mr Yong that Government would not only allocate forest areas to capitalists, Because one of the conditions was that the Government would like to see that applicants' plan had provisions for training local natives and allowing participation of natives in the business as a whole. He said that if the natives had not much capital they could always take shares in the concern. Therefore one could see that it was not confined only to capitalists.

Replying to Mr Yong's second question, Dato Teo Kui Seng said that the Supreme Council had taken into consideration only those who had forest areas and will obviously try to share the cake with as many persons as possible. He did not mean that the present licensees had got great experience that they must be given the new area to work.

The Minister went on to say that they were now aware of the desirability of taking part in the exploitation of the natural resources of Sarawak, after we had attained independence by joining Malaysia, and it was the duty of the Government to work to that end, in other words, to allow the natives to take as big a part as possible in working the natural resources of the country.

Govt. Officers Disallowed To Seek Election

Mr Stephen Yong asked the Chief Minister whether serving Government officers would be allowed to stand as candidates for Council Negri in the next general election on the same terms and conditions as the last election.

"No. The Government does not intend to allow serving Government officers to stand as candidates in the next General Election," replied the Chief Minister.

Mr Stephen Yong further asked whether the Chief Minister would inform the House as to whether circumstances had changed to the extent that the reasons given for the serving officers to stand as candidates before, do not apply now.

The Chief Minister replied that before it was a different Government, a colonial government, and this was the Alliance Government and his Government did not allow serving government officers to stand for election. If any government servant wished to stand for election it would be better for him or her to resign from the Government service now.

Mr Stephen Yong also wanted to know from the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry whether the licence to work the lower Baram Forest Reserve (Third Extension) of 105,500 acres had been issued and on what terms, and if not, when it would be issued?

The Minister for Agriculture and Forestry replied that licences to work State land now included in the Lower Baram Forest Reserve (Third Extension) had been in force since 1951-1952, on an annual basis, as follows:-

T/1 Messrs Sin Lee Sawmill Co. Ltd.,

T/2 Messrs Chip Foh Sawmill Co. Ltd.,

T/9 Messrs Yong Lee Lee Sawmill Co. Ltd.

"The Lower Baram Forest Reserve (Third Extension) was constituted on 1st August, 1965. The reason for this was that Forest Department's investigation had reached the point at which it would be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Minister that these 105,500 acres were good forest, but not suitable for agriculture. It is therefore sound economics to create the additional reserve to yield perpetual revenue and employment and royalty to the State from a tree crop.

"The implication of this is that eventually the sawmills working in the area will be put on a 60-year cycle and become eligible for the normal long term licence which is only issued in respect of permanent forest.

"Details of the licensees in the Lower Baram Forest Reserve (Third Extension) Area are as follows:-

T/1 Sin Lee Sawmill Company Ltd. have 31,000 acres on an annual Forest Licence first issued on 1.10.51; T/2 Chip Foh Sawmill Company Ltd. have 51,000 acres on a Forest Licence issued on 1.1.52, and T/9 Yong Lee Lee Sawmill Company Ltd. have 11,000 acres on a Forest Licence issued on 1.10.51."

National Mosque

The Chief Minister was asked by Mr Yong how much had the State Government contributed towards the building funds of the National Mosque and from what funds was such contribution made available.

The State Government had not contributed towards the building funds of the National Mosque and it was not to his knowledge ever invited to do so, said the Chief Minister.

Special Consideration

Mr Chong Kiun Kong asked the Deputy Chief Minister whether he would recommend to the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation to give special consideration in respect of interest rates and loan repayments due to the Corporation by people in the Controlled Area in the Kuching/Serian Road.

The Deputy Chief Minister replied: "I am sure that the Honourable Member will be aware of the various responsibilities and duties laid on the Corporation by its Ordinance, that is Chapter 35 of the Laws of Sarawak. I would draw the Member's attention particularly to Section 19, Sub-section (1), of part II of that Ordinance.

Mr Ong Kee Hui asked the Chief Minister whether the State Government will re-

Thefts In Controlled Area

commend to the Federal Government to make payment of adequate compensation to farmers in the Controlled Area who lost their personal belongings as a result of the enforced absence from their homes during the curfew hours.

The Chief Minister in reply said that he would pass the question to the Federal Government, and added, "Much as I sympathise with those who have lost belongings as a result of a curfew I am not prepared to make any recommendation that the Federal Government pay ex-gratia compensation, either in this case or in other cases where losses or inconvenience have been suffered through curfews."

Mr Chong Kiun Kong asked the final question of the session. He asked the Chief Minister whether he was aware that thefts of property such as pepper and other crops and livestock were still occurring in the Controlled Area in the Kuching/Serian Road and whether he would seek information from the Federal Government what steps were being taken to protect the people against such thefts.

The Chief Minister said that he would pass the question to the Federal Government.

PARTNERSHIP IN MALAYSIA BRINGS GREATER PROSPERITY - SAYS DATO NINGKAN

The National income has increased by a record amount, and we should be thankful that Malaysia came into existence when it did. It has brought greater prosperity than we could possibly have enjoyed under continued colonial status or as an independent State on our own.

The Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan, said this in his budget speech at the Council Negri on Tuesday, December 14, 1965.

Dato Ningkan said that the latest estimates now available confirmed that in 1963 the gross national product at market prices increased 4.1 per cent, over the previous year and reached \$505 million.

In 1964 G.N.P. reached \$559 million and thus last year the growth was 10.70 per cent. This very high rate of growth seemed likely to be repeated and indeed exceeded this year.

In 1965 it was anticipated G.N.P. would reach \$618 million giving a growth rate of 11.1 per cent, last year.

Average G.N.P. per capita would thus have reached \$739 compared with \$600 per capita in 1961 which was a very significant increase.

Turning to the Estimates of ordinary expenditure for 1966, Dato Ningkan said: "The total expenditure is estimated at just

under \$59 million, which is about \$1 1/2 million or 2.6 per cent, more than the amount originally approved for 1965.

"A 2.6 per cent, increase is satisfactorily small but, the rise in recurrent expenditure which is the figure we must closely watch, amounts to 12.4 per cent," said Dato Ningkan.

He added: "The anticipated deficit on 1966 account is just over \$800,000, and while under expenditure may turn this deficit into a small surplus, our probable free surplus balance at the end of the year will only be about \$15 1/2 million."

The Chief Minister said: "While the present healthy state of the economy continues, and while the escalating grant we receive from the Federal Government continues to escalate at its present rate, and so long as the Salaries Commission does not present us with a heavy bill for pay increases for civil servants, we can sustain a rate of growth of this order in the provision of the services needed by the people of this country and also meet our share of the cost of the Development Plan without the painful necessity to impose additional taxation."

The following is a summary of the budget speech of the Chief Minister broadcast on Tuesday evening over Radio Malaysia, Sarawak:

I have come to the microphone tonight to tell you some part of what I said to the Council Negri in my budget speech this afternoon. As I told the Council Negri, our second year in Malaysia has been as eventful as our first. Indonesian confrontation has continued and so has internal subversion. The main event of the year in this field was the attack on the 18th Mile Police Station and the associated murders of innocent civilians.

Achieved Targetted Expenditure

Government reacted with vigour to this attack in an action code named Operation Hammer which was designed both as a deterrent to others with similar ideas and as determined attempt to break the communist hold over the people in the area and to lead them to a better life. Despite the diversion of effort involved in this operation, we have, nevertheless, achieved our targetted expenditure for the year on economic and social development under the 1964-68 Development Plan.

Not only this, but, despite confrontation and subversion, production has increased, exports have grown, external trade has reached a record figure, capital investment in both public and private sectors has surpassed all previous levels, and because of all this our national income has increased by a record amount.

This is not to suggest that we do not have our problems or that the way ahead is a bed of roses. It is not, and the problems facing us are of great magnitude. But it is to say that despite confrontation (and in part because of it) we have made real and encouraging progress during our second year of independence in Malaysia.

And it is to say that those who lend an ear to the claptrap of communists and their fellow travellers about the "sufferings" of the people do no service to their country or to their own intelligence. The facts speak otherwise and the communists are unwilling to look at the facts. Neither are they prepared to look realistically at the alternatives.

Those who complain of high taxation and regard Mr Tan Siew Sin as an ogre should realise that if it were not for the benefits Malaysia has brought us they would regard me as a twenty-headed ogre because I should have to impose twenty times the taxes Mr Tan

has imposed to provide the same level of Government expenditure for the public benefit as we are enjoying under Malaysia, and that without thinking about any provision at all for defending ourselves.

The country could not of course stand such taxes, for the economy is not strong enough to provide them, and in practice, if we were on our own, the tax increases would have to be about seven times heavier than Mr Tan has proposed, there would have to be a cut back in the services provided to our people and there would be NO DEVELOPMENT AT ALL.

In other words the massive expenditures provided under the Development Plan to help the growth of our economy would cease totally, the economy would stagnate and because of the rapidly growing population, we should all quickly get much poorer.

We should be thankful therefore that Malaysia came into existence when it did, for it has brought us greater prosperity than we could possibly have enjoyed under continued colonial status or as an independent state on our own.

As I have said, however, this is not to suggest that everything is perfect. It is not. Other events of the past year have given us cause for concern. The most perturbing was undoubtedly the secession of Singapore. Sarawak's economic ties with Singapore have a long history and the relations between Singapore and Malaysia are therefore of major importance to us.

Engender Sound Co-operation

The prospects for creating a strong industrial sector in the Malaysian economy are weakened by Singapore's departure, and it is to our interest to help engender sound co-operation instead of unhealthy rivalry between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. With Singapore outside Malaysia the first steps recently taken towards the creation of a Malaysian common market have not been as easy as they would otherwise have been.

A hundred years of economic history cannot be changed overnight. Sarawak importers cannot suddenly switch from Singapore suppliers to Kuala Lumpur suppliers. Sound commercial relations take time to establish.

Nevertheless the initial adjustment has been more painful than it need have been

because, although the trading community will generally behave in a responsible way, there are a few amongst them who, either through ignorance or lack of scruple, have raised prices in an unjustifiable way.

To combat ignorance amongst traders and to create resistance to unjustified price increases amongst customers, the State Government therefore publicised widely the effect of the recent tariff changes, and this would appear to have had a beneficial effect. The fact remains that as things settle down and traders become accustomed to the new pattern of trade, many goods should become cheaper.

The tariff harmonisation exercise in October removed duties from 266 items of goods, wherever they come from, and also removed duties from a further 168 items of goods if bought from elsewhere in Malaysia.

The only duties to go up were those on a number of items of foreign goods where the equivalent article is available from Malaya in adequate quantity and of suitable quality, and if Malaysian citizens still want to buy foreign goods instead of their Malaysian equivalent they must expect to pay more for this unwillingness to help the economic advancement of their own country.

I am aware that there have been allegations that the Common Market is doing no more than protecting Malayan industry at the expense of the Borneo States. While it is true that in the early stages of the establishment of a Common Market industrial development is likely to proceed more rapidly in the States of Malaya than in Sarawak, it is wrong to think that this is wholly to the disadvantage of Sarawak.

As I have said, by joining Malaysia Sarawak is receiving very substantial financial assistance towards her development and is enjoying much lower levels of taxation than would otherwise be necessary. Malayan taxpayers are putting their hands deep in their pockets to help Sarawak.

GNP Increased

Malaya's capacity to do this depends on the pace at which her own wealth grows and this pace is increasingly dependent on a rapidly growing industrial sector. Without a Common Market there would be less in-

centive to develop industries in Malaya, her wealth would then grow much more slowly, and her capacity to help us in the fields where we most need help would be reduced.

In short without a Common Market Sarawak could expect her own development to proceed more slowly.

Turning to our national income the latest estimates show that in 1963 the gross national product at market prices increased by 4.1 per cent, over the previous year and reached \$505 million. In 1964 G.N.P. reached \$559 million and thus last year the growth was 10.7 per cent. This very high rate of growth seems likely to be repeated and indeed exceeded this year.

The latest estimates anticipate that G.N.P. in 1965 will reach \$618 million giving a growth rate of 11.1 per cent, over last year. Average G.N.P. per head will thus have reached \$739 compared with \$600 per head in 1961 which is a very significant increase. For Sarawak this is an extremely gratifying record of economic advance at a time of international stress.

I do not think the people of Sarawak fully appreciate how fortunate we have been in entering Malaysia when we did. I referred earlier to the fact that, had we been on our own, we would have had to increase taxation by 20 times the amount Mr Tan Siew Sin has added to the tax burden in Sarawak next year, if we were to achieve the same level of public expenditure.

The taxes Mr Tan has imposed are estimated to yield an additional \$4.7 million in revenue, or, as a matter of interest, an average of 10½ cents per head per week, which can hardly be described as extortionate. But twenty times \$4.7 million would be \$94 million, and this is rather less than the gap between revenue and expenditure in Sarawak this year.

The actual deficit on recurrent and development expenditure combined is \$98.6 million or more than twenty times the amount by which taxes in Sarawak have been increased next year. Next year of course the gap will be wider because revenue is growing only slowly while recurrent expenditure continues to grow fast and development expenditure even faster.

These figures take no account of the cost of defending ourselves, so that, even in an idyllic world where provision for defence was un-

necessary, the gap would still be there. Let those who carp at the necessary and minimal restraints imposed upon us by independence in a federal system of government ponder deeply upon the cost of going it alone, and the genuine sufferings that this really would impose upon our people.

Prefer Accelerated Development

I am confident that the vast majority of our people prefer accelerated development and a steady improvement of their living levels at the cost of some sharing of control of our affairs with a wise and benevolent Federal Government to economic stagnation and financial bankruptcy in the context of independence totally alone in the dangerous world of today.

Turning now to the 1966 Budget, that is to the Ordinary Estimates, the Government has decided to introduce next year a system of equalisation grants for local authorities to replace the present system of rate grants. The rate grant system has served us well in bringing about the general adoption of rating as an equitable means of financing the cost of local authority services, but the system has had its day.

It has become increasingly apparent that the poorer rural Councils need greater assistance from Government if they are to provide a level of services comparable with those provided by their wealthier urban counterparts. To this end an exercise in the revaluation of all rateable property in the country on a standard basis has been undertaken this year.

As soon as the results of this exercise are available, it is the Government's intention to present a White Paper to the Council Negri setting out its proposals for a system of equalisation grants.

It is envisaged that this increase in the financial assistance available to local authorities will put the rural councils more closely on a par with the urban authorities to justify, amongst other things, permitting all Councils to remunerate their Councillors more generously than in the past.

Government intends to amend the Local Authority Regulations to permit a Council, if it so wishes, to pay its Councillors a monthly sum of up to \$35 in addition to the allowances

they can now claim. This recognition of the valuable role played and burdensome duties undertaken by local Councillors could not be accorded earlier because the poorer Local Authorities would not have been in a position to meet this additional financial burden without prejudice to the level of services provided to the people in their areas.

The advent of equalisation grants enables the Government to take this step in the knowledge that it will not be at the cost of detriment to the services provided to the public by Local Authorities.

Another major new step which Government proposes to take next year relates to the establishment of a Social Welfare Division, within the Ministry of Welfare, Youth and Culture. Although the initial cost of this step is modest, it had expensive implications for the future.

It is envisaged that this Division will be professionally staffed and will largely assume the responsibilities at present undertaken by the Social Welfare Council, the Council being retained primarily as a consultative body.

Greater Degree of Co-ordination

The Division will endeavour gradually to improve the standard of welfare services and to extend their influence on a planned and equitable basis, particularly to rural areas; it will also aim to ensure a greater degree of co-ordination in the activities of voluntary agencies, whose contribution will, it is hoped, continue. I am confident the people will agree with is hoped, continue. I am confident the people will agree with me that is a modest initial step in the right direction.

The total expenditure sought in the Ordinary Estimates for 1966 amounts to \$58.9 million which is about \$1¹/₂ million or 2.6 per cent, more than the amount originally approved for 1965. A 2.6 per cent, increase is satisfactorily small but the rise in recurrent expenditure, which is the figure we must closely watch, amounts to 12.4 per cent.

While the present healthy state of the economy continues, and while the escalating grant we receive from the Federal Government continues to escalate at its present rate, and so long as the Salaries Commission does not present us with a heavy bill for pay increases for civil servants, we can, I believe,

sustain a rate of growth of this order in the provision of the services needed by the people of this country, and also meet our share of the cost of the Development Plan, without the painful necessity to impose additional State taxation.

We cannot, however, by any means afford to reduce or abandon present sources of revenue and we must hold expenditure at the levels proposed. If the people of Sarawak press upon the Government the desirability of yet further expenditure or of the abandonment of some present source of revenue, this could not be undertaken unless they, the people, were willing to meet the cost of it.

I turn now to the development expenditure proposed for next year. As listeners will recall, when the Council Negri adopted the 1964-68 Development Plan it was on the understanding that it was to be absorbed into the First Malaysia Development Plan scheduled to cover the years 1966 to 1970 with such modifications as might then appear desirable.

The First Malaysia Plan has now been finalised and the first point to be made is that this Plan is, so far as Sarawak is concerned, an extremely generous one. There has been talk recently of Sarawak's "\$300 million" and fears have been expressed that, with the secession of Singapore and the withdrawal of her promised loan of \$150 million for development in the Borneo States, this figure of \$300 million would not be realised.

Let me say straightaway, therefore, that the allocation to Sarawak for economic and social development under the Plan is \$400 million. \$400 million and not \$300 million. The total allocation for all development expenditures, both security and non-security, is \$465 million.

This is, as I have said, an extremely generous allocation and I do not believe even the more extreme members of the Opposition in Council Negri would be unwilling to join me in expressing Sarawak's appreciation to the Federal Government for this generosity.

A Sizeable Increase

The next point is the allocation between sectors of the proposed expenditure. Almost \$300 million or just under 75 per cent, of the total provision for economic and social

development is for the economic sector, that is to say for agriculture, transport, communications, industry and utilities. As a percentage this is slightly less than the 78½ per cent, for the economic sector in the 1964-68 Plan, but in cash terms it is a sizeable increase of \$18 million.

The sectoral allocation for social services has increased substantially from \$51 million to \$76 million and from 14 per cent, to 19 per cent. Of this handsome increase of approximately \$25 million, the bulk goes to education for which the provision has been increased from \$27½ million to \$45½ million. Other significant increases are \$4½ million more for housing and \$4½ million more for medical and health services.

In other words the general pattern of the old Plan has been retained in the new Plan but the amounts to be spent have been substantially increased. These allocations can be considered eminently satisfactory.

There is another important aspect of development, namely, who pays for it. It has been accepted that State funds should be responsible for financing 3.9 per cent, of the new Plan as compared with 9.9 per cent, of the former Plan. In the 1964-68 Plan the State Government was to provide about \$35½ million.

In the new Plan the equivalent figure is just under \$16 million, which is a considerable improvement on the earlier position, and substantially reduces the burden falling on us.

Federal loans will amount to \$31½ million. State funds expenditure, as I have said, will amount to \$16 million, while the balance of \$21½ million, to make up the total of \$465 million, will be financed by the Commonwealth Development Corporation and by the self-generated surpluses of the Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation. I am confident listeners will agree that these financing arrangements are eminently satisfactory.

The successful implementation of the Plan, however, depends upon the active co-operation and willing participation of the people it is designed to benefit. The response I am sure will continue to be forthcoming. Under the leadership of an elected Government, the people of this country have shown that they have the will to improve their living standards.

The Development Plan provides a wonderful opportunity for our people and

they have shown in the past two years that they are grasping this opportunity with both hands. The past year has been a challenging

one for us all. Next year will be an equally challenging and exciting one. We have much to do, and again we intend to do it.

DATO WONG RETURNS FROM C.P.A. CONFERENCE

The Malaysian delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference which was held in Wellington, New Zealand, recently "has brought home the realisation to all our Commonwealth friends of our problems here."

The Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong, who returned from the Conference on Monday, December 13, said in Kuching that he and Tuanku Abdullah (leader of the mainland branch) spoke very strongly that they expected our Commonwealth friends to support us as brothers in the Commonwealth in our fight for survival against Indonesian aggression.

Dato Wong added that we had the right to expect their support and the Commonwealth countries have now realised this.

He pointed out that support among Commonwealth countries "was not a one-way street"; it should not be by words only but by deeds as well, in a more tangible form, than just tacit moral support.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the conference had been successful and had made two fundamental achievements;

firstly it had brought about better understanding and realisation of inter-dependence of all the countries in the Commonwealth, and secondly it highlighted the fact that no problem of any part of the Commonwealth was divorced from other parts.

Dato Wong also disclosed that during the Conference it was agreed that there should be more inter-change of visits between Parliamentarians.

The next conference will be held in Ottawa, Canada in 1966 and the year after that in Uganda.

The Deputy Chief Minister thanked the New Zealand Government for its hospitality and the excellent arrangements for the meeting.

In New Zealand and Australian cities, Dato Wong was warmly welcomed by Malaysian students, particularly from Sarawak and Sabah. He briefed them on our current problems, and discovered that most of them were ignorant of events at home.

Dato Wong said that he would take up the matter with the State and Central Governments to find out ways to keep the students overseas informed of current events.

STATEMENT IN COUNCIL NEGRI

In a short statement made to Council Negri on Tuesday, December 14, Dato Wong said:

"I have said, and this has been generally accepted, that this Conference has been successful, because in spite of the dire predictions that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association would break up over the explosive Rhodesian and Kashmir issues, the very frank and blunt exchanges of views and

the heated debates and emotional atmosphere in the Conference, have strangely enough contributed to the Conference ending with a better understanding and realisation of each other's problems and the inter-dependence of brethren countries within the Commonwealth of each other.

"Also agreed at the Conference was the need of more exchanges of Parliamentarians between the Commonwealth countries. All

the delegates ended the Conference the best of friends.

"It gave me great pleasure to be able personally on behalf of the Government and the people of Sarawak and Malaysia to express to the Rt. Hon. Mr Holyoake, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the through him to the Government and people of New Zealand, our deep appreciation and gratitude for their support to us against Indonesian aggression.

"During the course of our stay in New Zealand and also during the Conference, when I had the honour to lead the Malaysian States' delegates, and the Clerk of the Council, Inche Mazlan, acted as Secretary of this delegation, we were most royally and

hospitably entertained and the arrangements made for our pre-conference tours and meetings were excellent and reflect great credit to our host, for which all the delegates were extremely grateful.

"At the farewell State dinner given in honour of the visiting Commonwealth Association delegates attending the Conference, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Rt. Honourable Mr Holyoake, specifically requested me to convey to the Government and the people of Sarawak and Malaysia, the kind regards and warmest best wishes of himself, the Government and the people of New Zealand. And Sir, I take this opportunity to so convey."

AUSTRALIA THANKED FOR GIFT OF DESK SET

The Chief Minister of Sarawak, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan, this week moved the following motion in the Council Negri thanking the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia for the gift of a desk set presented to the Council Negri.

"BE IT RESOLVED that this Council places on record its grateful thanks and appreciation for the handsome desk set presented to the Council Negri by the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia to mark the independence of Sarawak within the Federation of Malaysia and to serve as a token of friendship and towards the Government and people of Sarawak."

The motion was seconded by the leader of

the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui, and passed unanimously.

Speaking in support of the motion, Mr Sim Boon Liang (All.) said that they were grateful that Australia was one of the best Commonwealth friends Malaysia had.

Australia was not only helping Malaysia against external aggression caused by Indonesian aggression but also in other fields such as educational and economical.

Mr Sim suggested that as a token of their appreciation for the gift, Sarawak in return should make a present of a typical Sarawak made article.

Another member who spoke in support was Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind.).

COLOURFUL CEREMONY MARKS PRESENTATION OF MACE

A COLOURFUL ceremony marked the presentation of Mace by Kuching's well known philanthropist and banker, Dato Wee Kheng Chiang at the first sitting of the fourth session of the Council Negri of Tuesday, December 14.

The Mace which measures 55½ inches in length and cast in silver was presented by Dato Wee on behalf of the people of Sarawak.

The event will go down in the history of Sarawak as one of the important landmarks in the annals of the Council Negri which is due to attain its Centenary in September, 1967.

The Mace is an important and revered article in a Legislative Chamber. In the Dewan Ra'ayat (House of Representatives), for instance, it is the physical manifestation of the authority of His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and that of the House. That it symbolises royal authority is indicated by the fact that whenever the Yang di-Pertuan Agong addresses the House, the Mace is either covered or placed in the recess of the Table since the Sovereign is present in person and there was no need for his authority namely, the Mace, to be placed on the Table.

Unless the Mace is placed on the Table, the House cannot conduct any business and when the House is in Committee, the Mace must be transferred to the recess of the Table. The Mace is usually entrusted to the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms, an officer of the House.

The Mace in the Council Negri is first and foremost the symbol of the Speaker's presence and authority in the Chamber and as such it will lend dignity and colour to the proceedings of the Council Negri. It is also an emblem of the office of the Serjeant-at-Arms.

Mounted With Hornbill Model

Now that a Mace has found a place in the Council Negri, it will become an essential part of the equipment of the Council, which in future will sit only after the Mace is brought and laid on the Table.

The Mace is mounted with a model of a Hornbill, supported by a section of polished squares of silver. After these come the Arms of Sarawak and the Crescent Moon and Star, placed on alternate sides.

The next section depicts four legendary

Dragon Heads, and two shields which carry designs depicting Iban Shields, Parang Hang, Malay Kris and a Spear, while the shaft is studded with Hibiscus (Bunga Raya) and pepper vines.

All the distinctive emblems, that is, the Hornbill, the Arms of Sarawak, the Crescent Moon and Star and the Dragon Heads are highlighted by means of gilded gold. The Mace has been so designed as to symbolise racial harmony in the State and accordingly, the three main communities have symbols representing them; the Dayak Community is represented by the Hornbill, the Malay by the Crescent Moon and Star and the Chinese, by the Dragon Heads.

The Bunga Raya, the National flower of Malaysia, symbolises Sarawak as a State of Malaysia. The pepper vines represent one of the main produce of Sarawak.

The original design of the Council Negri Mace was prepared by a well-known Sarawak artist, Enche Hasbie Sulaiman of the State Information Office, and it has the characteristic proportions of present-day Maces.

Some modifications were, however, made to this design by Mr Leslie Durbin of London, the maker of the Mace and a well-known artist, but he took its main features and incorporated them into the Mace to give it a more elegant and individual setting and one which will show off to better advantage the distinctive emblems so well modelled by Enche Hasbie.

It is considered that the Mace is lively and original and has great dignity and significance and as it was designed jointly by a Sarawak artist and Mr Durbin, it felt that it will appeal to the people of Sarawak and be worthy of the Council Negri.

First Time in Sarawak's History

Welcoming Dato Wee at the Council Negri, the Speaker said:

"Dato Wee, this is indeed an auspicious occasion that it is the first time in the history of Sarawak that such a presentation is to be made to this Council. It is befitting that this presentation should be made by one who, besides being in the forefront of public-spirited citizens, was born and bred in

Sarawak. It is no less significant that this presentation is to be made on behalf of the people of Sarawak.

"On behalf of this Council, I extend to you a most cordial welcome."

Presenting the Mace, Dato Wee said:

"It is an honour and a privilege to be here today to perform this very pleasant duty of presenting a Mace together with its brackets and box to this Honourable Council; and I thank Honourable Members for receiving me for this purpose.

"It is a proud duty, as the Mace is symbolic of the Speaker's authority in Parliaments and Legislative Assemblies in democratic countries. I trust it will contribute towards maintaining the dignity of this Council.

"The original design of the Mace was created by a son of Sarawak and, although there have been subsequent modifications made to it, it nevertheless signifies racial harmony and tolerance of which all Sarawakians have always been proud.

C.M. Moves Motion of Thanks

Moving a motion of thanks, the Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan said: "BE IT RESOLVED that this Council accept with grateful thanks and appreciation the handsome Mace and its brackets and box presented to the Council by Dato Wee Kheng Chiang, P.N.B.S., C.S.S., on behalf of the people of Sarawak.

"Mr Speaker, may I in moving this motion express the very grateful thanks of the Government to Dato Wee Kheng Chiang who has just presented this superb Mace on behalf of the people of Sarawak and I wish to place on record our sincere gratitude to Dato Wee for his own generosity.

"I think by now that it is well known what the Mace stands for. It is, Sir, a symbol of your authority and an emblem of the democratic tradition which has grown up in this State. Much of the significance of this Mace is derived from the Mother of Parliaments but again in the design of the Mace there have been departures from some of what one might call the more classically designed Maces in use in other Parliaments.

"This is entirely as it should be as there must be variations in practice and procedure in terms of democracy to suit the differing requirements of different States. We have embodied in the Mace both traditional design

and a definite Sarawak motif and may I also record here our thanks to the artists who have been responsible for the design and fashioning of this very handsome symbol.

"There has been a controversy as to whether the Mace is more the symbol of the authority of the Serjeant-at-Arms than the Speaker. This may well have dated from the times when the Serjeant-at-Arms used the Mace as what must have been a very effective bludgeon with which to keep the badly behaved members of the House of Commons in order.

"I think I can confidently say that we here in Sarawak have advanced beyond this violent stage and I am sure that in regarding it as a symbol of your authority we can look confidently to peaceful development of democratic Government in Sarawak in the future."

Mr Ong Kee Hui Seconds Motion

Seconding the motion, Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) said:

"I beg to second the motion moved by the Honourable the Chief Minister and on behalf of honourable members on the Opposition bench to associate myself with the tribute paid by him to Dato Wee Kheng Chiang, P.N.B.S., C.S.S., for his very generous gesture on behalf of the people of Sarawak.

"Dato Wee Kheng Chiang's many contributions to the community in Sarawak are well known and to my mind it is fitting that his many benefactions should be commemorated in this presentation of the Mace to Council Negri, the symbol of the authority of the Speaker through the Serjeant-at-Arms in this House.

"As one who has sat in this House for nearly a decade, I have the privilege of following the evolution over the years of our Council Negeri from the nominated Council to its present constitution as an elected Council. Two honourable members including yourself, Sir, have the honour of even longer service in this House.

Over the years old stagers like us have seen changes taking place in this House, not only in new faces on both sides of the House and introduction of Ministerial form of Government but also in the outward forms of parliamentary democracy in the acquirement of various accoutrement to maintain and enhance the dignity of this House such as the Speaker's robes and wig and that of the Clerk of Council.

Now with the appointment of the Serjeant-at-Arms and the presentation of this magnificent mace by Dato Wee we are fully equipped in the tradition of Westminster.

"More important, Sir, I think we in this House can take pride in the fact that up to now we have maintained not only the outward form but the inward grace of parliamentary democracy. Even though since Malaysia, we have acquired a certain degree of sophistication and even have one member crossing the floor of this House. We have not found it fit to emulate the example of more advanced democracies and up to now I am very glad to say, Sir, that ink pots and books and other missiles have not flown across the floor.

"Though heated at times debates have been conducted strictly in accordance with standing orders, decorum, and the spirit of parliamentary democracy. I cannot recall any

occasion when you, Sir, nor your predecessors, the President of Council Negri, had to use even a gavel to maintain order in this House. Though one member had so far crossed the floor of the House as I have said no ink pots or books or other missiles have crossed the floor.

"It is therefore our earnest hope and desire that this mace will remain ever a symbol only of your authority and that the Serjeant-at-Arms will not have any opportunity to put it to use which the Hon. Chief Minister has described, and for the purpose for which the Mother of Parliaments had thought it prudent to equip itself.

"Sir, we in this House have much pleasure in supporting this motion and I have the honour and privilege to second the motion proposed by the Honourable the Chief Minister."

BUDGET DEBATE LASTS WHOLE DAY

The debate on the Budget presented by the Chief Minister on Tuesday lasted the whole day on Thursday. Sixteen speakers, including five members of the Opposition spoke, and the Chief Minister wound up the debate late in the afternoon.

Earlier in the afternoon, the Acting State Attorney-General, Mr Tan Chiew Thong, moved a motion to suspend Standing Order 59 (2) to enable the Council to continue its debate on the Budget, the 1966 Supply Bill.

The Opposition members advocated reduced expenditure, suggested that estimated deficits could be cut down, and

asked the Government not to adopt a complacent attitude.

The Chief Minister in his reply declared: "We are not in any way content to rest upon our laurels." He welcomed the constructive criticisms by some Opposition members and said that the criticisms of others had been weak and confused.

The 1966 Supply Bill was discussed in the Committee of Supply on Friday, and more reports of the proceedings of the Council will be published next week, and in the following issues of Sarawak By The Week.

COUNCIL NEGRI MEMBERS TO GET INCREASED ALLOWANCES

19-25-1965

The Council Negri (Members Remuneration) (Amendment) Bill which increased the rate of monthly allowance of the members from \$250 to \$500 passed its second and third readings last week after a keen debate.

The motion was moved by the Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong, and five Opposition members including the Leader, Mr Ong Kee Hui spoke against it.

In moving the motion, the Deputy Chief

Minister said that the proposed increase from \$250 to \$500 a month in the rates of monthly allowance for Council Negri members, brought Sarawak into line with the other States of Malaysia where members of Legislative Assemblies were all paid \$500 a month.

Dato Wong added: "There has been some criticism to the effect that Sarawak cannot afford to increase remuneration of Council Negri members and that taxation has been or will be increased to meet the extra sum of money required."

Describing this as "incorrect", Dato Wong said: "Honourable members will have heard in the Chief Minister's Budget Speech that there is to be no increase in State taxation. The funds required to provide for this monthly allowance come entirely from the provided without any difficulty, without increasing taxation and without any detriment to development.

"In fact we shall look at this increase as a reward for the services of members of this House which they have fully deserved in terms of the work which they have done and which they will continue to do. There is little reason why the increase should not have been made some time ago when it was made in the other States, but the Government preferred to bide its time and to that extent Members of this House have been worse off than their counterparts elsewhere in Malaysia."

Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp) opposing the Bill said: "I seriously question the wisdom of introducing this Bill at this juncture as I think the time is not yet opportune. We are going through a difficult period, with problems from within the country and confrontation from without. This is the time when all who choose to serve the people in a public capacity must show the people that they are sincerely serving their interests, even if this means personal sacrifices on their part."

'Disparity'

Mr Sim complained there was "disparity" between the allowances for local councillors - \$35 per month - compared with the \$500 per month to be paid to a Council Negri member.

Mr Sim suggested that the proposed monthly allowance to members of local councils should have some "semblance of equity".

"The local councillors, after all, devote much of their time and talents to the business of the public and for whom not even the simple, but well-understood, privilege of free medical attention, has been extended," concluded Mr Sim.

Also opposing the Bill, Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Machinda) charged that "the proposal to increase the monthly allowance of Members of this House is yet another proof of the hypocrisy of the Government. The people have time and again been told that we are being confronted by an aggressive neighbour and that to fight the enemies without and within we must tighten our belts to pay more taxes. Yet the very people who have been telling us this are now seeking means to enrich their own political pawns."

He reminded the Government "that Members of this House have pledged themselves to serve the interest of the people, and that this House is not a place to create sinecures for the never-do-well".

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp), also opposing the Bill said: "We in this side of the House are reluctant to increase the burden of the people, especially at the present time when the people are being saddled with heavy taxation of one kind or another."

Mr Chan argued that Local Authority councillors who would get an allowance of \$35 per month "are giving more of their time and energies than most members of this House in the performance of their public duties in the local councils".

He said that the proposed increase of Council Negri member's allowance was "unjustified and ill advised, especially when we are being told that there is a deficit in next year's Budget."

'A Mere Pittance'

Mr Ong Kee Hui, Opposition Leader, appealed to the Members to "think carefully" as there were few among then who could say, "We do not want more money".

He said: "We must ponder carefully whether we are justified in the present circumstances in giving ourselves more money by doubling our own allowances from \$250 to \$500 a month.

Mr Ong added: "I know that in his introduction to the Bill the Honourable the Deputy Chief Minister justified it as saying that no additional taxation is envisaged this year. Nevertheless, it would look to a good deal of people outside this House that we are in fact adding to our own allowance, so that any additional taxation therefore is looked after by the additional allowances we shall be receiving."

Mr Ong described the \$35 a month allowance to local councillors as "a mere pittance" and said: "If this is an exercise in what the Honourable the Federal Minister of

Finance called harmonisation, let us by all means go the whole hog and do it as a Pan-Malaysian exercise."

He concluded: "I have for nearly a decade like you Sir, and a few other honourable members, served in this Council on a voluntary basis with no monthly allowance. Circumstances have changed today no doubt and we have lost our amateur status and become more or less professional politicians.

"Politics have become increasingly something that requires one's undivided service and more and more of our time. If we advance this as a reason for doubling our allowance, I think having broken this principle of voluntary service it would be wrong for us to deny to our fellow councillors in the local council remuneration that would more adequately compensate them for time and money spent in service in local councils."

Mr Kadam Kiai (All) and Mr Dagok anak Randen (Panas) supported the motion, and said it was high time the Government proposed such an increase since the allowances paid in other States was already \$500. They said Council Negri members spent a lot of time and energy travelling while visiting the people in their constituencies.

While travelling they paid accommodation, costs and drivers and had also to entertain their constituents and visitors from overseas, and at times they would be asked by associations and clubs to donate to their funds. A sum of \$500 was hardly enough to support all the commitments which members have to do for the good of the people and for the country as a whole, said Mr Dagok.

Others who spoke in support of the Bill were Mr Racha Umong (Ind), Penghulu Tawi Sli (All), Inche Mohd. Fauzi bin Hamdani (All), and Mr Charles Linang (All).

Mr Charles Linang said that Support members of Council Negri and the House of Representatives contributed all their allowances to the party funds. Mr Linang added that they opposed the Bill only because they wanted it for the purpose of propaganda, publicity and to bring the Council Negri into ridicule.

Mr Stephen Yong, in opposing the Bill, said he was amazed by the interest displayed by members over the matter, because he was sure there must be other more important matters which should have prompted members to speak. Touching on a point advanced by an Alliance back-bencher that the \$500 allowance would maintain the dignity of the members of the House, Mr Yong said that that could produce the reverse effect.

On the question that a Council Negri

member had to travel extensively, Mr Yong asked how much of their travelling was in connection with the Council Negri work. He was sure that a substantial portion of the travelling concerned only their District Council activities.

Mr Yong suggested that if the increase in the allowance was meant to bring Council Negri members' remuneration in line with their counterparts in other States of Malaysia, they should also increase allowances given to District Councillors. District Councillors in Malaya were paid between \$100 and \$250 a month, varying from one State to another.

The allowance for District Councillors in Sarawak, he pointed out, was only \$35, and the people who are largely responsible to the community were the District Councillors.

Had to Make Sacrifices

Mr Yong agreed that members of his party contributed their allowances to the party funds, not because they could afford it but because once in politics they had to make certain sacrifices.

Next to speak in support of the Bill was Mr Tutong anak Ningkan who said that the Councillors in his district were willing to receive the \$35 allowance.

The Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, Dato Teo Kui Seng said there was no question as to whether he was supporting or not supporting the Bill, because it had received the blessing of the Cabinet of which he was a member. Also, he said, as a member of the Cabinet he would not benefit from the increased allowance.

Dato Teo said that he had been watching the members of the Opposition when they were making their speeches, criticising the Bill, and from their facial expressions he had come to the conclusion that they were talking with their tongues in their cheeks.

The Minister said that a large sum of money would normally be incurred by councillors living in rural areas for their travelling expenses, and he felt it was only right that they should get extra remuneration to offset the cost.

He suggested that Opposition members might return what they thought should be returned to the Government, who would contribute the money to some charitable organisation.

Other speakers supporting the Bill were the Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture, the Chief Minister and the State Secretary, Dato G.A.T. Shaw.

The Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture, Dato Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili, said: "It seems to me that Opposition members are confused in their minds as to the principles involved in this matter. The allowances now proposed are designed to maintain the dignity and status of Members of this House in relation to our colleagues in other stage legislatures of Malaysia.

"Whether the allowance is \$250 or \$500 is not the primary consideration. As the Honourable Deputy Chief Minister said when moving this motion, the basic objective in increasing member's allowances is to maintain parity with other state legislatures in Malaysia."

The Minister said that the Opposition Members, who demanded equality between Sarawak and the other States of Malaysia when discussing education, were now calling a different tune.

He added: "As always, they seem to speak with such sincerity, even though they are contradicting a principle they have made earlier. We all know, this is for the purpose of political capital; after all, that is the job of the Opposition. As Minister of Welfare, I would welcome any suggestions from Opposition Members that they should pay their own allowances to any welfare organisations."

As to whether it was an opportune time to bring allowances of members of Council Negeri into line with those of their counterparts in other states, the arguments of the Opposition carried little conviction, said the Minister.

Pledged to Serve

He added: "Confrontation" has been mentioned as a reason for postponing the Bill. But, confrontation affects the whole of Malaysia. If Sabah, which is facing border troubles to the same extent as Sarawak, can pay members of its legislature \$500 in line with other Malaysian states, I see every reason why Sarawak should do likewise.

"As I have said, coming into line in this matter of allowances with other Malaysian states is a means of maintaining the dignity of this House. The amount of money involved is not the main consideration. It has been said that during the General Election we all pledged 'to serve the people'. But the payment of allowances now proposed will not stop us from continuing to serve the people.

"At least, it will not stop the Government from doing so. I cannot speak for the Opposition.

"As for local authority Councillors, they have a duty to perform, it is true. But the work

of a District Councillor, which is confined mainly to his own local authority ward and to local government subjects, cannot compare with discharging the duties and functions of being a member of this House.

"It is useless for the Opposition to pretend that such a comparison can be made. It is appropriate, therefore, that local authority Councillors should be remunerated on a lower scale. The allowance of \$35 p.m. proposed by Government is not only a great step forward for District Councillors, since they were not previously receiving allowances, but (bearing in mind current rates of travelling, lodging and subsistence allowances also payable to District Councillors), just about the right level.

"Local authority councillors" allowances now proposed are, in fact, in line with those of bodies of similar status in Malaya. There, the allowances range from \$20 p.m. to \$150 p.m."

Referring to 'entertainment' allowance for Chairmen of Council in Malaya, here in Sarawak, each Council provided in its estimates a sub-head for 'entertainment', said the Minister.

He concluded: "It is misleading to refer to the 'tier' system of election. Members are here not as District Councillors, but to represent state interests. Most District Councils only meet quarterly."

The Cry of Some Councils'

The Chief Minister, speaking in support of the Bill, said there was little that one could add to what the Deputy Chief Minister had said.

Referring to the suggestion by the Opposition that "the time is not now opportune" the Chief Minister said it was contrary to what had been said by many coming from the same political camp.

"Was it not that this monthly allowance that had been the cry of some Councils, such as the K.M.C., S.U.D.C. and M.U.D.C.?" the Chief Minister asked. He added: "And if it was the advocacy of these Councils (that increase and the introduction of the allowance as proposed by this Bill) which are composed by members of the same political affiliations with that of the Hon. Member who loudly said that the time is now not opportune, then the people will now know that such a cry would seem to be that of an hysterical hypocrite."

Referring to another suggestion by the Opposition that they should tighten their belts first in order to help the people lead them to

the question, the Chief Minister asked: "Can one be expected to help another if he is being not able himself to help himself, or rather not in a position to be able of exercising self-help?"

"The increase and the introduction of the allowance will place, at least it is expected, the Hon. Members on par and prestige with their office and this has already been said by the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister."

The Chief Minister concluded: "There is no question that the Hon. Members of this House are not serving the interests of the people. We are here like many other Hon. Members in the other Councils who are serving the Country and the people. Being so they must be adequately remunerated so as to enable them to discharge their duty and responsibility in keeping with the office, and the rendering of their services to the country and people efficiently."

Winding up the debate, the Deputy Chief Minister said he was rather surprised by the attitude of the members of the Opposition.

Sabah, said Dato Wong, had increased the remuneration of members of its legislative assembly to \$500 for 1½ years, and during this time, because of their financial position, they have resisted the overtures from members of this House and suggestions from abroad for further increase of the members' remuneration.

He was surprised therefore that when they were trying to bring the remuneration in parity and equality with other members elsewhere, they met with strong opposition.

He was sorry to see that political capital was being made out of it. It was rather said that when they were sincerely and honestly trying to do what they considered to be fair they were accused of being irresponsible, and putting an extra burden on the people.

He said that the Government was now in a position to increase the remuneration without having to levy extra tax. The Ministers would not benefit from the extra \$250, but on the other hand it would benefit the other members.

Referring to an allegation made by a member of the Opposition that some members of the House were spending a big sum of money and time in connection with their District Council work and not for the Council Negri, Dato Wong asked where could one draw the line.

He pointed out that members of Council Negri were appointed from their various District Councils and therefore they were also District Councillors and their 'service to the people of their constituencies is one of service. It did not matter whether they did it as a member of a District Council or of the Council Negri.

Now Financially Able

At this juncture, Mr Stephen Yong of the Supp stood up to say that what he meant earlier was that members of the House who were also District Councillors had to do more jobs as District Councillors.

On the question of allowances to District Councillors, Dato Wong pointed out that in Malaya they were only paid between \$20 and \$100, and that they did not receive travelling allowances as Councillors in Sarawak did. He reminded the Opposition that members who had come from the rural areas were not as fortunate as those from the urban areas.

Finally, Dato Wong said that the move to increase members' remuneration had been made purely and simply because they were now in the position to do so financially.

COUNCIL NEGRI PASSES STANDING ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

On Wednesday, December 15, the Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan, moved that Council Negri Standing Orders be amended in the following respects:-

1. That Standing Order 2(2) be amended -

(a) by inserting the words "upon the motion of a Minister" immediately after the word "may" appearing in the third line thereof; and

(b) by adding thereto the new sentence "The motion shall be seconded and the question thereon shall be put by the Clerk but no debate shall be allowed".

2. That Standing Order 3 be amended by inserting immediately after the definition of "printed" the following new definition:- "Serjeant-at-Arms" has

the meaning ascribed to it in the Council Negri (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Ordinance, 1963".

3. That Standing Order 39 be amended -
 - (a) by substituting for the word "Clerk" appearing in the fourth line of paragraph (2) thereof of the words "Seijeant-at-Arms"; and
 - (b) by adding the following new paragraphs as paragraphs 3,4,5,6, 7, 8 and 9:
 - (3) If on any occasion the Speaker or Chairman deems that the powers under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Standing Order are inadequate, he may name such member or members, whereupon the procedure prescribed in paragraphs (4), (5), (6) and (7) of this Standing Order shall be followed.
 - (4) Whenever a member has been named by the Speaker or Chairman immediately after the commission of the offence of disregarding the authority of the Speaker or Chairman, or of persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the Council by abusing the rules of the Council, or otherwise, then if the offence has been committed by such member in the Council a motion shall forthwith be proposed and seconded by any two Ministers present "That Mr. . . . be suspended from the service of the Council", and the Speaker shall forthwith put the question on that motion, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed; and, if the offence had been committed in Committee of the whole Council the Chairman shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee and report the circumstances to the Council; and the Speaker shall on a motion being made forthwith put the same question, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed, as if the offence had been committed in the Council itself.
 - (5) Not more than one member shall be named at the same time, unless two or more members present together have jointly disregarded the authority of the Speaker or Chairman.
 - (6) If a member is suspended under the provisions of this Order, he shall be directed by the Speaker to withdraw, and his suspension shall last until the end of the meeting.
 - (7) If a member, or two or more members acting jointly who have been suspended under this Order from the service of the Council, shall refuse to obey the direction of the Speaker, to withdraw, when severally summoned under the Speaker's orders by the Serjeant-at-Arms to obey such direction, the Speaker shall call the attention of the Council to the fact that recourse to force is necessary in order to compel obedience to his direction. When the member or members named by him as having refused to obey his direction have been removed from the Council they shall thereupon without any further question being put be suspended from the service of the Council during the remainder of the session.
 - (8) Members who are ordered to withdraw under paragraph (2) or who are suspended from the service of the Council under paragraphs (3) and (6), shall forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the Council and shall be excluded therefrom for the remainder of the sitting or for the period of their suspension, as the case may be.
 - (9) In the case of grave disorder arising in the Council, the Speaker may, if he thinks it necessary so to do, adjourn the Council without putting any question or suspend the sitting for a time to be fixed by him; and in the case of grave disorder arising in Committee of the whole Council the Chairman may suspend the

proceedings of the Committee and report the circumstances to the Council, and the Speaker may thereupon take action as though the disorder had arisen in the Council.

4. That Standing Order 60(1) be amended by deleting the words "to be appointed at the beginning of each Session", appearing in the second and third lines thereof.
5. That Standing Order 67 (5) be amended -
 - (a) by inserting the brackets and letter "(a)" immediately before the word "There" at the beginning of the paragraph; and
 - (b) by adding the following new subparagraph:-

"(b) No member may be appointed or nominated to be or to act as Chairman or member of the Public Accounts Committee while he is a Minister".
6. That there shall be inserted immediately

after Standing Order 70 the following new Standing Order-

"70A. Expenses of Witnesses.

The sum to be paid or tendered for the expenses of any person who is summoned to attend or to produce any document shall be the sum which, if that person were a witness attending the High Court in Borneo, would be payable to him in accordance with the rules for the time being in force under the code relating to criminal procedure:

Provided that in applying such rules any reference therein to the Court or to the Registrar shall be construed as a reference to the Speaker or to the Clerk, as the case may require".

7. That Standing Order 74 be amended by substituting for the word "Clerk" appearing in the third line thereof the words "Serjeant-at-Arms".
8. That Standing Order 75(3) be amended by substituting for the word "Clerk" appearing in the first line thereof the words "Serjeant-at-Arms".

'DEBATES SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED', SAYS MR STEPHEN YONG

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) speaking on the motion suggested that the Standing Orders should be thoroughly revised. He said that Council Negri should have the opportunity to debate any important issue that affected the general welfare of the people of Sarawak.

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) said it had not been stated clearly how long an offender would be suspended. Moreover, Mr Yong observed that debates in the Council should not be restricted as everything was inter-related.

He said one could not put everything in water-tight compartments, even federal subjects should be discussed and Standing Orders should not be too rigid. If they were so, debates would become mechanical. He requested a certain amount of laxity.

Speaking next, Mr Leong Ho Yuen said he would welcome amendments to the Standing Orders. He however hoped that they would not be used as additional means to tie their hands.

The Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong said that he would like to support the motion, not as a Minister but as a member of the House. He said it must be appreciated that the Standing Orders were made for the benefit of all the members of the House and it laid down modes of conduct to ensure that all members conducted their affairs with decorum and dignity as befitting to this House.

He said there was no intention on the part of the Government to muzzle the Opposition far from it, said Dato Wong. He said the Bill which had been moved by the Chief Minister has been seconded by the leader of the Opposition himself and therefore it should be considered as a 'House Bill'.

Touching on the suggestion that federal matters should be discussed in Council Negri, Dato Wong pointed out that the Constitution stipulated federal matters should be discussed in the Federal Parliament. Sarawak had its own representatives in the Federal

Parliament apart from the Senators and nobody in Sarawak could suggest that there was no sufficient representation there. He said none could accuse Sarawak's representatives in the Federal Parliament as not being articulate or being unable to represent Sarawak ably in the Federal Parliament.

He said that if they discussed federal matters in Council Negri it would be merely adding their opinion without being able to arrive at decisions or make legislation. He said it would be pointless to discuss federal matters in Council Negri and it had been repeatedly stated in Council Negri that federal subjects should be referred to the Federal Parliament.

Dato Wong concluded that in fairness to Council Negri and to its members, federal questions should be asked in Federal Parliament.

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp), making a 'short personal explanation' said that as a representative of the Federal Parliament he would like to inform the House that one would feel that he was in a stronger position if a matter had been thrashed out in this Council and a certain measure of agreement reached before taking it to the Federal Parliament.

He added that because of Sarawak's peculiar system of election, they did not know whether they represented the people or the House. For that reason, if one could be forgiven, if they felt that a matter should be thrashed out in Council Negri first if the opportunity was there.

Mr Yong went on to say that sometimes words spoken by members of the Dewan Ra'ayat fell on deaf ears. Therefore they felt state level matters which concerned the state might be more effectively carried out if the state would take them into consideration and then bring them to the notice of the Federal Parliament on a Government to Government level.

'By Way of Explanation'

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) said that though he seconded the motion he had not spoken yet and therefore he would like to say a few words 'by way of explanation'.

He said he would like to explain to the House why these amendments to the Standing Orders had been put forward. In the first place when they had occasion to leave Sarawak they found themselves 'more or less in a bit of a fix' because they did not know precisely how to set about appointing someone to act for them in their absence and after a good deal of research, the committee on

Standing Orders agreed on certain procedure.

The amendments to the Standing Orders now provided for a procedure in the event when one or his successor had to leave Sarawak and some one had to be appointed to act in one's place.

Furthermore they had recently appointed a Serjeant-at-Arms and had equipped themselves now with a Mace and the precise duties of the Serjeant-at-Arms must be laid down otherwise he might be regarded merely as a man appointed to carry the Mace in the House so they had found it necessary to lay down precisely what his duties were and how he was to act so that he himself would know how he stood.

Touching on the points raised by Mr Stephen Yong, Mr Ong Kee Hui said that it was a matter which required a lot of reflection. There were both pros and cons in the matter and suggested that it be referred to the Business and Standing Orders Committee for their deliberation and further consideration so that they could weigh themselves the pros and cons of the matter.

He added there was merit in what his colleagues had stated. Being a member of the Federal Parliament himself, they had a feeling sometimes that they were mere 'voices in the wilderness', and they had felt on occasions that if the House could deliberate, although it might not make any decision on matters of Sarawak interest, their voices could be reinforced.

He felt, therefore, that matters which would enable this House to discharge their duties to their constituents more effectively should be carefully considered and weighed by the House.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen then spoke in support of the previous speakers and reiterated what Mr Ong Kee Hui had said that they were merely voices in the wilderness.

The Acting Attorney-General, Mr Tan Chiau Thong replying to points raised by members of the Opposition said that some of them were matters concerning the Constitution, and before they took any steps to amending the Standing Orders it should be seriously considered in the light of the constitutional provisions in respect of Sarawak vis-a-vis the Federal Government.

Mr Tan said that Sarawak's Standing Orders were less than two-years-old, and as Hon'ble members would remember they were drafted after expert advice had been sought from the Court Clerk at the Table in the Mother of Parliaments.

So it could not be said that Sarawak's

Standing Orders had been put into force hurriedly or without due consideration.

'Give Time To Operate'

Mr Tan suggested that they should be given time to operate, and as indicated by not more than one amendment, made to them since their promulgation. It was very much to substantiate that if and when necessary, steps would be taken to amend the Standing Orders and improve upon them.

Referring to the suggestion that the Standing Orders should receive a general overhaul, Mr Tan said that the member concerned (Mr Chan Siaw Hee) had only put forward a ground viz. that whenever federal subjects were discussed in the Dewan Ra'ayat they appeared to have fallen on deaf ears.

Mr Tan pointed out that there was and there should be a limit to the scope which federal subjects could be discussed and questions put in Council Negri.

He added: "At the moment it cannot be said that such subjects are entirely forbidden to be discussed in this House as is evidenced in respect of questions by Standing Order No. 19 and in respect of motions.

"And debates relating thereto in Standing Order 24 paragraph 5 so that personally in the light of the State's Constitution and the matters which fall within the Federal Constitution, for myself, I cannot say that these provisions which allow matters insofar as it particularly relates to Sarawak to be dis-

cussed in this Council are unreasonable".

Mr Tan stressed that there should be some limit otherwise it would be ultra vires the Constitution to discuss subjects which in fact fell within the Federal List and as has been indicated by the Deputy Chief Minister. There were opportunities to voice the feelings of the Sarawak people in the Dewan Ra'ayat.

In regard to the question of the amendments introduced by the motion regarding the period of suspension if indeed such an occasion should arise, which he hoped not, said Mr Tan.

Mr Stephen Yong referred to the period of the suspension: In this connection, Mr Tan said he did not think that they could properly fix what the period of a particular session was because the prerogative of summoning and dissolving or proroguing the Council Negri was a prerogative of His Excellency the Governor as laid down in the Constitution.

He concluded that it would be of interest to know that the longest period which any suspension could operate under the Council Negri Privileges, Immunities and Powers Ordinance of 1960 would only last for a session.

It said that at the conclusion of the session every such suspension should lapse and in this connection it could be taken for granted that it would be no longer than six months.

The Chief Minister wound up the debate by referring to a point raised by Mr Stephen Yong and said that a motion must be seconded by any two ministers present.

Question Time In Council Negri

Mr Sng Chin Joo (Alliance) asked the Minister for Communications and Works when would Kapit Wharf be constructed.

The Minister, Inche Taib bin Mahmud, replied that tenders had been received, but the scheme value was insufficient to cover the cost of the lowest tender, and negotiation was in hand with the lowest tenderer with a view to reducing the tender price to within the amount available by deducting the lowest landing. "If the revised tender price is accepted by the Central Tenders Board before the end of 1965, construction of the Kapit Wharf is expected to commence in January, 1966 and complete by December, 1966," said the Minister.

Mr Ong Kee Hui asked how the Minister proposed to cut costs within the time set. Would there be a lowering of standards or would there be a smaller wharf?

The Minister replied that there would not be any lowering of standards but the lowest landing would be cut off.

Mr Stephen Yong asked whether it would not be "more proper" to have a fresh tender called rather than negotiate with the man who had put in the lowest tender?

The Minister answered that it was proper because tenderers who had put forward their tenders had been examined on their offers and it must have been found out by the person closely connected with the project that that

particular tenderer was likely to offer a very reasonable price. However, if there had been any suggestion of improper practice, it would always be possible to re-tender the whole thing.

Mr Ong Kee Hui then asked whether the Minister could say when the project would be completed.

Inche Taib answered that if there were no objections to negotiations with the lowest tenderer, they expected to submit this tender for action by the Tenders Board by January 1966. The Scheme would be completed within one year thereafter.

Longhouses

Penghulu Jinggut Attan asked the Chief Minister whether the Government would consider making loans to people in rural areas for building longhouses.

The Chief Minister replied that the Government was already doing so. The agency which the Government used for this purpose was the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation, but the funds available to the S.D.F.C. were limited and since its main purpose was to improve the productivity of persons employed in agriculture, the housing loans made by the Corporation must be directly related to increasing productivity.

"Accordingly, the majority of funds available for the provision of housing in rural areas, whether for longhouses or short houses, will be used for housing settlers in land development schemes, because there the settlers must be given somewhere to live," said the Chief Minister, adding:

"Outside land development schemes similar considerations must apply, namely a housing loan will be made available where a farmer wishes to move on to a newly developed holding or has changed his operation of farming in a way which requires a change in the location of his house, and where these changes will result in increased productivity. As I have said, the amount of money is small and such loans therefore will only be available on a restricted basis".

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked whether the Chief Minister could indicate whether there were any limitations to the length of the longhouses since the Government was prepared to make loans.

Dato Ninkan replied that there was no limitation to the length of the longhouse.

Mr Stephen Yong then asked whether the Chief Minister did not think it was better to have shorter longhouses in view of the many fire hazards. The Chief Minister replied that it

was not easy for the Government to force the people to break away from the longhouses which was the tradition of the Dayaks.

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) asked the Chief Minister whether he was aware that considerable allocation of funds had been made by the Central Government to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and whether he would therefore make an approach for any scheme of this kind of assistance from the Central Government. Mr Ong also asked whether the Chief Minister would explore the possibility of approaching MARA for this particular purpose.

The Chief Minister replied that he was not prepared to answer the question and suggested that Mr Ong submit this question at the next meeting.

The Minister for Communications and Works said that construction had already started on Kapit Town roads and the work would probably be completed in about 6 months.

The Minister was answering a question from Mr Sng Chin Joo, who wanted to know when would the roads be metalled.

Trades Licensing Ordinance

Mr Sng Chin Joo also asked the Chief Minister whether Government would urge the Government of the Federation of Malaysia to repeal the Businesses, Professions and Trades Licensing Ordinance (Cap. 33) since Trade Licensing Fees were not paid elsewhere in Malaysia.

The Chief Minister replied: "No, Sir. Although the Businesses, Professions and Trades Licensing Ordinance has been declared Federal law, revenue arising under this Ordinance accrues to the State. This revenue is vital to the State as it yields an annual income of about \$1¹/₄ million and as such is one of the most important single sources of State revenue. To repeal the Ordinance would mean a loss of \$1¹/₄ million a year, and in five years the loss would be over \$6 million.

"The State Government cannot afford to lose this amount of revenue without either cutting back the services provided by the State to the people by the amount of revenue lost, or replacing this source of revenue with other forms of taxation to yield at least a corresponding amount of revenue.

"Other sources of revenue available to the State are difficult to find and traders and professional men, being amongst the more prosperous members of the community, should not be relieved of taxation at the expense of

the poorer section of the community.

"The fees under the Ordinance varying as they do from as little as \$24 a year to a maximum of \$400 a year, which maximum is payable only by sawmills, cannot be said to be causing undue hardship to traders or professional men. The average trade in Kuching, Sibu and Miri pays only \$15 a month and in a smaller town, he pays very much less. Moreover, these fees are chargeable as an expense before profit is assessed for income tax purposes, so to that extent the taxpayer pays less in income tax.

"Furthermore, I do not see why these fees should be abolished merely because they are not paid elsewhere in Malaysia. There are, after all, other taxes paid elsewhere in Malaysia which we do not pay here.

Mr Ong Kee Hui, in a supplementary question said that he quite agreed with the Chief Minister, but in view of the fact that some people would also be called upon to pay 2 percent Turn Over Tax, he asked would the Chief Minister consider making representations to the Government for exemption or relief for those people who would be affected by the new Turnover Tax?

The Chief Minister replied that he was not going to answer that question as it was covered by his speech that afternoon.

The Minister for Communications and Works was asked by Mr Sng when would Government construct the Kapit/Bukit Goram Road.

The Minister replied that there was no plan at present to construct a road from Kapit to Bukit Goram. If the people in the area wished to put forward such a project it would be for the Divisional Development Committee of the Third Division to consider and make recommendations, he said.

Penghulu's Salary

Penghulu Jinggut Attan wanted to know from the Chief Minister whether consideration would be given to review the salary at present paid to Penghulus as it had remained the same since Malaysia Day.

Replying in the affirmative, the Chief Minister said the Federal Government had already agreed to extend the work of the Special Salaries Commission, originally set up for Malaya and Singapore, to the States of Sarawak and Sabah. The terms of reference of the Commission were inter alia, to consider and recommend whether any changes were necessary in the salaries and conditions of service to the Public Services of the States of

Malaya, Sarawak and Sabah.

In the light of the Commission's recommendations, consideration would be given to review the remuneration of Penghulus and other paid Native Chiefs and officials.

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked that since the Penghulus were being paid out of public funds whether they were Civil servants and whether they came under General Orders.

The Chief Minister replied that Penghulus were not Government servants and that they were paid honorariums.

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) then wished to know what the duties and functions of the Penghulus were in connection with the running of the Government.

The Chief Minister replied that Penghulus meant "leaders". They received instructions from Government through Residents and District Officers concerning Government policies to be explained to people. They also had the right to settle minor disputes.

Mr Ong Kee Hui asked whether the allowances paid to Tuai Rumahs would also be reviewed.

The Chief Minister replied that Tuai Rumahs were not chiefs; Tuai Rumahs were Headmen. They did not pay Tuai Rumahs.

Mr Chan Siaw Hee then asked why salaries were paid by the Government to Penghulus only.

The Chief Minister reiterated that Penghulus were doing jobs which the Government wished them to do and were receiving honorariums.

Mr Ong Kee Hui wanted to know why Tua Kampongs were also being paid allowances.

The Chief Minister replied that Malay Tua Kampongs were equivalent to Penghulus.

Mr Stephen Yong then asked whether, "for the sake of uniformity", could they not promote all Tua Kampongs to Penghulus.

The Chief Minister replied it was not a question because they were of equal status.

SDFC Loans To Fishermen

Mr Chan Siaw Hee asked the Deputy Chief Minister what was the amount of loans granted by the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation to fishermen and whether these loans had been repaid in accordance with the terms of the loans.

"The total amount of loans granted by S.D.F.C. to fishermen amounts at present to approximately \$189,000 covering 48 approved loan applications. With the exception of one case, where repayment of the loan is about 3 months in arrears, all the other 47 loans are being repaid in accordance

with the terms of the loans," Dato Wong replied.

Mr Chan Siaw Hee asked how many of the fishermen who received the loans were Natives and how many were Chinese.

The Deputy Chief Minister replied that he did not have the actual figures with him, but he thought the majority with Natives.

Mr Ong Kee Hui asked whether the Deputy Chief Minister would consider making an approach to MARA if the need arose.

Dato Wong replied that Mr Ong's suggestion would be noted. However, their resources were limited. The Corporation realised the need to help the fishing industries and since MARA had been established here they would make every effort to co-operate with them, in fact they had done so to find out where they could assist us in financing these type of loans and other types of loans as well. They also had been working together to see that their efforts did not overlap.

Mr Sng Chin Joo wanted to know from the Minister for Communications and Works whether the Government would extend Sibuharf for use by private launches also.

Answering, the Minister said: "The Honourable Member is, no doubt, aware that a permanent wharf for launches was built in Sibuharf this year and has very recently been opened for public use. It is 22 feet wide and 125 feet long and should help considerably in relieving congestion.

Furthermore there is provision in the First Malaysia Plan for another concrete wharf to be built at Burong Apu at a cost of \$280,000 and the sum of \$210,000 has been included in the Draft Estimates (Head 64, Subhead 11-4) for this purpose.

"There is also provision (Subhead 12-3) for a wooden lighterage wharf as a measure to relieve congestion caused by tongkangs now having to use the main wharf.

"Finally, the Hon. Member will no doubt have observed in the draft estimates under Head 64, Subhead 25-3 that Federal Loan Funds amounting to no less than \$21,165,990 have been allocated to major port development in Kuching and Sibuharf".

Low-Cost Housing

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Machinda) asked the Chief Minister whether the State Government had submitted its low cost housing development programme to the Central Government, and if not, would the State Government explain why it had not done so.

Reply by the Chief Minister: "As the

Hon'ble Member will see from Appendix 'A' to Command Paper No. 12 of 1965, which is the financial memorandum on the Development Estimates for next year, a sum of \$7¹/₂ million is included in the First Malaysia Development Plan for housing. This provision is for investment in Borneo Housing Development Limited which is the State Government's chosen vehicle for the provision of both medium and low cost housing in the State.

"Of this sum of \$7¹/₂ million, \$4¹/₂ million is to be invested by the Commonwealth Development Corporation and \$3 million is to be invested by the State Government after it was borrowed this amount from the Federal Government.

"The State Government has already submitted to the Central Government details of the low cost housing programme it has in mind for B.H.D. to undertake and is hopeful that the \$3 million loan will be made available on advantageous terms.

"The main low cost housing scheme for which detailed planning has already been undertaken is a comprehensive home ownership scheme for the lower income group at Sekama Road, Kuching.

"Under this scheme, the State has made available on subsidised terms an area of land amounting to 170 acres which is to be developed to provide a total of 1098 housing units, 40 shops, 12 service industries, 5 schools, an open market, a petrol station, a cinema, etc., which will provide accommodation and related facilities for a population of 8,000 persons. Out of the total of 1098 housing units, approximately 600 units will be true low cost housing in the sense that the sale price will be less than \$10,000. The estimated cost of these units is currently \$9,500 each, so that this part of the scheme alone involves an investment of \$5.7 million.

"Loans funds for these units will be provided to purchasers by B.H.D. up to 90 percent of the cost of the house and the State Government will, provided the Council Negri agrees to enact the necessary legislation, enter into a guarantee agreement with B.H.D. since the 90 percent loan is in excess of normal lending practice. This agreement will be similar to that entered into between the former Government of the Federation of Malaya and the Malaya Borneo Building Society in 1956.

"Thus the \$3 million to be made available by the Federal Government to the State Government under the First Malaysia Plan, will, in practice, be fully utilised in the provision of genuine low cost housing, and I

am hopeful therefore that the Federal Government will be prepared to lend this money on approximately generous terms. It will be appreciated that negotiations are at the moment in their very early stages, and I will not wish to prejudice the outcome of these negotiations by saying any more at this juncture. I will, however, keep the House informed of how matters progress".

Work Between 3rd-6th Mile Penrissen Road

Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze asked the Minister for Communications and Works-

(a) the costs so far incurred in the widening of the section of road from 3rd Mile to 6th Mile, Penrissen Road, Kuching; (b) the number of days for the said work so far spent; and (c) when will the widening be completed.

In reply to the questions, the Minister said that about \$22,000 had been spent this year on work between Mile 3 and 6 of the Penrissen Road. The work had consisted of maintenance and repair with some improvements to shoulders which have resulted in widening.

There had been the equivalent of 4 men working every day on this section for the whole year and this would be a continuing commitment so long as the road continued to maintain its present density of traffic and until a major improvement was made.

"This situation is recognised by the Government as being both uneconomic and a major inconvenience to the public. Provision has therefore been made in the First Malaysia Plan for a major improvement costing \$1,250,000 of which \$360,000 is included in the Development Estimate for 1966," added the Minister.

Mr Stephen Yong then asked whether the proposed new road would follow the same route or different route. The Minister answered it would follow a different route.

Penghulu Jinggut Attan asked the Deputy Chief Minister why was it that the Sarawak Development Finance Corporation disapproved applications for loans from certain rural people.

Reply by the D.C.M.:

"I am not quite clear what the questioner means by "certain rural people", because of course the S.D.F.C. only lends money to rural people and of course again not all loan applications are approved. Sometimes applications are ill-conceived and intended to be used for a purpose which would not increase the income of the rural person suffi-

ciently to repay the loan.

"Sometimes the applicant seeks a loan to engage in some activity of which he has no experience at all, and in such cases it is desirable that he should gain some experience, perhaps under one of the Agricultural Department's subsidy schemes, before he expands his operations to a scale where loan finance is needed. Loan applications, on the other hand, are not normally refused for lack of mortgage security.

"The S.D.F.C. does not insist that an applicant must have sufficient property available to mortgage to the Corporation to cover the debt he wishes to incur but, rather, examines whether the applicant has experience which will enable him to make a success of it and, on the advice of the Corporation's Local Committees, whether the applicant is a man to be trusted with public money in this way".

Batu Kitang Bridge

Mr Chong Kiun Kong requested the Minister for Communications and Works whether he would seek information from the Federal Government as to the steps it proposed to take to prevent delay in the completion of the Batu Kitang bridge by the contractors.

Inche Taib replied that he would not seek the information because he pointed out that that was not a matter for the Federal Government but for the State Government.

"The completion date in the contract is September 1965 but owing to very difficult conditions met with in the early stages of construction it has not proved possible for this date to be met," he added.

The Minister disclosed that completion was now anticipated in mid 1966. "Should there be any unjustifiable delay the liquidated damages clause of the contract, which is \$700 for every week's delay, will be enforced," he said.

Mr Stephen Yong asked the Minister for Communications and Works the following questions:

- whether any allowance is or will be given to bulk consumers such as industries to pay a reduced rate in the electricity charges; and
- ic* whether he will recommend abolition of minimum charge imposed by Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation of \$6 per month so as to lighten the hardship of consumers belonging to low income group.

The Minister replied:

"As far as the rates for bulk supply are concerned the Hon. Member will be aware that these are laid down in the Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation (Tariff) Regulations, 1965. (The Gazette Notification Number is Swk. L.N. (F) 87 of 25th June, 1965). I am however, informed by SESCOB that its tariff policy allows for negotiation for lower rates by bulk consumers with particular reference to off peak period.

"As far as the minimum charge is concerned, the position is that even the lowest user of electricity has the advantage of an expansive distribution system not to mention the service and accounting organisation. Furthermore the low user will usually use electricity at peak hours and there must be capacity to allow for this. The minimum charge is common to electricity supply undertakings in many places and is, in my opinion, both justified and fair".

In supplementary questions, Mr Stephen Yong asked whether the industrial rate for electricity in Sarawak could be reduced so that it would be comparable to those in Singapore.

Mr Yong also asked whether the minimum charge per month could not be reduced to \$4.50 which he estimated to be the average amount used by the poorer people.

The Minister for Communications and Works said that he thought it was a matter of striking a balance between accepting the right amount of money from the public and getting the right amount of money to give the services.

Electricity Rates

On the question of industrial rate the Minister said he would be the first person to be happy if we could compare ourselves to Singapore's position where there was a colossal amount of consumption of electricity by industries. "Therefore the supply of electricity to industry can be calculated in such a way that it pays to give them a lower rate because industry there is the main feature," said the Minister and added that in Sarawak the demand by industry could not be much more than by consumers.

"The most difficult thing is that sometimes the demand coincides and you can't increase the output of electricity without increasing the capital expenditure," he said. Until such times that we could get a pattern of demand for industry and of such a size the Minister did not think that we could depart from the present system.

As to minimum charges, we had to see

what was the most economic rate that could be extracted from the public. If we were to charge on purely the consumption average at \$4.50, the effect would be that we had to collect much less than we put into the service. The Minister pointed out that electricity in Sarawak was being run more or less on private basis and that it had to be viable to enable it to attract loans even from outside Sarawak.

To another question by Mr Stephen Yong (Supp), Inche Taib said that encouraging industries to use electricity by reducing rates was only a minor factor in the overall consideration of industrial promotion.

Mr Sim Kheng Hong asked the Minister for Communications and Works when would the drainage scheme to reduce flooding and improve the free flow of water of Sungai Maong, Kuching, be implemented.

The Minister replied that there was no provision in the First Malaysia Plan for any such scheme. "Funds under the Development Estimates, Head 62, are entirely for schemes to improve or create agricultural productivity. This does not, however, preclude the competent Local Authority, that is the Kuching Municipal Council, from putting forward a scheme if they wish," the Minister said.

To a supplementary question by Mr Stephen Yong, Inche Taib said that it was fair, because of the needs of our country, to lay emphasis on schemes which had the effect of increasing our agricultural activity.

In answer to another question by Mr Ong Kee Hui, the Minister said that it was theoretically the responsibility of his Ministry to undertake the scheme and he would be very glad to undertake the job if he had the money. "But the real trouble is that this particular scheme is an expensive undertaking and needs a lot of money," said the Minister, and added that there was a question of priority.

The Chief Minister said he would seek information to the following questions for Mr Chan Siaw Hee: whether it is their policy to replace all untrained teachers in Government and Aided Schools with trained teachers, what are the present numbers of trained and untrained teachers in Chinese, English and Malay medium schools in the State; the number of teachers trained each year in the Teachers Training Colleges; and how many years-of service did each of those teachers in the controlled area who were dismissed have, before their dismissal.

Jobs For Returned Students

Mr Sim Kheng Hong (Supp) asked the Chief Minister whether steps were being taken to ensure that students who had completed their studies under Government and Colombo Plan scholarships were taken into the public service so that their training might be utilised in the interest of the State.

The Chief Minister replied: "Yes, Sir, to the extent that the services of a returned student can be utilised by Government. In most cases vacancies are earmarked for those who are awarded scholarship with a view to their entering Government Service. The Inter-Governmental Committee Report also allows for the provision of supernumerary posts for returned scholars.

"Recipients of scholarships, however, are not at the outset promised positions in Government Service upon their return.

"It is considered that, even when a returned scholarship holder is not offered, or required to assume, a position in the Government Service, the interests of the State are still served if he turns to work in another capacity within Sarawak, for example the banking or commercial fields".

Mr Chan Siaw Hee asked the Chief Minister whether he would recommend to the Federal Government to make ex-gratia compensation payments to those who lost most of their properties stored in the four shophouses which were burnt down by fire in the controlled area at 21st Mile, Simanggang Road. The Chief Minister said he would pass the question to the Federal Government.

Scholarships Offered

One hundred and eighty five scholarships have been awarded for studies overseas since Malaysia Day. Of these 39 have been awarded to Natives and 146 to non-Natives, the Chief Minister told the House. Degree holders who have returned before and since Malaysia Day have been appointed to the following posts:

Geologist, 1; Radio Engineer, 1; Customs Officer, 1; Admin. Officer, 8; Veterinary Officer, 1; Agricultural Officer, 2; Home Economics Supervisor, 1; Dentist, 3; Pharmacist, 1; Doctor, 4; Analyst, 1; Teacher, 18; Education, 1; Law Officer, 5; Architect, 1; Mech. Engineer, 1; Elec. Engineer, 1; Civil Engineer, 7; Telecom. Engineer, 3; and Sarawak Admin. Officer, 2.

"This represents a total of 63 appointments of which 10 have gone to Natives".

The Chief Minister was answering ques-

tions by Mr Sandom Nyuak who asked: How many students have been awarded scholarship for studies for oversea centres since Malaysia Day; how many of these students are Natives; and to what positions in the Civil Service have those who returned before and since Malaysia Day with degrees been appointed.

University in Sarawak

Mr Chong Kiun Kong asked the Chief Minister whether he was aware that the Sarawak member appointed to Elections Commission was a member of a locally registered political party and, if so, would he obtain information from the Federal Government on how was the appointment made.

The Chief Minister said he would refer the question to the Federal Government but he was fairly certain that the answer would be that the question should be put in Parliament.

Mr Sng Chin Joo asked the Chief Minister whether the Government will press for the establishment of a College or University in the State.

The Chief Minister said that the Government considered that at some time in the future a College or University should be established in the State and would press for its establishment. Decisions about the time when this institution would be needed and the exact nature of this institution, the Chief Minister said were complicated matters which would be worked out in the Higher Education Planning Committee, on which Sarawak was represented by the Hon. the Minister for Local Government.

"It will be appreciated that the setting up of a university or college of higher education involved formidable problems of capital and recurrent expenditure, and of staffing," he pointed out, and continued:

"A small college — and Sarawak's would inevitably have to be small at least in its early years — might not attract well-qualified staff, who are in any case very scarce, and in consequence our students would receive an education below what they are now able to get, at almost no cost to Sarawak, at famous universities, well equipped and well-staffed, in various Commonwealth countries.

"The recurrent costs of maintaining a university are enormous and are a Federal responsibility. If Sarawak were to make more than a token contribution to the running costs of the proposed university it would constitute a serious drain on the State's revenues, resulting in less money being available for other development schemes, or in increased

taxation.

"These considerations do not mean that the Government will not press for the establishment of a university or college at the right time, but they do mean that very careful consideration has to be given to timing and to questions of finance and staffing".

Taxi-cab Permits

Dato Pengarah Banyang asked the Minister for Communications and Works -

- (a) how many taxi-cab permits had been issued since Malaysia Day;
- (b) how many of these permits had been issued to Natives; and
- (c) if none had been issued to a Native, the reasons for not doing so.

The Minister replied that 15 taxi-cab permits had been issued since Malaysia Day. Of these seven were approved for Natives, including one Native owned company.

Of the seven approved for Native, three have not been taken up.

To Encourage Active Native Participation

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) wished to know whether a permit could be issued to a Native applicant even if he was not a driver.

The Minister replied that the matter was now being considered. The original instructions were that no taxi-cab permits would be given to a Native unless he was also a driver. This was prompted by a motive to encourage active participation in the land transport field by Natives.

On further consideration they had found out that this could work very much to the disadvantage of the Natives, in the sense that people who could normally afford to buy taxis would not be drivers too. However there were people who could drive but who didn't have the money. If one were to be too rigid in enforcing this particular doctrine he thought it would work very much to the disadvantage of the Natives themselves. In reply to another question by Mr Leong Ho Yuen, Inche Taib replied that he would very much like to see Natives owning the taxi with a Native driver to drive it and not a non-Native.

Council Negri Budget Debate

SARAWAK IS RECEIVING EQUITABLE TREATMENT FROM FEDERAL GOVT., STRESSES C.M.

Many of the imports of capital goods into Sarawak are being paid for not by our export earnings, but by the development assistance we receive from the Federal Government.

Many of our current imports similarly are financed indirectly by the increased expenditures undertaken by the Federal Government in Sarawak and the income which are generated thereby.

This was stated by the Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan at the recent Council Negri Budget Session when he wound up the debate on the Supply Bill, 1966.

Replying to comments by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui, the Chief Minister said: "I agree with him that Malaysia is an accomplished and accepted fact, I agree with him that it is our concern to ensure equitable treatment for the people of Sarawak within the Federation, and much of my budget speech was designed to demonstrate that we are receiving such treatment. As I anticipated no member of the Opposition has dared to suggest that we are being unfairly treated."

The following is the full text of the Chief Minister's speech:

The weakness and confusion of the attacks launched upon the Government by Members of the Opposition and their total inability to propose sensible or practicable alternative courses of action must confirm us in our belief that the policies pursued by the Government are soundly conceived and efficiently executed.

Some Members of the Opposition are worried about the trade deficit, others consider this of no importance at all. Some are worried about the budget deficit, while the more enlightened are not so worried.

Need For 'Harmonisation'

Some complain of unnecessary growth of expenditure by Government, while others demand that more expenditure should be incurred. Some have attacked the Government for complacency while others have crowed with delight because the Government has the courage to admit that all is not perfect.

The Leader of the Opposition said that the need was for more 'harmonisation' rather than for 'harmonisation'. I can only suggest to the Opposition that the reverse would appear to be true for them. More harmonisation, Sir, is required in the Opposition's attacks upon the Government if they are to be taken seriously.

Nevertheless, I welcome the constructive comments made by some Members of the Opposition, and I will endeavour to comment upon them. The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition suggested that the foreign trade deficit was inevitable at this stage and implied that I was wrong in saying that we should be in trouble without Malaysia.

As one of his colleagues has pointed out, our foreign reserves are limited, and how therefore he imagines the kind of trade deficit we are facing could be financed if we were on our own, I do not know.

Many of the imports of capital goods are being paid for not by our export earnings, but by the development assistance we receive from the Federal Government. Many of our current imports similarly are financed indirectly by the increased expenditures undertaken by the Federal Government in Sarawak and the incomes which are generated thereby.

The Leader of the Opposition says that we must worry more about getting fair treatment inside our 'harem' than about whether or not we are in the 'harem'. I agree with him that Malaysia is an accomplished and accepted fact. I agree with him that it is our concern to ensure equitable treatment for the people of Sarawak within the Federation, and much of my budget speech was designed to demonstrate that we are receiving such treatment.

As I anticipated, no Member of the Opposition has dared to suggest that we are being unfairly treated. The Leader of the Opposition has said that we must be in a position to look after ourselves should we be thrown out of Malaysia.

The heavy emphasis on economic development in the First Malaysia Plan is surely the best insurance against this unlikely eventuality. He has said that any disaster for

Singapore would have serious repercussions here and has pointed to the difficulties of re-orientating our trade links.

In my budget speech these difficulties and dangers were precisely those to which I drew attention. He says that we should impress these points upon the Federal Government. My object is emphasising them in my budget speech was to do just that.

With regard to the common market arrangements, he refers to the rising cost of living, stemming from trade restrictions and tariff adjustments.

Sarawak Not Dumping Ground For Inferior Goods

I have pointed out that in part these rising costs are due to ignorance on the part of traders and, in some cases, to unscrupulous behaviour, and in part of lack of consumer resistance.

There is, as I have pointed out, no basic reason why the cost of living should rise if consumers will adapt themselves to Malaysian goods, and if traders will not take unfair advantage of the situation.

I have seen no evidence to justify his accusation that we are a dumping ground for inferior goods. He must surely be aware that many of the brand products purchased in this country and labelled with internationally well-known names have, for some time, been made in Malaysia rather than in the European countries of their origin.

With regard to the tax increases the Leader of the Opposition rightly said that it is not so much the average increase per head which is important as the actual incidence of the taxation increases. He referred to the fact that the retail price of sugar had gone up by 10 cents a kati.

If this is generally true then it is one of those totally unjustifiable price increases of the type to which I have referred. The tax on sugar has not gone up by more than a fraction of this amount.

He refers to the likelihood that the two percent single-stage turnover tax will be passed on to the consumers. To the extent that Malaysian made goods are consumed, this tax will not be a burden on consumers.

I do not seek to defend this tax, but I think Honourable Members of this House should know that as a result of representations made by this Government, the definition of im-

ported goods has been altered from "goods imported into Sarawak" to "goods imported into Sarawak from outside Malaysia".

The principal increase in taxation next year is the reduction in the rebate on income tax from 40 percent to 30 percent, and this will of course impinge upon the well-to-do. This is as it should be.

The Honourable Member spoke of the need for 'hormortisation' rather than for 'harmonisation'. I agree with him entirely. That is precisely what is happening.

In return for \$4.7 million worth of harmonisation, we are getting about \$100 million worth of harmonisation. I think this is a small price to pay. I do not think it is responsible comment to imply that this is too high a price to pay for such generous help from the Central Government.

The leaders of the Opposition spoke of the need for a revolution rather than an evolution in agriculture, if democracy is to survive, since it is necessary rapidly to close the gap in living standards between the shifting cultivators of this country and their more wealthy neighbours.

While I would dispute his use of the word 'revolution', I do not dispute his view that it is necessary for the evolution to be very rapid, and this is why there is such heavy concentration in the First Malaysia Plan upon the needs of the agricultural sector in Sarawak.

Need Clearly Recognised

If the Honourable Member cares to compare the allocations for agriculture in Sarawak with those in Sabah, he will see that this need is very clearly recognised. He asks, as have some other Members of this House, when action will be taken to promote fresh land legislation designed to ensure more effective land use.

He must surely be aware that this question is one which carries dangerous emotional overtones and which must be handled with care and delicacy, if we are to achieve the aims we seek to achieve. The Government is fully aware of the needs in this field, and is actively seeking to ensure that the appropriate changes are made in a spirit of understanding and tolerance.

The Honourable Member of the Opposition who spoke third seemed extremely worried about our budget deficits. He referred to the estimated deficit for 1966 as being the

third time Sarawak would experience a deficit as a result of the mis-management of the Alliance Government.

If he would care to examine the budget with a little more care, he would have seen that the apparent deficit in 1964 of some \$17 million was almost entirely accounted for by the changed financial procedure under which it became necessary to appropriate monies to the various trust funds, and that when this book-keeping complication is set aside, there was in fact a surplus on the year's account.

Recurrent and Special Expenditure amounted in that year by \$42V2 million. Development Expenditure in that year financed by State funds amounted to \$616 million.

Total expenditure was therefore \$49 million against revenue of over \$53 million

There was, therefore, a surplus of over \$4 million. This year we anticipate that there will be a surplus of \$2.4 million as he will see if he turns to the Ordinary Estimates.

Next year the small estimated deficit of \$800,000, which appears to give him so much cause for alarm, is in fact likely to turn into a surplus as I have explained in my budget speech. There will inevitably be a measure of under-expenditure.

This year's under-expenditure is substantially more than \$800,000, and I have no reason to think that a similar situation will not arise next year. I trust the Honourable Member applies more care to the financial affairs of the capitalist concern he operates than he does to the accounts of the Government, because if he does not I fear he would make a sad loss and the Government would be deprived of the income tax on his profits, which we would like to see.

He has implied that, because of the level of Trade Licence fees, some businessmen are near to bankruptcy. As I explained in my budget speech, the average businessman in Kuching pays \$15 a month in such fees, and if this renders him nearly bankrupt, he must clearly be so incompetent that he would be better employed in some other field of endeavour.

The same Honourable Member has suggested that we should curtail unnecessary expenditure in order to lighten the tax burden.

No Additional State Taxation

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no unnecessary expenditure in the budget before this

Council. Reference has been made, for example, to the increase in the provision for office expenses.

These increases are due entirely to be introduction of a new system whereby postage stamps must be applied to Government mail, where in the past such mail has travelled without this requirement.

He has said that the fact that there is to be no additional State taxation next year is not a matter for rejoicing. Am I to understand that if I did impose heavy taxation, he would be rejoiced?

His attitude is hard to comprehend. He was referred to the decline in the free surplus balance from a figure of \$31 million at the beginning of 1964 to an anticipated \$15¹/₂ million at the end of next year, but his colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, has, if I understood him correctly, pointed out that this is something which we should expect at this stage of our fortunes.

In any event, a substantial portion of the decline is no more than a book-keeping transfer to statutory funds. I have said that we must endeavour to halt this trend but we should not do so at the expense of the expansion of services needed by our people, and which we can afford.

This too is a question of harmonisation. We must invest now for a growing return later. The Honourable Member appeared to think that it was no desirable to thank the Federal Government for its generosity in the matter of development fund allocations.

I find this lack of common courtesy in human relations hard to understand. Certainly we are not parasites as he suggested, but we are, I trust, sufficiently well mannered to express appreciation where it is due, and to recognise that the taxpayer in Malaya is putting his hands deep into his pocket on our account.

The Honourable Member referred to the shortfall of \$13.9 million in development expenditure this year and appeared to find this very alarming. But, as I have explained in my budget speech last year and again this year, the actual target of expenditure was \$55 million and this target we have achieved and, indeed, probably exceeded.

The additional funds were voted to provide flexibility and to avoid unnecessary delays. As I have explained the same procedure has been adopted next year, and I am sure the Honourable Member would be the

first to complain if a more rigid approach were to lead to delays and to true under-expenditure in consequence.

He said that the pace at which we have been proceeding was due to lack of capacity and enquired if this situation was going to continue. On the other hand, Sir, he complained of the proliferation of new posts. He cannot have it both ways.

Increased capacity means new posts to carry out the work. If he does not want the new posts, then capacity will not expand sufficiently fast. If he does want capacity to expand, then he must accept that the new posts are necessary and should not irresponsibly regard them as unnecessary and wasteful expenditure.

Plan Targets Will Be Achieved

He says that there is no possibility of achieving the targets set out in the new Plan. I do not share his pessimism. As I have explained, the targets of our first two years in Malaysia were substantially achieved and with a steady growth in capacity and with the dynamic leadership which my Government is providing, I see no reason to doubt that the Plan targets will in fact be achieved.

He enquired whether our agricultural schemes are to be confined to certain races only, and I give him categorical assurance that this is not the intention. I was glad to see him refer to the fact that we are now enjoying racial harmony and I can assure him that it is the Government's intention to ensure that this harmony continues.

The Honourable Member of the Opposition who spoke next and who sits on the rear bench, similarly referred to the need to cut unnecessary expenditure and expressed fears about next year's estimated deficit. He said that we must concentrate on growth items and I think if he will examine the budget more carefully, he will see that this is exactly what we are doing.

The Honourable Member who spoke next, Mr Stephen Yong, described the budget as a relief, because he said the main purpose of the Federal budget was to squeeze money from the Borneo States rather than from millionaires from Malaya.

Apart from the fact that the additional taxes to be raised next year in Malaya are very substantially greater than those to be raised from the Borneo States, I suspect the

Honourable Member would have been amongst the first to complain if the income tax rebate had been reduced by 20 percent instead of 10 percent.

As I have explained, the average additional tax imposed upon Sarawak next year come to no more than 10¹/₂ cents per head per week, and I do not think this justifies the accusation that the Borneo States are being squeezed.

He referred to the fact that I had drawn attention to the problems facing us and complained that I did not spur him on to greater efforts, but treated him to platitudes and the nauseating reiteration of gratitude to the Federal Government. These words, Sir, are less than fair.

As I have said, where gratitude is in order it is no more than good manners to express it. Where problems exist, I have drawn attention to them. I have referred to the dangers stemming from Singapore's secession. I have referred to the difficulties of establishing a common market. I have referred to the need to expand capacity in order to achieve our development targets and, finally, I have said that the successful implementation of the Plan depends upon the willing participation of the people it is designed to benefit.

1966 'A Challenging Year'

I have said that next year is a challenging year, and I have also said that we have much to do and that we intend to do it. I stand by these words and the Honourable Member may rest assured that the dynamic leadership of my Government, which he has seen in the past two years, will be continued and improved in the years ahead.

I agree that we must rely more upon ourselves than upon others. But this does not mean that we should not express appreciation of the helping hand held out to us by others.

He suggests that the Government has not done enough. I have myself said exactly this. I have said that we must further accelerate the pace of development and we intend to ensure that this happens. He enquired why the danger of overcutting our ramin forests was not detected earlier.

He should know that ramin was, when it first started to be exploited, an entirely new timber for commercial purposes. There was no knowledge as to how it would respond to commercial exploitation. In the event, it was

demonstrated that other species like the light better and grew up faster.

This kind of information cannot be obtained overnight. It was not, however, found out only last year. It was found out some time ago and action to correct the situation has been taken by graduated stages. The Government has had the good sense to time these measures in such a way as to minimise damage to the economy.

On the question of pepper, the Honourable Member points out that this year's increase in the value of our pepper exports stems mainly from the price increase and from releases from stock. This is exactly what I myself said in my budget speech.

He claims, however, that production this year has decreased. I do not believe this is so, and I would challenge him to substantiate his claims. He suggests that it is a negative policy to aim a stability and suggests that we should seek to increase production substantially, after first negotiating either an international agreement amongst producers or fixing a long term price with our customers.

He does not appear to be aware of the efforts which were made in this direction by his colleagues, the Leader of the Opposition, when he was a member of Supreme Council. His colleague could no doubt tell him of the great difficulties there are in the way of achieving agreements of the type he envisages.

The point he appears to overlook is that Sarawak has been traditionally the world's marginal producer of pepper, that is to say that our costs of production has been so high and our methods so relatively inefficient that whenever the world price has fallen, our pepper growers have had to go out of production. When one is faced with a situation such as this, one is not in a strong position to negotiate international agreements.

Improve Methods of Production

One's first aim must be to improve methods of production, to increase efficiency and to lower costs so that we can negotiate from a position of strength. It is in this field that our Department of Agriculture has been concentrating its efforts and, as I have said, I am encouraged to see that our innately conservative pepper planting are beginning to adopt the improved methods sponsored by the Department.

When more of them follow suit and a genuine reduction of production costs is achieved, that will be the time to talk about substantial increases in production levels. He referred to the difficulties of the sago industry. I referred in my budget speech to these same difficulties.

The problems that beset this industry are extremely complex and we are exploring ways of ameliorating the situation.

The Honourable Member referred to the decline of our other exports and said that he could not tie in the \$8 million drop in the value of these exports with the $\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars loss of revenue from bauxite. The \$8 million drop is a drop in the value of our exports and does not stem from bauxite alone.

The \$ $\frac{1}{4}$ million drop, on the other hand, is a drop in revenue accruing to the State Government from bauxite, and this of course is an entirely different thing. The Honourable Member had some interesting things to say about industrial policy.

He referred in particular to the high power costs which intending developers face. He says we should reduce these power costs. As he admitted, however, the fuel oil which is consumed by SESCO is already duty free and if, therefore, electricity for industrial consumers is to be made available to them more cheaply, this could only be at the expense of domestic consumers.

I did not, however, hear him propose an increase in the rates of electricity charges for domestic consumers. We have to face the fact that the necessary infra-structure for industrial development cannot be created overnight. Much has already been done to improve communications, to provide better port facilities, to expand the capacity of our power stations, to encourage industries by pioneer legislation, and much more will be done in the First Malaysia Plan as the Honourable Member will see if he will examine the allocations in the Plan.

But we must have a sense of balance. He has recognised, as has his colleague, that the agricultural sector is the most backward sector of Sarawak's economy. His colleagues has referred to the need for a revolution in this sector if change is to be brought about sufficiently quickly. It is a recognition of this need which has led the Government to press for so substantial a proportion of the Development Plan allocations to go into the agricultural and related sectors.

The Honourable Member cannot have it both ways. No Government can do everything at one. First things must come first and in the view of the present Alliance Government, the need for a substantial improvement in the agricultural base of the economy is paramount.

Growth Rate of G.N.P.

He said that I was quite happy about the growth rate in G.N.P. Any Government anywhere in the world would be happy to see a growth rate of 10 percent and more. He says we must not measure prosperity by any wind-fall and this is precisely the warning which I have sounded in my budget speech.

I have recognised the dangers of cessation of military expenditure. I have recognised the dangers of a decline in international prices for our products. Is he trying to attack me for presenting to the people of this country an honest and balanced picture of their affairs? He has referred to the need for a body to deal with all questions relating to the stimulation of investment.

We already have such a body in the Supreme Council itself. He may rest assured that the co-ordination he appears to think is lacking is provided within the Cabinet. But he seems to ignore the fact that we are in a federal system of government and that the Constitution does not allow a State Government to decide all the issues which face the country.

I can assure him that the Government is fully alive to the need for co-ordination and very much more aware than is he of the difficulties of achieving it.

He referred to the alarmingly high, as he called it, growth rate of 12.4 percent in recurrent expenditure. As I pointed out in my budget speech, there is an element of once-for-all expenditure in this growth, that is to say in the proposed increase in sinking fund contributions for redemption of the Brunei loan and, as I have explained, if we discount this once-for-all factor, the rise in recurrent expenditure is 10 percent.

A rise of this order is, as I have said, uncomfortably high, but it is something we can manage so long as the present healthy state of the economy continues. When we come to examine the details of expenditure tomorrow in Committee of Supply, I mean confident he will be reassured that there is no unnecessary expenditure proposed.

He has heard, as I have heard, Honourable Members of this House pressing not for less expenditure but for more. He is as aware as am I of the need to expand the services provided to the people of this country by the Government. I have not heard him criticise the increased assistance the Government proposes to give next year to Local Authorities.

I have not heard him criticise the Government's decision to establish a Social Welfare Division. These are signs of development. They are the steps in the right direction, and if we can provide these extra services without additional State taxation, I do not see what he has to complain about.

Looking at Silver Linings

The Honourable Member who sits at the other end of the front bench opposite said that the Government wants this House to look at a non-existent silver lining. He says the Government has no plan to save the situation. He refers to the cessation of bauxite mining and to the unscrupulous exploitation of our timber resources and says we need legislation to stop this.

It might be a good idea if he were to read the Forest Ordinance. How can he talk about having to plan to save the situation at a time when a Development Plan for the next five years envisaging an expenditure of \$465 million is before this Council, I find it hard to understand?

How can he talk about the absence of a silver lining at a time when our exports have reached a record level, when capital investment has similarly reached a record level in both the public and private sectors, and when national income has grown at an unprecedented rate and to a level never previously achieved, I equally find it hard to comprehend?

He appears to be living in a little private cloud of his own and would do well to bring his feet down onto the hard clay of the reality of this world.

One small point, Mr Speaker. I may have misled Honourable Members in my opening speech in my reference to Temporary Administrative Officers.

It was thought advisable to advertise the 15 Temporary Sarawak Administrative Officer posts in both Sarawak and in the other States of Malaysia against the possibility of their being insufficient applicants from

Sarawak with high enough qualification. I have no doubt that preference will be given to Sarawak applicants by the Public Service Commission and if there are sufficient qualified Sarawak applicants all the posts could be filled by Sarawakians.

I mentioned in my opening speech that the great problem which faces us over development is one of capacity rather than finance in undertaking a vast development programme. A number of remarks from Honourable Members on both sides of the House have emphasised the dangers which lie in this problem.

We must have the experts we need to carry out the programme - if we do not get them we cannot expect to carry out the accelerated development which is so vital to Malaysia. The Federal Government is well aware of the problem and the dangers, and I am hopeful that the situation will soon improve, anyway as regards overseas contract recruitment and the retaining of the necessary expatriate experts who are already here.

In this context I very much welcome the remarks of the Honourable Mr Stephen Yong on how highly undesirable it is to fail to offer better terms of service, for which incidentally neither State nor Federal Governments need pay a cent, and also his remarks about not creating unpleasant atmospheres which are generally of a political nature in which civil servants find themselves in a highly embarrassing situation.

They can do little or nothing to counter this sort of thing and understandably feel the only answer is to go off somewhere else. I assure the Honourable Member that the Alliance Government would have no hand in creating such an atmosphere.

Need All Qualified Men and Women

When it comes to local officers we need all the qualified men and women we can get but the Government cannot employ persons who do not seek employment with the Government. I fear that some of those who return from overseas after a period of training do not so much expect more in salary and terms of service offered but are more reluctant to serve in some of the remote parts of this country.

There have been cases also where persons trained at Government or Colombo Plan expense have returned and have failed to honour their obligations by refusing to take

up or resigning from Government service having been attracted by more lucrative employment outside the Government.

This is difficult to prevent but we are doing all we can in this direction. There is no real solution until we have enough trained men and women for both public service and private employment and this throws into sharper relief the need to attract and keep experts from overseas until the shortages of local personnel are less acute.

Mr Speaker, all my Ministers and I myself take a great and constant interest in the progress of our own Sarawak officers both in terms of promotion and Borneanisation. We must necessarily rely on the Public Service Commissions, for which we have a very high regard, to carry out their statutory and proper functions.

Nevertheless, I have always been prepared to take up any cases, individual or collective, where I believe that the best use has not been made of opportunities. With the expansion there has been in all Government departments and as a result of the very substantial decreases in the numbers of permanent and pensionable expatriate officers I can confidently say that the prospects for promotion of Sarawak officers are greater than they have ever been before.

Furthermore, these are immediate prospects, likely to materialise over the next year, not forgetting the large-scale promotions of local officers which have taken place during the last two years.

I can give some recent figures. On the serious shortages of properly qualified and experienced officers for posts normally filled by professional officers from overseas and likely to be so filled but less so for the next few years. In the Department of Public Works there were 19 vacancies in a total of 47 posts at the level of Executive Engineer and upwards.

In the Department of Lands and Surveys there are currently 10 vacancies out of 29 Division I professional posts and this figure of 10 will probably rise to 15 during the next month or two.

The Medical Department is similarly very short with 11 Medical Officer posts out of 29 unfilled. Honourable Members can imagine the effect of this in terms of accelerated development.

Wherever possible, local officers have been promoted with the result that there is a corresponding shortage in the Division II

posts in these departments, for example Assistant Executive Engineer posts. These for practical purposes can only be filled by Sarawakians. This again had a seriously retarding effect on development.

Sarawak Officers Returning in 1966

There will be a few Sarawak Officers returning in 1966 who will be qualified to fill the Division I posts, Medical Officers for example, but they are not going to be enough. When there are enough there will be no difficulty in providing for them in the foreseeable future anyway.

Expatriates who may be standing in their way will then be liable to be Bomeanised, if they are pensionable officers, and expatriates on contract are recruited in such a way that they will not stand in the way of Sarawakians.

Being on contract they do not have the same seniority rights as pensionable and permanent officers, whether Sarawakian or ex-

patriate, and cannot constitute a threat to the qualified and experienced local officer on the pensionable establishment.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, the Government stands without smugness but with some degree of satisfaction upon its record. We have spent over \$100 million on the economic and social development of the people of this country in the past two years that we have been in power.

We have seen, as I have said, the achievement of a level of prosperity previously unparalleled and we have seen this in the context of continued external aggression and internal subversion. We are not, however, in any way content to rest upon our laurels. The tasks ahead are Challenging.

The Government is taking up the challenge and is confident that despite the many dangers which surround us we can look to the future with confidence in ourselves and in our ability to achieve yet further progress.

COMMENTS DURING BUDGET DEBATE

Mr Ong Kee Hui, Opposition Leader:

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui said: "Last year I congratulated the Hon'ble the Chief Minister on his first budget speech. Without flattering him, Sir, I think I can do the same this year. As a constructive opposition we give credit where it is due. I appreciate his lucid account of our economy and the progress that our people has achieved over the past year, although I do not necessarily agree with all that he had said."

Referring to the budget speech by the Chief Minister last year, Mr Ong said: "Last year the Hon'ble the Chief Minister after quoting comparative figures of foreign trade for 1962 of \$384 million, \$394 million for 1963 and an estimated \$450 million for 1964, said that as a nation we are spending more than we earn to the tune of \$70 million in 1964 as compared with \$52 million in 1963 and \$48 million in 1962. He then went on to say that and I quote "This substantial deficit is one indication of the fact that we are not paying our way and of the fact that without Malaysia we should be in dire economic straits."

"I said then and I repeat now that with due respect to this opinion I would submit that in the case of any nation which is undergoing a

period of rapid economic development it is inevitable that national spending should exceed national income and we should therefore not be unduly pessimistic about the future.

"I further said that what is really more important is that we should ensure that the vast sums of money that are being spent or will be spent in the next few years will achieve the objective, the results aimed for and get the returns that we expect in the form of increasing revenue and national income. Unless this happens of course at the end of five years when development funds have been spent we should be in dire straits.

"That my prognosis of the situation is correct seems to have been borne out by comparative figures which the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has quoted in his budget speech this year. The figure he quoted last year for foreign trade of \$450 million was underestimated by \$20 million, and the value of our exports, which is more important, is expected to reach \$280 million this year as compared with \$271 million last year and \$223 million in 1963."

Remarking that Financial Secretaries and Treasury officials "are very cautious and conservative people", Mr Ong said over the years his personal experience had been that they

always tended to paint "a much more gloomy picture" than the situation warranted.

He added: "I shall not quote that figures by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister which show the growth of our Gross National Product, capital formation, and a welcome trend in the diversification of our economy. In the end he repeated the same tune that we are not paying our way and of the fact that without Malaysia, we should be in serious difficulties."

Mr Ong continued: "Repetition of this fact is pointless to my mind because whether we like it or not we are now married into the Malaysian household. The important thing for the Government is that in the harem in which we are placed we get fair treatment and our children will be well taken care of."

Mr Ong said that apart from getting a fair share of the cake from the Federal Minister of Finance for Sarawak, the people were worried over the separation of Singapore and its possible effect on our trade and economy.

Another matter of grave concern to Sarawak, was the "rising costs of living", said Mr Ong. He felt that tariff adjustments and the imposition of quotas on some imports designed to help Malaysian industries or to exclude imports from certain countries have, whether rightly or wrongly had given rise to rise in prices of certain commodities.

"Sarawak has at present few industries which will benefit from these tariff adjustments, and while we are willing to help the economic or industrial advancement of the Malayan states we should not be regarded too much in the light of a dumping ground for poor quality or inferior goods from the Malayan states for which we have to pay the same or even dearer prices than the foreign equivalent," said Mr Ong.

Touching on the subject of taxation, Mr Ong said the fact remained that Sarawak people would be called upon to contribute \$4.7 million more. This sum spreaded evenly over the whole population worked out at about \$6.26 per head per annum, "but does it in fact work out this way?" he asked.

Change in Customs Duty

"The change in the customs duty on sugar for instance immediately increases the retail price by as much as 10 cents per kati. This may not sound a lot to Honourable Members but to a large number of rural people on a

subsistence agricultural economy with very little cash available it can be a hardship," said Mr Ong.

He added that the turnover tax at source of two percent would certainly be passed on to all consumers including the rural people.

"It is not really the amount in taxation but on whose shoulders such taxation will fall that merits more serious consideration. I made these points in the Federal Parliament and the Government should also consider these when harmonisation of taxes and tariffs are proposed by the Federal Minister of Finance," Mr Ong said.

Mr Ong then complained of "lack of sympathy" for the Opposition's views. He then said: "In a country such as ours where more than a third of our people are dependent on subsistence farming based on shifting cultivation, parliamentary democracy will only survive if we can bring about a revolution in our system of agriculture."

Referring to the number of taxi licenses issued, Mr Ong said this was "symptomatic of the kind of thinking" which prevailed in the Malayan states.

He said: "In my humble opinion honourable members should be more concerned as to whether our people are actively participating in various development schemes, the exploitation of our natural resources such as timber.

"When will Government deal with the problem of land tenure and bring about re-orientation of our agriculture on a more settled basis? The Hon'ble the Chief Minister in his budget speech gives no indication as to Government thinking, or policy if there is one, on such vital matters."

Mr Sim Boon Liang (All)

Speaking next, Mr Sim Boon Liang (All) said that the Budget promised a lot for the future, and if the trend was kept up, Sarawak's progress would be fast.

Earlier, Mr Sim congratulated the Chief Minister on the fact that there would be no State taxation despite an estimated deficit of over \$800,000.

He said it was pleasing to note that from the estimates many new posts would be created in the Departments of Agriculture and Forestry, Lands and Mineral Resources as well as Communications and Works in 1966.

Touching on agriculture, Mr Sim said that

as elsewhere in Sarawak, the bulk of the population in Mukah, Dalat, Oya and Balingian is engaged in agriculture. He said that in these places "plenty of lands are still lying idle".

Mr Sim said that he understood from the people that they had submitted applications to Government for lands at Singei Petanak, Mukah, Sungei Bawan, Balingian, Sungei Ud and Dalat for sago planting and other agricultural projects "but there was still no sign when the good lands can be used for cultivation".

He urged the strengthening of the country's "agricultural backbone", and congratulated the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry on the efficient running of the Long Lama Farm Institute.

Mr Sim then suggested that a similar Farm Institute should be set up at Mukah and Dalat "to give a practical course of training for young children of all races, especially those unselected Primary 6 pupils, in basic agriculture".

He also suggested that a fish marketing expert should be invited to make official recommendations for the establishment of marketing boards in Sarawak.

Mr Sim then conveyed a request to the House from people of Dalat for the establishment of a Government Secondary School.

Lastly, he touched on Family Planning and said he agreed with the efforts being made by the Sarawak Family Planning Association to introduce the idea of planned parenthood among the people. He hoped that this planning would be successful.

Mr Chan Siew Hee (Supp)

Mr Chan, commenting on the Budget Estimates suggested the abolition of the Trade Licencing System. He said: "This and all other import restrictions on a great varieties of commodities are affecting adversely the smooth flow of normal commercial activities. In fact not a few of the businessmen are at the brink of bankruptcy. We strongly feel that in order to alleviate the hardship of the businessmen and to ensure the people of Sarawak enjoy a much lower cost of living, this is the golden opportunity for the Alliance Government to abolish the Trade Licencing system of taxation."

Touching on the number of new posts of next year, Mr Chan wished to know the policy

of the State Government in the handling of selection of applicants for these posts.

Touching on taxation, Mr Chan said the fact that there was no increase in the State Taxation next year was no cause for rejoicing, "because an examination of the overall financial position of the State reveals a totally different story."

He said: "For instance, before the formation of Malaysia, the free surplus balance was approximately \$31 million, now this balance has been reduced to only \$15 million! Anyone who has a knowledge in economics will realise that the fiscal position of the State is in grave danger when this sum is not likely to last very long, nor could it meet any emergency needs of the State at any one time."

Mr Chan then asked if it had been admitted that the State revenue would continue to grow sluggishly and recurrent expenditure would tend to grow rapidly and the free surplus balance would continue to decline, why was Council Negri members' allowances increased and more political secretaries appointed.

'Not Generous'

Referring to the suggestion that expression of Sarawak's appreciation should be made to the Federal Government "for its generosity in allocating funds for the development of Sarawak," Mr Chan said that this type of allocation of funds on a commercial basis could not be claimed generous.

Touching on Development Expenditure, Mr Chan said it was "alarming" that there was a shortfall of about \$13.9 million in the development expenditure for 1965.

The reason given for this shortfall, Mr Chan said, was due partly to insufficient improvement in the availability of technical and contracting capacity in the State.

He added: "It is stated that in view of the limitation of technical and contracting capacity in Sarawak it is unlikely that the actual total expenditure in 1966 will reach the level of \$78.8 million. If this is the case, we fail to understand why the State Alliance Government should put forward this rosy picture of a Five-Year Plan when it knows that there is no possibility of this Plan being achieved?"

Referring to the allocation of funds for agricultural developments, Mr Chan wished to know whether the implementation of those development schemes were to be confined to

certain races only or to be extended to all? He said: "We should bear in mind that people of the various races living in rural areas are more less in the same boat economically."

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp)

Mr Chong said that in view of "the estimated deficit of \$820,000, efforts should be made to reduce unnecessary expenditure.

Referring to the provision for 15 temporary S.A.O.'s Mr Chong said: "Even if there is such a need and even if the expenditure will be reimbursed by the Federal Government the fact still remains that they should be officers to be recruited locally and only to be Malaysians if our boys are not available."

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp)

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) said that the Budget as presented by the Chief Minister has come as a relief. The sense of relief has come more strongly because as a result of what has taken place in the Federal Parliament.

It was very clear that the whole purpose of that Budget was to squeeze out more money from Eastern Borneo and spare the millionaires in the Malay States from contributing more to the revenue.

Mr Yong said that it was a wise step taken by the Chief Minister not to impose any more higher taxes in Sarawak.

Referring to the Chief Minister's reference to "problems of great magnitude" which were facing the state, Mr Stephen Yong said that greater effort should be made to solve these problems under dynamic leadership. Mr Yong complained that there was nothing in the Chief Minister's speech 'to spur people on'.

Referring to the statement by the Chief Minister that had it not been for Malaysia he might have been compelled to impose 20 times the taxes imposed by Mr Tan Siew Sin, Mr Yong said that he was surprised to find that the Government was still adopting old policies instead of marching forward as they were coming to a different era.

He did not say that Sarawak economy was very strong. Sarawak has its own limitations. Mr Yong added: "But given the right leadership, and a correct economic policy whereby production would be increased and local industries established, we can stand on our own."

He added that one must not forget the human factor — Sarawak peoples' resilience and their resourcefulness in times of adversity must be taken into account.

Touching on productivity increase in the agricultural field, Mr Yong asked whether there was any necessity to show the yield of rice per acre in Sarawak compared to other countries. He charged that there was a lot of wastage as far as land utilisation and the growing of crops were concerned.

He said that nowhere in the Budget the problem of the proper use of land had been referred to. He asked what has happened to the much-talked of new land code. He said that had been talked about and debated for years and it was generally accepted that something must be done about land which was the only thing supposed to be indispensable.

He said that he was astounded to hear some six months ago that there was land hunger. He compared that to people living near a reservoir and dying of thirst. He said that if the Government was bold and if there was leadership the problems would be tackled quickly.

Mr Yong said that all that they were interested in was to devise methods to make the people of Sarawak better off, how to make them more dependent on themselves and cultivate the spirit of self-endeavour rather than depending on others.

Touching on the "very glowing" account of development, Mr Yong said he was rather taken aback by the export figure for rubber. It was stated that Sarawak expected to export 41,000 tons of rubber this year compared to 43,000 tons in 1964 and 45,000 tons in 1963. This, Mr Yong said, pointed to "a steady decline in production". He said that if he was no mistaken rubber replanting scheme was initiated about seven years ago. He said he believed quite a number of these three estates were now in production.

He added that according to statistics available this year, in the Third Division the successful applicants for replanting were only seven percent who have complied with the terms of subsidy.

Mr Yong asked whether the Government had really investigated and found out the reasons for the poor response. He said that he was all for democracy, but he could not understand the negative attitude of the Government where public funds are concerned. It

was Government's duty to find out the reasons why and then having found out to take appropriate remedial measures.

Amplifying what he said earlier about the non-compliance of successful applicants of the RPS, Mr Stephen Yong said that it would mean depriving other applicants who were on the waiting list.

Sudden Lack of Enthusiasm

Mr Yong said there might be a sudden lack of enthusiasm on the part of those, who, having applied and accepted, had decided to withdraw. He said this was something the Government would have to look into carefully to find out the reasons for the sudden lack of enthusiasm by the people who have applied and were accepted.

Mr Yong said that he did not want to venture the reasons because he did not want to pose as a wiser man than those on the other side.

He added he was not criticising the Government with the intention of saying that it was insincere in its attempts, but what he was trying to stress was that the Government had not done enough either due to lack of capacity for doing or, not taking too seriously the tasks imposed on them.

Referring to the over-cutting of swamp timber mentioned in the budget speech by the Chief Minister, Mr Yong said that it had been stated that the regeneration rates of the timber had not proved as fast as was hoped. Mr Yong said that one "saving grace" here was the admission "better late than never". Mr Yong asked why this was not detected earlier by the Department concerned.

Touching on the statements in the budget speech that last year pepper exports by value amounted to 12 percent of all our exports earning and that this year Sarawak expected a six percent increase amounting to 18 percent. Mr Yong pointed out that this was not an increase in the production of pepper this year.

Mr Yong also pointed out that pepper farmers and dealers usually stocked their pepper and released them when prices went up. He said this stock of pepper which belonged to the previous years could not be equated with the production of pepper this year. He said the production of pepper in Sarawak had in fact decreased this year.

Referring to the statement that substantial increases in Sarawak's export tonnages had

brought about violent fluctuations in the world price, Mr Yong described it as a "completely negative approach". Mr Yong then suggested that the world's few pepper producing countries could get together and work out some international agreement or alternatively get into touch with consuming countries with a view to stabilising prices.

Touching on sago, Mr Yong said that the Government should explore the best ways how sago should be used, and set up a body to promote the use of sago.

Referring to industries, Mr Yong said that he would like to dispel the notion commonly held that Sarawak was only an agricultural country and therefore it should give up hopes of establishing industries.

He said if that was the policy then it ought to be changed. He said the policy of the Government should not only be to maintain the status quo of its present industries but it should encourage more industries.

Taxes For Industrial Fuel

Mr Yong asked: "How do we do so?" He said that at present the state taxes for industrial fuel amounted to \$30 per ton; Malaya was taxing \$15 per ton and in Singapore it was free. In Sarawak, SESCO fuel was free of tax but all other industries have to pay fuel taxes, said Mr Yong.

Referring to electricity charges he said he understood the lowest charge per unit was eight cents, Malaya charged five cents and Singapore 2½ cents.

Here Mr Yong related the visit of a party of industrialists who wanted to establish a cement factory. Their machinery a 5,000 HP engine consumed 150,000 tons of fuel per year and two million units of electricity per month. He asked how could such industrialists ever hope to invest in here because the operating costs were so prohibitive.

Mr Yong went on to say that local industries too were labouring under these difficulties conditions and therefore they were finding it hard to compete. He said that one should dispel the idea the role Sarawak could play in the economy of Malaysia was merely a supplier of raw materials.

Referring to the growth of gross national product mentioned in the budget, Mr Yong said that this could not be measured by any windfall or the revenue value that one could get in any year without really having some

relations to productivity. He said that the growth of GNP should be measured against productivity, and not merely against better prices of timber and pepper.

Referring to military spending, Mr Yong said that such windfalls were factors of a temporary nature and should not be relied upon to build the state's economic policy.

To encourage industrialisation, Mr Yong suggested that a special body should be set up to deal with the different questions such as land, communication, cost of fuel and other matters connected with the setting up of factories.

Referring to the number of vacancies existing in the technical departments mentioned in the budget speech, Mr Yong suggested that Government should look into the reasons why these technicians were leaving the service and offer them more attractive conditions. He said that Government should absorb every local officer who have appropriate qualifications.

He said more encouragement should be given to these local officers by giving them quicker promotion because it would be these people who would ultimately become executives. We should see to it that on no account these technicians are attracted elsewhere by better recognition of their services.

Subsidiary Planning

Mr Yong urged the Chief Minister to take a direct interest in the appointment of these officers and keep a close watch on their promotion.

Touching on development planning, Mr Yong suggested that the Government should also have a subsidiary planning of policy.

Finally, Mr Yong suggested that if the Government had any long-term policies they should be interested in instilling in the hearts of people that they should work hard for their own prosperity rather than feeding them.

Question Time In Council Negeri

Mr Sandom anak Nyuak asked the Chief Minister — how many fire extinguishers had been given to kampongs or longhouses in Sarawak; which Division received the largest number; and the reasons why the distribution of fire extinguishers to the various Divisions had not been made on the basis of equality.

The Chief Minister replied that distribution of fire extinguishers was as follows:

Already distributed:

First Division, nil; Second Division, 500; Third Division, 40; Fourth Division, 50; and Fifth Division, 258.

In the course of distribution:

First Division, nil; Second Division, 487; Third Division, nil; Fourth Division, 200; and Fifth Division, nil, on order - 50.

It would be seen therefore that the Second Division had received the largest number of fire extinguishers, said the Chief Minister and added that the basis of distribution was largely on the principles of "those who ask got and those who do not ask apparently do not want."

He continued: "I would suggest that if there is a demand in, for example, First and Third Divisions for more fire extinguishers, the requests are made immediately through Divisional Development Officers. I myself receive requests during the course of my travels and as far as possible, I authorise distribution on the spot. I intend to make intensive visits to the Third and First Divisions rural areas early next year and I should be glad to hear then of any requests which have been put forward and which have not been met."

Longhouse Residents Instructed How To Use Them

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) wished to know whether the fire extinguishers were all of uniform type or if they were assorted kind. The Chief Minister replied that he had not seen them himself, but he believed they were all supplied by the same firm.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Machinda) asked if they were of the same source whether they could be put to tender because that would be cheaper. The Chief Minister replied that they were being done by the P. W.D. and he did not know the source of supply.

Here Mr Ong Kee Hui explained that the fire extinguishers were provided through the Central Store and were subject to tender. The Chief Minister said that he would look into it and arrange to be put to tender if they were not yet being put to tender.

Mr Ong Kee Hui again asked whether the Chief Minister would ensure that people were taught how to use fire extinguishers before being supplied with one. The Chief Minister replied that all longhouse residents were being taught how to use fire extinguishers before being supplied with one.

Mr Chong Kiun Kong asked the Chief Minister to seek information from the Federal Government when the proposed new hospital in Kuching would be completed.

The Chief Minister said he would seek the information the Honourable Member desired from the Federal Government.

Mr Sng Chin Joo asked the Minister for Communications and Works when would government irrigate both banks of the Daro River for cultivation of padi by members of the public.

The Minister replied that no irrigation scheme was planned at present for the Daro River but he understood that a large area of padi land had been drained by the farmers working on it under the advice and guidance of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (Supp) wanted to know from the Chief Minister whether, in view of the rising costs of living, the Government would not revise the salaries of employees in the Civil Service.

The Chief Minister replied: "I am very surprised that the Honourable Member has not yet realised what the position is in respect of a revision of salaries for civil servants. A Salaries Commission has been appointed and is now in full operation. It is considering the revision of salaries of civil servants in both Federal and State departments.

"A State is prevented by the provisions of the Federal Constitution from making any changes in salaries or terms of service without the approval of the Federal Government. The Federal Government will not consider any unilateral changes now without referring the matter to the Salaries Commission".

Shophouse Lots For Natives

The Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources was asked by Penghulu Jinggut Attan whether the Government would consider alienating shophouse lots in towns such as Kuching and Sibul to Natives without public auction.

The Minister replied that it was the policy of the Alliance Government that natives should be encouraged to build shophouses in predominantly native areas. In accordance with this policy any applications by natives to be granted shoplots other than by normal public auction were referred to his Ministry for consideration.

The Minister continued: "With regard to the alienation of shoplots to natives in towns such as Kuching and Sibul, the waiving of the normal procedure for public auction would have serious financial implications because the proceeds of the alienation of State land in the urban centres is a major source of State revenue.

"While I do not entirely rule out the possibility of alienating shoplots directly to natives in the main urban centres, there would have to be very strong reasons for waiving normal procedure. The State cannot afford to forego substantial revenue for the benefit of individual natives."

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked the Chief Minister whether a monopoly had been granted to a certain travel agency to handle all passages for civil servants and ministers.

The Chief Minister replied that this was not so but there had been recently a change in the Government Agents in Singapore. It was considered desirable to have in Singapore the same Government Agents as represented Sarawak in Kuala Lumpur.

The question of monopoly did not arise and officers were free to book their own sea passages where they wished but if booked through Government channels, passages would be booked with the Government Agents.

The change of Agents had resulted in a saving to the Government in the monthly Agency fee and this had been endorsed by the Central Tenders Board.

Penghulu Jinggut Attan wanted to know from the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry:-

How many applications had been received from Natives for forest licences since

Malaysia Day; how many of such applications had been approved; and if none had been approved, would the Minister consider granting some licences to Natives.

The Minister pointed out that Government by Notice in the Gazette and in the Press had informed the public that the Forest Department was in no way committed to receive applications for forest licences except when such forest areas had been advertised and tenders invited.

Since Malaysia Day 16 important areas had been put up for tender; five of these areas were awarded to native companies, a sixth was awarded to non-native company conditional on 30 percent native participation, and three of the 16 areas were still under consideration.

"I have referred so far to the major forest areas, but since Malaysia Day a number of timber licences have been issued to natives in respect of land under Temporary Occupation Licence, Occupation Ticket and Communal Farming Land. The exact number of these is difficult to ascertain without lengthy research.

"But it may be of interest to honourable members to know, as an illustration of the position, that licences held by natives at present in the Kuching Forest Section total 13 timber and 6 belian licences. In Bintulu the figure for Natives is 3 timber and 27 belian, in Miri and Limbang Forest Sections — 4 timber and 12 belian licences," said the Minister.

He added that since Malaysia Day 26 Native applications in the nature of an appeal against the Conservator of Forests' decisions had been rejected by his Ministry. In nearly every case the reason for rejection was that the applicant was applying for a forest area that had already been licensed to another sawmill.

"As a matter of honour the Alliance Government will not revoke a licence once issued, unless it can be overwhelmingly demonstrated that it was issued either as a result of misrepresentation by the applicant or gross mismanagement on the part of licensee or flagrantly contravened the conditions of such licences," he declared.

Mr Chan Siew Hee asked the Chief Minister to seek information from the Federal Government whether the principals as well as parents of students were made aware of the fact that the students had engaged in subversive activities before decisions were taken to expel them.

The Chief Minister said he would pass the question to the Federal Government.

Mr Kadam Kiai asked the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry to state the number of applications received from Saribas District for participation in R.P.S. "A" for the year 1966, and the number of applications that have been approved and rejected.

The Minister replied that the number of applications received from the Saribas District for R.P.S. subsidy in 1966 were — 218 applications for new planting and 440 applications for replanting. Of these 100 applications were approved for new planting and 155 applications were approved for replanting.

"From these figures Honourable Members will deduce that a total of 118 applications for new planting were rejected. In the majority of cases these rejections were made because the applicants were already receiving subsidy on other areas. In a few cases the land was unsuitable for the planting of rubber. 285 applications for replanting had to be rejected because the demand was so much greater than the quota," he said.

Ulu Paku Road

Mr Kadam Kiai also asked the Minister for Communications and Works when would the Government begin construction of the Ulu Paku Road which had been investigated and surveyed by the Land and Survey Department.

Construction began on the 1st of November, replied the Minister and although the road was originally phased for after 1966, such good progress had been made in main road construction that it had been possible to start work on the Ulu Paku spur road much earlier than planned.

The Public Works Department was responsible for engineering surveys for roads, he pointed out.

Mr Sim Kheng Hong requested the Chief Minister to obtain information from the Federal Government when would compensation be paid to merchants for fire crackers and guns surrendered to the Government. The Chief Minister said he would obtain the required information.

Mr Stephen Yong (Supp) asked whether the Chief Minister would be able to urge the Federal Secretary to take some steps here because he understood that the fire-crackers

and the guns were taken over before Malaysia Day, and the then Chief Secretary directed the Residents to take over all these things and give an undertaking to pay for the price of all these things and therefore, although it was not a Federal subject, the State ought to be also interested since it was somewhere involved.

The Chief Minister reiterated that he would look into the matter.

R.P.S. 'A' Subsidies

The Minister for Agriculture and Forestry was asked by Mr Stephen Yong to state during the years 1964 and 1965—the number of applications for subsidies under Scheme 'A' of the Rubber Planting Scheme; and the number of applicants whose applications have been accepted and the number of these who do not wish to proceed with the work and the reasons therefore.

The Minister replied that the number of applicants for subsidies under Scheme 'A' of the Rubber Planting Scheme were 6,014 applicants in 1964 and 10,302 applicants in 1965. Of these applicants, 5,918 were accepted in 1964 and 4,463 applicants were accepted in 1965.

In the year 1964, 1,221 applicants failed to plant, he said and he believed that the main reasons for not carrying out planting were that applicants often joined the R.P.S. 'A' scheme at the insistence of neighbours who wanted to make up a viable kampong or longhouse block and then lost interest or changed their minds about the desirability of putting in the work needed.

The number of applicants who would drop out in 1965 would not be known until all the Inspection Reports were submitted at the end of the year.

Mr Stephen Yong then asked whether it was not a fact that the reasons for some of them not proceeding with the work was that the subsidy or assistance given under the Scheme was not adequate.

The Minister replied the reason why they were rejected was because they did not prepare the land once the application was approved. According to the Rubber Planting Scheme rule: when an applicant had been given approval this year to plant in 1966 he was given one whole year in which to do the work which had to be done. In other words to clear the land, prepare terraces where neces-

sary to dig the hole for the planting of budwood, and if this was not done by 31st December, his application would be cancelled and he would be withdrawn from the Scheme.

Here Mr Stephen Yong said that he was himself an applicant in 1963 and he asked the Minister why he was told to make an application in 1965 when he applied in 1964. He made an application in 1965 and so far he did not know whether it had been accepted.

He wished to know whether there were many cases of this sort.

The Minister replied that if Mr Stephen Yong could let him have the actual date of application and copy of his application, he would look into the matter.

Warnings Issued

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) then asked whether investigations had been made into the matter of those applicants who were not willing to prepare their land for replanting.

The Minister answered that the Department of Agriculture had issued warnings in the press about a month ago, telling them that they must get their lands ready for planting by December 31st and that if they did not do so they would not be given subsidies.

The Minister also said that Junior Agricultural Assistants had been going round to all places where schemes were being implemented to check whether the work was being done properly.

Not A Question Of Lack of Subsidy

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Machinda) asked the Minister whether he would be able to go into the root of the trouble and find out the real reasons. He said perhaps the reason was that assistance was not adequate.

The Minister replied that it was not a question of the lack of subsidy. It was due to the fact that participants did not carry out the work as per the rules of the Scheme.

The payment was only made after the first phase of the work was done — the clearing of the land.

The subsidy for one acre of new planting was \$400, and this was not paid at once. It was paid over three or four payments so that as each stage of the work was done the subsidy would be paid. If no work was done, no subsidy was paid to ensure no wastage of public funds.

Mr Sim Boon Liang asked the Minister for Communications and Works whether appropriate action had been taken by his Ministry to repair subsidised wharf and river wall at Mukah.

The Minister replied that as far as the wall was concerned, there was provision in the First Malaysia Plan and in the 1966 Development Estimates Head 64 for works to stop river bank erosion. Survey and investigation had been carried out but more investigation was required before a design could be made. There was also provision under the Ordinary Estimates, Head 30, for immediate remedial measures.

"The wharf itself is sound but the end of the approach has subsided consequent upon the subsidence of the river wall. Repair work has been carried out and is almost complete," the Minister added.

Mr Stephen Yong Kuet Tze wanted to know from the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry the total acreage of forest areas granted to and operated by sawmillers and loggers before Malaysia Day and the acreage since Malaysia Day.

The area of State land under forest licence before Malaysia Day was approximately 3,720,000 acres, and the area licenced since Malaysia Day had been approximately 310,000, the Minister replied.

Silantek Coal Negotiations

Mr Sim Kheng Hong asked the Minister for Land and Mineral Resources whether any further progress had been made in the negotiation for the mining of Silantek Coal.

The Minister replied that the latest information was that the Nippon Coal Mining Company Limited were still negotiating with the Japanese authorities for foreign exchange approval of the revised capital required from the Japanese sources on the Silantek coal project, and after this, the Company would still have to negotiate with Malayan Industrial and Development Finance Limited on the question of local participation in the project.

Primary Education

Mr Sng Chin Joo asked the Minister for Local Government when would free primary education be introduced into Sarawak.

The Minister replied: "When the Honourable Member refers to 'free primary

education I assume he alludes to the payment of fees by parents in respect of their children's attendance at primary school.

"The Honourable Member must surely be aware, by now, of the statement made by the Minister of Education earlier this year that it is proposed by the Federal Government that such fees should be abolished on 1st January, 1966, making attendance at school, as far as the individual parent is concerned, 'free'.

Mr Ong Kee Hui (Supp) observed that the member who asked the question was perhaps thinking something beyond the exemption of payment of school fees. He said the Minister should be aware that a substantial part has still to be made by parents in the way of books and other commitments.

The Minister replied that nothing was free. The phrase 'free primary education' had little meaning. Education (in the form of school buildings, equipment and teaching staff, etc.) has to be paid for—like everything else.

The Minister said: "At the moment the cost of education is met from taxes (the Federal grant), local authority rates and school fees. The abolition of primary school fees will mean that parents will be relieved of this payment and the cost of primary education borne by taxes (federal grant) and local authority rates."

Mr Chan Siaw Hee (Supp) asked what steps the Government had taken to ensure that there would be free primary education if the Federal Government failed to keep its promise.

The Minister replied that since education was a Federal matter it would be best answered by the Federal Minister of Education.

Mr Stephen Yong: "Will the Minister assure this House that he and his colleagues would put in their best endeavours to obtain for Sarawak the same treatment as far as primary education is concerned as is now prevailing in the States of Malaya."

The Minister replied: "The position in Sarawak now equates with that in the states of the mainland except that, in Sarawak, it is the District Councils which decide what the education rate shall be; in the States of Malaya, the education rate is imposed from above by the Federal Government.

"The small contribution which local authorities in Sarawak make towards the cost of primary education (through payment of

rates) entitles them to the privilege of planning and implementing their own school building programmes and responsibility for the running of their schools. Surely no one is suggesting that this privilege should surrender and the Federal Government invited to take over from local authorities in Sarawak responsibility for primary education?"

"In fact, local authority contribution to the cost of primary education is small. The Federal Government meets 90 percent of the recurrent costs, together with part of the balance in the form of education rate-grant. Up to 75 percent of capital expenditure is met by federal grants and part of the balance met by federal loans."

Mr Chan Siaw Hee then asked whether the Minister was aware that education was a concurrent subject and why the State Government had no say in it. Here the Deputy Chief Minister pointed out that education was not a concurrent subject.

Mr Ong Kee Hui then said that he had heard it from the Federal Minister himself in reply to a point he raised in the Federal Parliament that if we had full control of our education then we would be accorded the same facilities as those given to children in the Malayan States.

Here the State Secretary, Dato G.A.T. Shaw pointed out that in the Malaysian Constitution education was a Federal subject.

The Acting Attorney-General, Mr Tan Chiew Thong, said that in so far as the Constitutional Provisions were concerned it was quite clear from the 9th Schedule to the Federal Constitution in List I that the Federal list, item 13 quite clearly stated that education included elementary, secondary and university. He said that it could be found on the Sarawak Constitutional Document.

The Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong, referring to Mr Chan Siaw Hee's suggestion that education was a concurrent subject, said he did not know where Mr Chan got the impression from. The point was quite clear that education was a federal subject although in the I.G.C. Report provision had been made such as having English as the medium of instructions in our secondary schools.

Police Officers' Allowance

Mr Leong Ho Yuen asked the Chief

Minister whether the State Government had to change the State's education system before Sarawak could get Free Primary Education, and if so, would the State Government consider changing its education system in order to obtain such benefits.

The Minister for Local Government who had been asked by the Chief Minister to deal with the question, said the answer to the first part of the question was "no", and so the second part of the question did not arise.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen again asked the Chief Minister whether he was aware of the dissatisfaction of members of the Sarawak Constabulary over the training allowances paid to them for doing duty outside the State and if so, will the State Government urge the Federal Government to impose one rate of allowances for all police officers.

The Chief Minister replied that that was a matter for the Federal Government.

The Minister for Communications and Works was asked by Mr Leong Ho Yuen whether the State Government would protect the interests of the residents in certain localities by ensuring that the residents who had participated in "Gotong Royong" projects should be given priority of employment in subsequent jobs connected with such projects.

"This question has been referred to me by the Minister for Communications and Works as it does not appear to have much to do with engineering or communications. I confess that I myself do not quite understand what is meant by the question and if the Honourable Member will write to me on the subject I shall endeavour to give him an answer," the Chief Minister replied.

Mr Leong wanted to know from the Chief Minister whether the State Government would urge the Federal Government to amend the Labour Ordinance (Cap. 76) to enable the introduction of "check off" system for trade unions such as that now enforced in the Malayan States since this system would permit employers to make deductions from wages of workers to pay their union dues.

Dato Ningkan replied that he would pass the question to the Federal Government.

Mr Leong, in another question, asked the Minister for Local Government whether local district councillors were permitted to be employed, full or part time, with established Government departments, and if not, would he inform the House that such appointments,

if already made, would cease forthwith.

Answering, the Minister said: "I would refer the Honourable Member to the provisions of Section 8 (2)(g) of the Local Government Elections Ordinance (Cap. 118) which provide that the seat of a Councillor shall become vacant if he is appointed to any office in the service of the State Government and is not exempted from such provisions."

Mr Leong also asked the Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture whether he could inform the House what steps had his Ministry taken to curb the scourge of prostitution, and to protect the youths of this State from this evil influence.

Reply by Dato Othman: "The Hon'ble Member asks my Ministry to protect the youths of the State of Sarawak. I think he is rather under-estimating our youth in thinking that they stand in need of protective assistance from the ministry.

"On limiting prostitution, I would refer the Hon'ble Member to the Provisions of Sections 372 and 373 of the Penal Code and to Sections 28,34A and 35A of the Minor Offences Ordinance. The law, as it stands at present, is adequate to cope with the exercise of this trade which is becoming a nuisance, and, in conjunction with existing welfare services, to deal with the problem of exploitation of the very young."

Commercial Wharf for Dalat

Mr Sim Boon Liang asked the Minister for Communications and Works when would Government construct a commercial wharf for Dalat and one for Balingian.

As far as Balingian was concerned, said the Minister, there was provision for a belian wharf under Head 30 of the Draft Estimates for 1966, but there was no provision for a wharf at Dalat in 1966.

Mr Sim then asked whether the Minister was aware that some 150 ships a month called at Dalat. He said that Dalat with its proximity to the Kut Canal was less likely to be effected by an interior road.

The Minister replied that if the Dalat project was submitted for inclusion in the Draft Estimates for future years, it would of course, be considered. He could not, however, at present say whether it was likely to be approved since other projects might prove to be of higher priority.

Council Negri Budget Debate

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind. Lawas)

Mr Mak Yau Lim (Ind. Lawas) hoped that Government would extend rural development projects to "neglected areas". He said that in some areas in the outstations there were yet no roads, no dispensary, no telephone and no water supply".

On agriculture and land, Mr Mak said that the existing Land Code was "a stumbling block" in the way of land acquisition by non-natives. He said that land was plentiful in Sarawak. Therefore Government should let the people have it, use it and develop it.

Touching on medical services, Mr Mak hoped that Government would build more dispensaries in the rural areas if the population density justified it. If the population did not justify the building of a dispensary, arrangements should then be made for Hospital Assistants to visit such areas regularly.

Mr Mak added that he was happy to note that a new dental clinic had been completed in Limbang. He considered that a single dental clinic to serve the whole of Fifth Division which had a widely scattered population was inadequate because of poor communications. Mr Mak suggested that dental officers or their assistants should be encouraged to go out and serve the people in the ulus and outstations.

Referring to education, Mr Mak said that primary education, especially in the rural areas was generally low "as the majority of pupils usually failed in the common examinations".

He suggested that Government should find ways to assist the Primary VI failures by either building more secondary schools to accommodate them or providing places for special and simple training in farming, poultry-keeping, carpentry and similar subjects.

Finally, Mr Mak Yau Lim thanked the Chief Minister for conveying two of his questions submitted for oral answers. One urged the Federal Government to assist persons born in Sarawak, especially the rural people, who applied for Identity Cards or Malaysian Passports, but did not have birth certificates to simplify the procedure of making applications, and the other urged the Federal Government to consider posting an Immigration Examiner to Lawas.

In this connection, Mr Mak appealed to Members of Parliament from other Divisions

to raise these questions in the Federal Parliament as the Fifth Division was not represented.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Machinda)

Mr Leong Ho Yuen (Machinda) said there was again a substantial trade deficit. There was also the "dangerous trend of decline in our exports of rubber and sago".

Mr Leong thought that "exploitation of our timber resources by timber tycoons" would soon sap this country of its natural resources, and suggested the introduction of legislation.

He then complained that there was no free primary education yet.

On development, Mr Leong thought that \$93 million a year was not too vast a sum for our development.

Mr Dagok anak Randen (Panas)

Mr Dagok anak Randen (Panas) described the Budget "well balanced". He said it was also heartening to note that the State Government was not imposing additional state taxation.

Touching on road communications, Mr Dagok said that the funds allocated in the estimates for this purpose were not adequate. He appealed to the Government to do everything possible to speed up work on road communications.

Referring to the planning of villages in the land development schemes, Mr Dagok appealed to the people to extend such assistance to the various villages and long-houses because it was necessary to improve their present environments.

Mr Dagok also suggested that more inter-council visits or exchange visits for councillors should be arranged.

Referring to the civics courses now being arranged for community leaders, Mr Dagok suggested that similar courses or conferences should be arranged annually for the chairman and vicechairman of various councils in Sarawak. He also suggested clearer identification of council vehicles by the additional words 'Local Government'.

Mr Dagok also suggested that part-time interpreters and typists should be engaged by Government when the council was in session

for the convenience of the members of the house.

Mr Dagok then referred to road safety along Kuching/Serian Road and suggested the widening of the dangerous bends. In conclusion, Mr Dagok said he would like to place on record his heartiest congratulations for the untiring efforts of the Government to improve the lot of the people as a whole.

Mr Racha Umong (Ind. Lawas)

Mr Racha Umong (Ind. Lawas) complained that though they wished to have many things discussed in Parliament they had no representatives.

"As I have said in this Council previously, we in the Fifth Division are as chickens without a mother hen and so I hope it is the Government's duty to remember those in the Fifty Division," he said.

Mr Racha Umong added: "Furthermore it is just because we have no representatives in Parliament, our matters should be looked after well. We hope that our Ministers will always visit us in the Fifth Division, as far as the ulu, not midway, and up to the end of Ba Kelalang.

"We want our identity cards, for instance and birth certificates cannot be issued here except by the Federal Government.

"I earnestly request the Ministers responsible or Members of Parliament to visit us often."

Finally, Mr Umong asked for better road communications between Long Semado and Ba Kelalang and hoped the Government would reconsider the matter.

Senator Dato Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau (All.)

Senator Dato Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau said that the people in Baram District had heard that Government intended to implement the rubber scheme, but until now after two years of independence nothing had yet been done.

"I hope that the Government will take pains to survey the interior of Baram in order to open up new lands for the people. This will help create new jobs," said the Senator.

He added that in 20 years' time Baram area would be overpopulated so if there were new lands opened in the ulu, the problem could be solved. He also hoped the Govern-

ment would implement the suggested roads project from Long Igan to Igan to Long Akah.

Finally, the Senator said: "I hope the Government will also improve our airfield so that people nearby could go direct to whichever town they want to."

Dato Abang Othman bin Abang Haji Moasili, Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture

The Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture, Dato Abang othman, referring to the question of family planning, said that the Ministry of Welfare gave support to the Sarawak Family Planning Association by means of an annual grant of \$20,000.

He added: "I can say this support will continue, for regulating the growth of population to reasonable limits represents a very important contribution to increasing the general standard of living."

Referring to other points raised by the Opposition, the Minister said: "Our land development schemes are set on a successful course - contrary to what the Leader of the Opposition claims - of weaning away rural farmers from subsistence farming to one of a cash economy. To ensure that the rise in per capita income resulting from this development remains as high as possible, population growth must be kept to reasonable proportions. The intelligent use of Family Planning is a method used by many Asian countries to achieve this.

"There has been some loose talk from members of the Opposition on increases in expenditure in the budget for 1966. I am sure that no member of the Opposition will dispute the wisdom of the new provision for a Welfare Division in my Ministry next year. This is a major advance and, as the Chief Minister has said, this new Division will assist in improving the standard of welfare services to the people and extending their influence on a planned and fair basis, particularly to rural areas."

The Minister said it was a source of much satisfaction to him that the skilfully-prepared budget for next year managed to maintain economic growth without imposing further State taxation and yet still permitted the expansion of social services. In addition to the proposed Welfare Division, development of "Libraries" and "Recreational Facilities" would continue.

He concluded: "The moral of all this, Sir, - and no criticism from the Opposition can obscure the fact - is that we are indeed fortunate to be a member of the Malaysian family which allows us, in spite of confrontation, to continue quietly with the development of our State and raising of the living standards of its people. The budget proposals, therefore have my whole hearted support."

Dato Dunstan Endawie, Minister for Local Govt.

The Minister for Local Government, Dato Dunstan Endawie, speaking in support of the Supply Bill (1966). referred to comments touching upon the portfolio of his Ministry, and said he would like to clarify briefly certain aspects of budgetary policy in so far as they affected local government.

The Minister added: "As the Chief Minister has said provision has been made for the introduction next year of a system of equalisation grants to replace the matching rate-grants provided for in Council Negeri Sessional Paper 1/59. The rate grant system has served its purpose in establishing 'rates' as a fair form of local taxation in rural areas in place of the earlier undesirable forms of tax based on race. But the rate grant system is now becoming increasingly unfair to the rural Councils which, because of concentration of rateable property in urban areas, are unable to benefit from rate grant to the extent that the wealthier urban Councils can. It is a system, I may say, that is proving increasingly difficult to administer.

"Its proposed replacement by a system of equalisation grants which will level-out, in terms of resources and needs, the present disparity between the urban and rural councils is a further important advance in our already well-developed local government system. It is more than this. It is a sign of the government's confidence in this system of decentralised administration, involving the running of local services by locally elected people in return for payment of rates. In return, the Government expects the system to be responsibly used and not abused. I cannot say that I am certain that some Councils where the Opposition party has a majority sufficiently appreciate this point. Fortunately, most of our District Councils are in responsible hands."

The Minister then assured that

equalisation would be quickly introduced, and said he expected members to be able to read all about it in a White Paper at its next normal meeting.

He continued: "As Honourable Members are already aware, equalisation is not possible without first revaluing rateable property on a uniform and independent basis. In pursuance of an undertaking given to this House earlier, such a revaluation has been quietly taking place throughout much of this year under arrangements supervised by my Ministry. Such an exercise, I can assure Honourable Members, is a fearsome task at the best of times. The exercise is expected to be complete before the end of this month and all who have contributed to this operation deserve due recognition.

"A year of intense pre-occupation with revaluation and aspects of switching from a system of rate-grants to one of equalisation was not regarded as an opportune one for the diversion of effect that would have been involved in convening a local Government Conference. However, as I have said in this House, I would welcome such a Conference and arrangements will be made as soon as the opportunity permits. Regarding Inter-Council visits, these have certain value, provided they are used with moderation. My Ministry does not prevent such visits but, through estimates control, ensures that they do not get out of hand. The Ministry has a duty to perform in this matter, bearing in mind that it is the rate-payers who pay."

Finally, the Minister, referring to allowances for Councillors said it was the introduction of equalisation grants which permitted the payment of allowances to local authority Councillors without an unfair financial burden falling upon the smaller and less wealthy Councils.

The work of a District Councillor, which was confined mainly to this own local authority ward and to local government subjects, could not compare with discharging the functions and duties of a Member of this House, he added.

"Bearing in mind the large amounts which District Councillors receive in the form of subsistence, travelling and lodging allowance, the level of fixed allowance proposed is just about right," concluded the Minister.

Dato Teo Kui Seng, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

Dato Teo Kui Seng, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, said he would commend

the Leader of the Opposition for his illuminating outline of the budget speech by the Chief Minister, but he would like to take him to task on the point that the Financial Secretary was putting a gloomy picture on the estimates as far as expenditure was concerned.

Surely, he said, as an experienced banker the Leader of the Opposition should know that in drawing up estimates one should never over-estimate revenue and under-estimate expenditure.

Referring to increases in expenditures of the Ministries, Dato Teo pointed out that these were necessary because of increments. The Minister added that in fact in Head 39 there was a decrease from \$5,310,419 to \$5,282,449. He pointed out that it was wrong for the Opposition to imply that the State was a parasite just because we were receiving financial assistance from the Federal Government.

A member of the Opposition had also used the word 'flop' in relation to the Development Plan and the Minister said that since Malaysia Day there had been four extensions of bus routes, and all these bus routes had been granted to the Sarawak Transport Company.

How could the member of the Opposition accuse the Government of giving a scheme which would benefit only one race, Referring to improvements in planting schemes, the Minister told the House that some 20,000 acres of wet padi land had been improved to yield 350 to 400 gantangs per acre as against 200 gantangs.

In the case of coconut 36,500 acres had been subsidised and planted to date under the Coconut Planting Scheme and they were yielding something like nine to 10 pikuls per acre as against five pikuls.

Under Rubber Planting Scheme, at the end of 1964 there were only 4,500 acres in tapping, and a further 3,000 acres would come into tapping this year. The yield was proved to be around 800 to 1,000 lbs per acre per annum, as against the old rubber of 200 lbs only, and after the first year of tapping this would increase.

Answering a point raised by the Opposition that only seven per cent of the approved applicants had done their work under the RPS 'A' in the Third Division, the Minister said that being the one responsible for Agriculture he had made two recent trips to Sibul to look into the matter himself and he was informed that 70 per cent had already been cleared for planting.

From experience they found that not all the applicants would do their work, and the average in the past two years had been about 80 per cent. He stressed that in this type of

development scheme the co-operation of the people was of great importance.

Under Forestry, the Minister said that forest reserves and protected forests were being scientifically looked after, and as the Forestry Department were ensuring that there would be a sustained yield of timber. In order to do this the Department has restricted the extraction of timber so that each area had a 45 year cycle.

New Land Available

On the question of land hunger, the Minister said that the problem was not as great as it had been made to appear. Earlier, he said that new land was available in the middle Sadong area, where there will be a drainage and irrigation scheme.

There was also a land development scheme in Sibul where 3,000 acres of land had been made available to the settlers, but he was perturbed to learn that after they had been given land about nine months ago, a number of them had now expressed a wish to withdraw, and he said he would look into this matter.

In answer to a point raised by a member from the Third Division concerning schemes for the people of Oya and Dalat, Dato Teo assured the member that when the Oya Road which would link the Oya river to the Mukah river during the first year of the Malaysia Plan had been completed, the people in Oya would benefit.

A farm institute would be implemented in the Lower Rejang, and they hoped to draw students from Oya, Mukah and Dalat. Referring to the increase in staff in his Ministry, Dato Teo explained that because the revenue from forest was greater than that of rubber, the Ministry must ensure that they collected the appropriate royalty, and in order to do so they must have more forest staff. It would be foolish, he said, to try to save through malpractices when they could collect more revenue. Concluding the Minister said that the Bill had his support and that the budget was a well-balanced one.

Inche Taib bin Mahmud, Minister for Communications and Works

Inche Taib bin Mahmud, Minister for Communications and Works, said that the budget speech of the Chief Minister contained good planning, if not a "very good" one.

He added: "The fact that we could achieve a certain amount of expansion of activity with-

not unduly expanding the size of our spending is an indication of how careful we were in using public funds."

In planning for development of the country, the Minister said, one must take into account the financial limitations, and the course they had been taking in implementing development schemes, had been the correct one, that was by tackling projects that were economically productive and trying to eliminate the rest.

The urgency for a good road to the Airport was recognised by the Government and provision for this road had been included in next year's estimates. They had not overlooked the necessity for such a road in view of the increase in traffic, but because of the possibility of developing the coal mine at Silintek, they might be able to combine the coal road and the airport road.

If the coal road project did not come through and consequently the airport road could not be constructed, then it would not be because of lack of planning of the Government, it would be because of the difficulty of persuading investors to hurry up the opening of the coal mine.

Inche Taib admitted that Sarawak was a very difficult country to develop, at least at this initial stage, and in spite of very overwhelming geographical conditions, and of financial to speed up development as much as in other places, they had managed in 1963 to build about 60 miles of road a year, and in 1964 this length was increased slightly to 64 miles.

But they expected to complete about 90 miles of rock surface road. This reflected good planning of the Government in its development undertakings, the Minister pointed out.

The Minister also added that provision for the Long Jagan road was included in the Development Plan.

Rural Air Services

As to air services in the rural areas the Government was still facing a lot of difficulties, and the matter was now being actively considered by the Malaysian Airways.

Replying to criticisms on electricity, Inche Taib said that they were constructive ones but he was sorry for not being able to comply with their suggestions "because of our peculiar problems". Here electricity was derived from diesel engines, and this cost a great deal, he said.

The step taken by SESCO was the right one because it had the flexibility of allowing for cheaper rates of electricity to be

negotiated with interested parties provided it could be accommodated within the existing facilities without allowing those who did not intend to make use of the concession to take advantage. "Certainly this particular line of negotiation should be pursued by those who want to consume electricity on a bulk scale," said the Minister.

On the question of utilising the resourcefulness of the population, the Minister said that this was a slow process involving a certain amount of education and a change in attitude and mentality of the people. In this respect, he commended the Chinese community.

However, the Government was not overlooking this fact, and apart from personal appeals by the Ministers to the people to develop their resourcefulness, the Government was also introducing training institutes in agriculture.

The Minister noted that one of the major problems facing the Government was to get the people to work away from their home town, and in the rural areas. The problem was a psychological one, but gradually the Government had been able to attract these people to work in places away from all the urban amenities.

He noted also that a fair number among the natives had now changed their attitude and were willing to leave their homes to work.

Continuing, the Minister said that he had been disturbed by a criticism of the Opposition that the Government might be favouring the Natives so much, that it may be discriminating against the non-natives.

He would like to discuss this issue above politics as he did not consider this a safe topic to be taken up within political argument because the danger was so great that much more harm could be done.

Inche Taib emphasised that in a multi-racial country there must always prevail a feeling of unity and oneness. He would like, he said, to see complaints of discrimination abolished and instead the people should work together regardless of racial origins in order to bring the races closer together.

He would like to see partnership systems in business between natives and non-natives. In the granting of taxi licences out of 15, 7 were given to Natives.

Not a Justifiable Step

Judging from the racial population, the Native would probably find this ratio unsatisfactory. But if we judged it from the number of existing licences issued the

Natives would still be unsatisfied.

But, he said, he could not remedy the full situation by saying there were no licence for non-natives as that would be ridiculous, and it would not be a justifiable step.

He hoped that the reasons behind his decision to give seven out of the 15 licences to Natives might be taken with all the goodwill and motives he had just mentioned.

Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong

The Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong began by saying that the Budget was a very sound and balanced one. Members of the Opposition had come up with conflicting views about the Budget. That was a good sign, he said, as it showed that the Budget was good. He would like to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition who had congratulated the Chief Minister for his budget. "I think he has been fair and honest there, in giving credit where credit is due," he said.

The Budget hid nothing and presented the facts factually and projected for the next few years what we expected to do.

The Leader of the Opposition, said the DCM, had criticised the Government for paying too much credit to the Federal Government and for being so grateful for Malaysia. He pointed out that they are Ministers and the Chief Minister being Head of the Government responsible for the welfare of the people of Sarawak had to face the blunt brutal fact.

The interest of the Government was firstly, the interest of the people, and the interest of the people had been best served both economically, politically and socially by the fact that we were in Malaysia.

He pointed out to the House that had it not been for the fact that they were in Malaysia he did not think that they would be able to discuss the Budget in the very Chamber, and in the spirit of parliamentary democracy. He went further to say that knowing what the Indonesians were capable of doing and knowing what would have happened to us if we had not gone into Malaysia at the beginning of Malaysia, the Congo would be a pigmy compared to what we would have suffered two years ago.

Referring to the separation of Singapore from Malaysia, the Deputy Chief Minister said that we had to accept it as a reality. The Prime Ministers of the two countries had agreed to the separation for the good of their countries, and he could only hope for the best.

The separation had affected us economically. We must appreciate now that Singapore was a foreign and independent State and we could only pray that their policy would be one of friendship and understanding with Malaysia.

The DCM believed that the future of Sarawak lay in Malaysia and it should be wrong for us even to harbour suspicion in our minds that Malaysia was not going to work. Our relationship with the Central Government had been very good and the people of Sarawak had benefited as a result of the federation more than they deserved: the per capital allocation in the Development Plan for Sarawak was more than that allocated for Malaya.

Saying that one should give credit where credit was due, we must thank the Central Government for being so magnanimous and so generous. We have all benefited from this magnificent gesture, he added, and moreover, as we would have the primary school fees abolished.

Smallholder's Country

The Central Government was not obligated to do that. We must be grateful to the Central Government and instead of calling Mr Tan Siew Sin a villain, we should instead call him a Santa Claus, because for a contribution next year of \$4.7 million we would have 20 times that amount.

Touching on agriculture, the Deputy Chief Minister said that Sarawak was basically a smallholder's country, and being so, we must always appreciate their difficulties whenever they failed to plant their land, but as more and more people began to realise the need for planting high yielding rubber we had an increasing number of people from the rural areas coming up to plant. And he was sure we should be able to plant up more.

We also had Coconut Planting Scheme designed to help people from the coastal areas, and now we were going to introduce palm oil in our agricultural system. There were also farm institutes which would help people in the rural areas to improve their farming methods.

Generally, he pointed out, it was the policy of the Alliance Government to make the rural areas a better place to live in, and this would have the effect of attracting back people from the rural areas to develop the country.

The Deputy Chief Minister also said that the Central Government was going to introduce a Fishery Department in Sarawak to help develop fishing industry here.

On taxation, the Deputy Chief Minister said the people should be grateful that they were going to get so much development without having to pay any additional State tax.

He told the Opposition that just because the Budget anticipated a deficit this did not mean bad planning on the part of the Government. If we want the State's development to grow then we must plan ahead with boldness and be even prepared to incur any necessary debts to finance it, knowing full well that we should be living and be able to pay for these debts. Sarawak, he added, was not a bankrupt state. It still had its resources.

Dato Wong went on: "We at the moment as far as Malaysia is concerned is a deficit State. But we will not be a deficit state for not be a deficit state for long because with all the economic development we are putting into the country and when confrontation ends, we should be a paying State and an asset to Malaysia."

Referring to the recruitment of the 15 Temporary Senior Administrative Officers, the Deputy Chief Minister said that these Chinese Hakka-speaking and Foochow Officers were needed to fill the gap of trying to explain to the rural people what the Government was trying to do to help them, the object of the exercise was to help the rural people, particularly the Hakka and the Foochow living in the outback. These officers would be recruited from both here and in Malaya but they have got to be experienced officers.

On the question of industries, the Deputy Chief Minister said that ours was basically an agricultural country but we were also doing our best to encourage them and as an inducement we had introduced Pioneer Status.

Referring to remarks by a member from the Fifth Division, Dato Wong said that the Division had also benefited from the rural development and that it had not been forgotten.

Touching on education, the DCM said that the Government was doing its best to train as many teachers as possible; a teachers' training college would be established in the Lower Rejang in 1966; and he thought that we had to exercise a bit of patience here.

On the issue of forest licences, the Deputy Chief Minister said that it was rather unfair of the Opposition to infer that those licences issued after Malaysia were issued to the favoured few. Those licences were issued after very careful consideration, and the so-called "timber-tycoons" had helped the economy of the country a lot.

Touching on the First Malaysia Plan, the Deputy Chief Minister read out the ten cardinal points of the Plan.

(Debates on Development Expenditure Estimates (1966); the Kuching Municipal (Amendment) Bill, and the Civil List (Amendment) Bill will be published next week)

COUNCIL NEGRI: Debate On Development Expenditure Estimates 1966

'A DYNAMIC EVOLUTION IN AGRICULTURE' HAS BEGUN, SAYS DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

Speaking on the motion, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui said:

"When the 1964-1968 Sarawak Development Plan was introduced in this House last year, I stated that in the matter of development designed for improving the standard of living of the people in Sarawak, Government will have our support.

"We have over the past year shown this by our active participation in District or Divisional Development Boards, wherever we have been invited to serve through local councils. This does not however preclude us from offering constructive criticism of the Plan whenever we feel that the defects in its provisions or planning or mistakes in the execution thereof.

"The authority for the Development Plan stems from this House and, Mr Speaker, Sir, we should make it clear that on the vital subject of raising the standard of living of our people this House stands undivided, and economic development is not a subject of party politics.

"In the execution of the Plan, it should also be made clear to those directly concerned with it that party politics must not be brought into it. It should be made absolutely clear that in the eyes of the Government every citizen has an equal right to participate in any scheme if qualified to do so under the conditions laid down in any particular scheme, without any discrimination as to the party affiliation of any applicant.

"I mention this, Sir, because among politically unsophisticated people in the rural areas, there is often a good deal of loose talk about this, and there is the ever present danger of unscrupulous people exploiting the ignorance of rural people to further political ends.

"This should be sternly discouraged by the Government. It should be made clear that all are taxpayers regardless of party affiliations and everyone should play his part in the economic development of this country and benefit from it.

"Having said this and made our stand clear, I wish to make a few observations on economic development generally in Sarawak. Our financial situation has been made clear

by the debate over the Budget in this Council.

"The fact, that compared with a number of neighbouring countries we are a comparatively, small country, with small population, and with no great natural resources is not sufficiently appreciated. Many outsiders think of our vast area in relation to population and may say that we must be out of our mind to talk seriously of family planning.

"We should, on the contrary, increase and multiply to ensure our survival as a nation, so as not to be swamped by a more numerous and aggressive neighbour. I think such a view is superficial and not a realistic approach to our economic problem of survival, and family planning must be accepted as part of our economic planning.

"To subscribe to the other view of allowing our population to increase unrestricted will result in all our increased gross national product being absorbed by increased population with perhaps no improvement but a lowering of our standard of living.

"Ultimately, raising the standard of living will depend on the increased productivity of our people as a result of the Development Plan - not productivity in terms of children but in terms of food and other produce.

"As an agricultural country with a large proportion of our population engaged in subsistence farming producing barely enough rice to feed themselves and mostly by shifting cultivation, the aim must be more settled cultivation - a revolutionary change perhaps in their way of life.

Above Party Politics

"I seemed to have caused a bit of concern to the Hon'ble the Deputy Chief Minister when I used the word 'revolution'. I wish to take this opportunity to assure him that I do not advocate that our farmers should take up arms to improve their standards of living. What I mean is that the usual slow process of evolution will not enable our farmers to project themselves from the Bronze Age to the Space Age.

"In my budget speech last year I mentioned that I was most impressed by a statement made to me by the Governor of one

of the states in the U.S.A. that the reason why that country is so rich that only 12 per cent of the population is engaged in farming.

"This 12 per cent of the population produced not only enough food to feed the whole country but also enough to give away in aid to less fortunate countries and to sell abroad. Here about 80 per cent of our population engaged in agriculture produces barely enough food to feed 60 per cent of our population, leaving few people to produce other things to enrich our country.

"This shows the magnitude of our task in raising the standard of our living. It is for this reason that we think that in this matter of economic development we should all pull together above party politics."

Mr Stephen Yong (SUPP) speaking after Mr Ong Kee Hui, touched on the subject of racial harmony which was earlier referred to in the Council by the Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud.

Mr Yong said that some people nowadays identified certain sections of the population with certain economic projects advantageously. The Minister has confessed that honestly he was unable to offer any solution to such questions except by preaching, understanding and tolerance.

Mr Yong said that there was yet another danger: that was the tendency not so much of giving a fairer deal to rural people, but of creating on the present system, a well-to-do middle-class indigenous people.

He added that it should be appreciated that the existence of the capitalist class or middle-class had been evolved through the economic system on which they had been working all these years. And it so happened that the non-indigenous section had been taking a more active part in commerce and industry and they found themselves in that group. The people who did not have the opportunity therefore now found themselves in an unfavourable economic position.

Mr Yong described these cases as "accidents of history" for which no one could be blamed. He said, therefore, all the talk of one race exploiting the other was unfounded. Equally, on the other hand, the accusation that certain race had been lazy and had no initiative, was also unfounded.

Mr Yong said that this sort of talk should be deplored and condemned, not encouraged. He said that it so happened in the economic history in this part of the world that certain sections of the people had become more prosperous and this should not be attri-

buted to their skill or cleverness in exploitation. It was safe to say that there was no exploitation of one race of the other.

Cut Across Racial Issues

He said he could not offer any immediate solution to it but would like to mention that they should regard firstly these historical factors, and also taking into consideration the causes why some people were poor. He said that poverty was no respecter of a person's race.

It was true to say even that there were poor people even among the non-indigenous people who did not have the barest necessity of life. He said he did not mean that all non-indigenous people were rich.

They attempted to solve this problem by political means, that was by the introduction of the "principles of socialism". They felt that when they took issues on economic matters on an economic plane they should cut across racial issues. It was more healthier and more positive than to fight politically on a racial plane.

He said they were prepared to even take the risk of being accused of following the marxist line because they felt that so long as they could offer any solution to the economic problems without creating racial conflict they were making some contribution to the country.

Mr Yong went on to say that the economic policy of the Malaysian Government was not quite correct because it was creating an artificial atmosphere whereby only certain sections of the indigenous people could take part in economic activity whereby creating capitalist class of the indigenous people.

Mr Yong said that as the Chief Minister had said that the ultimate object should be to raise the living standards of the rural people, if that was so, they welcomed it heartily.

He stressed that their object should be to satisfy as many people as they could instead of just only a few. They should cut across racial grounds and give assistance only to poor people; it should not mean that they belonged to certain race and therefore they should get more. In the end it would be wrong to say that because certain people were Bumiputras or indigenous therefore they must be given certain aid.

If our policy should be to give aid to people in the rural areas because these people were poor and because they were not able to help themselves then they should be given aid.

Mr Yong concluded: "Look at things not solely from origins of race but from economic

point of view". He suggested that we should educate the people and strive to remove in-born prejudices. If we could work towards this line they could be sure that the Development Plan would be a success.

Mr Dagok anak Randan (ALL) supporting the motion said that he had studied in detail the provisions contained in Command Paper No. 11 and was fully convinced the Plan would bring great benefit to the people.

The Minister for communications and works, Inche Abdul Taib Bin Mahmud, said that he was very happy to hear that his point of view had been very well understood by Members of the Opposition. He said he looked forward to close co-operation irrespective of political affiliation to the building up of a mental attitude which would more or less slowly break down the barrier of racial consciousness among the people.

Achieve Fairer Distribution of Wealth

He said although the Plan at this stage would aim at increasing as much as possible the income of this country but from the point of view of human practice, we must aim to achieve as much social justice as possible and probably the way to do this was to achieve a fairer distribution of wealth within the country.

He said this would of course take many years to come and probably in the process of achieving this fairer distribution of wealth they might indirectly be able to solve the problem which was exercising their minds namely the problem of unifying the people.

The Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong, thanking the members of the Opposition for the support they had given to the Development Expenditure for 1966 said that they had shown measured understanding and co-operation throughout the whole debate.

Dato Wong said that there must be family planning for those who needed it on economic grounds.

Referring to the question of "revolution in agriculture" suggested by Mr Ong Kee Hui, Dato Wong said that what was really needed was "forward thinking" - a dynamic form of tackling the farming problems of our country, particularly shifting cultivation.

Dato Wong said that in the last two years they had through the introduction of Land Development Schemes in the various divisions of Sarawak been helping shifting farmers to become permanent cultivators.

He said these schemes would bring in the more conservative farmers into the resettle-

ment schemes and show them that this was one of the ways of learning a better way of life.

Here Dato Wong mentioned the various forms of assistance that was being given to padi farmers and described these methods as a "dynamic evolution in agriculture".

Referring to the points raised by Mr Stephen Yong as regards class distinction, Dato Wong agreed that there was class distinction in Sarawak in the sense that there were haves as well as have nots. He said that this class distinction could not be compared to that found in communism.

Dato Wong then referred to his recent visit to New Zealand and said that in that country where there was a capitalist system of rating there was a classless society.

In that society everybody had a place in the sun and was happy. Dato Wong went on to say that in New Zealand the evolution of a classless society had been brought about by education so that they all mutually respected one another and respected one another's point of view.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the people of Sarawak had within their ability to achieve such a society ultimately. It might be probably in the next generation or in the generation that followed, but if they did first things first then they would achieve final success.

Education, A Great Leveller

Education was a great leveller and that was where they should concentrate their efforts.

Dato Wong concluded by saying that the people of Malaysia should begin now to think of themselves not as Chinese or Malays or Dayaks but purely as Malaysians.

Touching on the question of poverty, referred to by Mr Stephen Yong, Dato Wong said that it was not only social injustice but a crime if there was want and starvation in the country.

They were all agreed that the object of the Development Plan itself was to battle against poverty.

Touching on the question of "Malaysian Malaysia", Dato Wong said that many people had accused Alliance Government and some Alliance leaders for not believing in Malaysian Malaysia. Dato Wong asked "Why did we go into Malaysia in the first place?" We accepted Malaysia as a basis of our hopes for us, for our children and for our children's children.

It was because we had seen that within the seven years of Malayan independence how

the Government of Malaya - which happened to be an Alliance Government - had given fair play to everybody in Malaya.

The Chinese in Malaya had never had it so good, the Malays, the Natives of Malaya had gradually had their lot being improved. It was because that they believed in the ultimate Malaysian Malaysia that they had joined Malaysia.

Some people thought, Dato Wong said, that they should achieve Malaysian Malaysia. He added: "We must realise that we live in a multi-racial society; ours is a society in which our diversity must be our strength whereby we might accommodate, appreciate and understand our differences and respect them. That is where our strength lies."

REVALUATION OF RATEABLE PROPERTY: KMC (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED

The primary purpose of The Kuching Municipal (Amendment) Bill, (passed by The Council Negri at its session) was "to achieve a sufficient measure of uniformity to enable a system of equalisation grants to be introduced in 1966 to replace the present rate-grants for which provision is contained in Council Negri sesional paper 1/59".

This was stated by the Minister for Local Government, Dato Dunstan Endawie when he moved the second reading of the Bill.

The Minister said as the Members of the House were already aware, a revaluation of rateable property throughout Sarawak was currently being undertaken under the supervision of his Ministry.

He added: "It has always been the intention of the Ministry that this rateable revaluation should take place, as far as possible, within the law as it stands and legal amendments restricted to the absolute minimum necessary to achieve the objective. In fact, it has proved necessary, as far as facilitating the actual revaluation process is concerned, to require only two small amendments.

"These, insofar as the Kuching Municipality is concerned, are contained in the Bill now before the House and similar provisions, as far as other Local Authority areas are concerned will be achieved by a comparable amendment to the Local Authority (Rating) Regulations.

"The amendments are technical in nature and, in practice, the rate-payer is unlikely to be affected by their provisions as they merely

Dato Wong concluded by saying that we might not achieve a Malaysian Malaysia but if we had patience and understanding and appreciated one another's differences we would ultimately achieve Malaysian Malaysia if not in our own lifetime but in the lifetime of our children or our children's children.

Finally, Dato Wong reiterated that it was the Alliance Government's policy to give assistance to all those who really needed it. For instance in connection with the Lambir Resettlement Scheme of the applicants who applied they had selected Ibans, 63 Malays and 63 Chinese as settlers in the scheme.

seek to place beyond doubt what, in fact, is already general practice. The amendments conform exactly to similar provisions currently in force in the States of Malaya.

"Although technical in nature, I think the principles embodied in the amendments are clear enough. Rent Control is an artificial device which endeavours to alleviate the effects of housing shortage. The artificial fixing of rentals should not, of course, be allowed to affect 'rateable value', which is a measure of the rate-payer's liability for rates in return for the services he enjoys by virtue of occupation of his rateable property.

"In arriving at a 'rateable value', one is concerned primarily with buildings and should properly ignore, therefore, the existence of machinery - which may be either fixed or movable. It is not the business or occupation which is being assessed, but the premises which are being rated in return for the local authority services which the occupant receives. This is a particularly important principle in Sarawak at its present stage of development, where the growth of light industry is not to be discouraged.

"As I have said, Mr Speaker, these two amendments merely place beyond doubt existing practice and it has been thought necessary to accord them formal recognition in the law in order to facilitate the important revaluation exercise in which we are engaged.

Mr Ong Kee Hui (SUPP) said insofar as the Bill was designed to regularise what was in fact the existing practice in the Kuching

Municipal Council, he had no choice but to support it.

He added: "The only observation that I wish to make in doing so is that the Minister would be well advised to look into the whole aspect of the Rent Control Ordinance because without the corresponding amendment to this Ordinance this particular amendment to the Kuching Municipal Ordinance might act unduly harshly on certain landlords, because although it is true that the Rent Control Ordinance is designed to protect tenants, it is weighed heavily on the side of tenants.

In the Interest of Justice

"Nevertheless in the interest of justice the landlord's rights should also be considered and I am advised the Section 8 (d) of the Ordinance precludes the landlord from making a corresponding increase in the rents which are payable to him by the tenant despite the increased rateable value of the property which might be charged by the K.M.C. and Section 8 (d) only allows him to increase the rent to cover 25 per cent of the difference between what he receives in rent and what he is charged in assessment."

Finally, Mr Ong Kee Hui said that he believed that the hands of the Rent Control Board were tied by reason of a recent judgement given in the courts. This, Mr Ong said, would make it impossible for the Rent Control Board to award anything beyond what was laid down however sympathetic they might be.

Mr Stephen Yong (SUPP) said that he understood that the amendment was merely to clarify the position so as to put beyond doubt as to what rateable value the Kuching Municipal Council could place on any property although such property might come under the Rent Control Ordinance.

In that respect Mr Yong said they had no objection to the amendment. He added that the question of fairness might be considered so that the security of tenure of the landlord might also be protected.

On the question of principle of rating and the payment of services rendered by the Municipal Council by suitable rates of assessment, Mr Yong said there was provision for passing on the assessment charged to the tenant.

Mr Yong said that if the landlord was not occupying but merely receiving rent he should pay a higher rateable value in the form of rates.

There was the question of passing on the assessment charged on his property to his

tenant. This was something to be considered and a remedy found.

Mr Yong then pointed out that Rent Control applied only to premises built before January 1, 1955. Therefore a lot of new buildings did not come under this provision. He said, however, there were cases of hardship where the landlord might find himself having to pay rateable value assessed on economic rent which might be quite high and yet receiving very low and nominal rents.

If he had to pay the rates assessed on economic rentals then he might find having very little for himself. As a result there were cases of a landlord refusing to make any repairs and finding ways and means of getting the tenant out.

He said there were even cases of landlords hoping that the house would tumble down and even going so far as to request health inspectors to order its demolition and declaring that the house was not fit for occupation. They hoped by getting the demolition order to get the tenant out. This, Mr Yong said, was "a pathetic situation".

Not Unduly Penalised

Mr Yong said one must of course protect the tenant but one must also be fair to the landlord to see that he got a fair return.

Finally, Mr Yong said that one must consider whether some appropriate amendments could be made to the Ordinance so that on one hand security of tenure for the tenant is assured, and the landlord was not also unduly penalised.

Here Mr Ong Kee Hui rose to say that when this legislation first came before the Council he and his colleague Mr Stephen Yong were away and that they were unable to give their attention to it before it came before the House.

The Acting Attorney-General, Mr Tan Chiaw Thong replying to the points raised by Mr Ong Kee Hui and Mr Stephen Yong, said that one should not in this connection lay too much emphasis on the Rent Control Ordinance.

He said: "The amendments, in my view, would not in any way, affect the landlord in respect of what they are empowered to do under the existing law - the Rent Control Ordinance. They do not take away his rights, subject to any order made by the Rent Control Board, to increase the rent paid by his tenant in respect of any increase in rates, and in this connection, there is in the Rent Control Ordinance a power given to a Rent Control Board to see that a fair balance is given both to

the landlord and to the tenant in respect of any increase in rent.

"As my learned and honourable friend, the second speaker (Mr Stephen Yong) has said the Rent Control Board in this connection has the power to see that substantial justice is done in any case referred for adjudication by it. In this connection the Rent Control Board is not limited to the power of seeing that an increase in rent or a decrease in rent which will result in any particular instance, should operate either in favour of the landlord or the tenant because the Rent Control Board concerned has the power to fix a rent either above, equal to, or below the current rent or the standard rent.

"What I would emphasise is that the question of a possible amendment as a result of this amendment made to the Kuching Municipal Council has not been ignored. It has been considered and I would suggest that in view of the fact that there are provisions to see that a fair balance is given both to the tenant and to the landlord, and particularly in view of the fact, as I have indicated earlier, that this suggested amendment in no way affect the power given to the landlord to increase the rent, where it is permissible to do so, then I would suggest there is no justification at this stage at any rate, to make any consequential or other amendment to the Rent Control Ordinance.

"If I understood Mr Stephen Yong correctly - he mentioned about rateable value based on economic rent - I do not profess to understand what he meant by that because as had been indicated by the Minister for Local Government rateable value is not based on any rent which any particular tenant should pay or landlord should receive, but on the broad basis of what a hypothetical tenant should reasonably pay to a hypothetical landlord, having regard to market conditions.

Tenancy Would Not Elapse

"On this point I think I cannot resist referring to the point raised by Mr Stephen Yong of the particular landlord waiting for a demolition order to get the tenant out. I do not wish to give a dissertation on the law of landlord and tenant, but I would like to say that if the tenant in that particular case sticks fast how could it follow by virtue of demolition order that the tenancy would be automatically terminated in that way, because as Mr Stephen Yong well knows the interest conferred by the tenancy would not lapse."

Referring to the remark by the leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui on the

question of a judgement of a High Court in relation to Section 8 1(d) of the Rent Control Ordinance, Mr Tan Chiaw Thong said, "I do not know whether or not he was thinking in terms of a judgement of Mr Justice Simpson in relation to the construction of this particular provision of the Rent Control Ordinance regarding to the particular point as to the number of increases which could be made by the landlord under this particular provision. In other words whether or not he is permitted by this particular provision to make only one increase or more. But that is neither here nor there.

"The point I would emphasise is that there is in existence that Rent Control Board and I think we should not undermine the capacity and the sense of responsibility of the Rent Control Board to see that substantial justice is done in any particular case where the question of the fixture of rent is referred to them to see that there is equitable treatment given to the landlord and the tenant.

"In this respect I would also like to observe the fact that in this particular question of the increase of rent it does not affect a tenant who is a landlord but only a landlord as regards his tenants and not a tenant who becomes a landlord by subletting."

In conclusion Mr Tan Chiaw Thong repeated that these particular amendments do not seek to take away the permission given to a landlord to make any particular increase where there has been an increase in rates nor do they affect the rights of a tenant who considers himself to be adversely affected by an increase in rent by a landlord. They could have the matter referred to the Rent Control Board.

Here Mr Stephen Yong asked what would happen in the case of a landlord who obtained a demolition order to demolish his house and refused to build. "In this case the landlord sits pretty and waits until the tenant has to give it up," said Mr Yong.

Mr Tan Chiaw Thong replied that if the landlord made matters difficult for the tenant he knew at least one case of a tenant who stuck it out by sheer tenacity. The result was that he was reinstated.

Here the State Financial Secretary, Dato Pike briefly explained that there has been some confusion stemming from the use of the word "assessment". "It tends to be used either to describe the annual value at which premises are assessed or to described the rates which are payable. What a landlord is permitted to do under the Rent Control Ordinance and without reference to the Rent

Control Board is to increase the rent by 25 percent of the difference between the current rent and the new annual rateable value.

"This would have the effect of enabling him to collect the increased amount payable in rates only if the Kuching Municipal Council was charging a 25 percent rate but not in any other circumstances," said Dato Pike.

Fully Taken Into Account

Winding up the debate, the Minister for Local Government said that the amendment concerning the effects of Rent Control were, in fact, referred to the Kuching Municipal Council (of which, of course, the front bench of the Opposition were members) in April 1964.

He added: "The council indicated in August of that year that it offered no objection to this particular provision. It is true, however, that the Council did draw attention to the sort of points to which the Honourable Member opposite has referred and these have been fully taken into account.

"The first amendment in the proposed Bill places beyond doubt that, in arriving at 'rateable value', any possible effects of Rent Control — or other kinds of rent restriction — should be ignored.

"Valuing rateable property is only a method of sharing the rate burden amongst the community. Basically, the 'annual value' method used in Sarawak (and in many other Commonwealth countries) assesses this burden on the basis of what rent an occupier's property could reasonably be expected to attract if it were let.

"This need not have anything to do with what it is actually rented out for, as this may depend on many individual factors. Rent Control is one such factor, for example.

"Rent Control is an artificial restriction on rent necessary in order to avoid hardship only when there is an acute housing shortage. It has nothing to do with fixing 'rateable value' for the purpose of sharing the rate burden.

"To take it into account would be very unfair on occupiers of premises not subject to Rent Control as these would then bear too heavy a share of the rates which are payment in return for local authority services enjoyed by an occupier of rateable premises.

"A complication as far as Sarawak is concerned is that it is by no means very clear from the law, as it stands at present, whether it is to be assumed that a landlord should pay the rates or whether this should be the responsibility of the tenant. In theory, the proper person to pay is the occupier, although this does raise some difficulties in the case of subtenancies.

"Practice in Sarawak varies; sometimes it is the landlord who pays, sometimes it is the tenant. As has been pointed out, a landlord may increase his rent by 25 per cent of the differences between the current rent and the annual value, where the current rent is less than the annual value.

"In practice, I think what happens in Sarawak is that landlords increase rent by the amount of any increase in rates - I repeat, rates and not annual value. In fact, where there has been a general increase in annual value, a reduction of the rate percentage can be expected in order to produce the same rate revenue. However, since the provision in our Rent Control Ordinance for landlords to increase rent where the current rent is less than the annual value, is subject to any Order of the Rent Control Board, it is not anticipated that any hardship is likely to result."

The Minister concluded that in any event they could rely upon landlords in Kuching to ensure that they did not sulley their own reputation.

COUNCIL PASSES POLITICAL SECRETARIES BILL

Introducing the political secretaries bill, which was passed after a debate, the Deputy Chief Minister, Dato James Wong said the bill corrected what was technically a mistake in that when a political secretary was appointed there should have been state legislation in addition to federal legislation which would regularise his position.

An amendment was made to the Federal Constitution to permit the appointment of Political Secretaries during 1964, but it was not thought at the time that parallel State legislation was necessary.

Advice recently has been to the contrary and consequently new legislation was required to provide legal authority for this post and for its remuneration.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Ong Kee Hui, opposing, said that the Bill appeared to them to be in the nature of the thin end of the wedge to seek legislative sanction for the present Alliance Government to appoint political secretaries galore and provide more jobs to a large number of frustrated party members or supporters who had been unable up to now to enjoy the fruits of office.

He continued: "Sections 2 and 3 of the Bill give the Chief Minister absolute power to appoint political secretaries, dismiss them, and prescribe the nature of their duties. There seems to be no limit as to their numbers or to which Ministry they are to be attached. At the present moment the Chief Minister is the only member of the Government who has the privilege and feels the need for a political secretary.

"The house is not unsympathetic with a hard pressed or possibly over-worked Chief Minister new to the running of a Government and we provide him with a political secretary to deal with the many chores or problems of a purely political nature which may arise and which civil servants are perhaps not competent to deal with. This was done on an ad hoc basis with the hope that as things settled down and the Chief Minister acquires greater experience such an appointment may be dispensed with.

"With this Bill the Government not only seeks to perpetuate this set up but also extend it, and to give professional politicians a status and respectibility which they really should not enjoy. Government may even in the future seek to give them pensions when they become political derelicts and have to retire due

to the vicissitudes of political life.

'Political Back Door'

"Civil servants after many years of service to the State may get up to Division I in the service (many never in their lifetime get up there) and enjoy certain privileges laid down by General Orders.

"To give to political adventurers who gate crash into the Government through the political back door a status and a privilege enjoyed by Senior Government servants would, in our view, have a demoralising effect on the service.

"Why does a civil servant spend years in the Civil Service when a much more rapid advancement to the equivalent of a Division I officer for ambitious young men now in the service? I would urge the Government to think more carefully of what they seek to do by this Bill now before the House.

"We in the Opposition feel strongly that we cannot be a party to the creation of a situation which will ultimately undermine the Civil Service of which we can up to now be justly proud of and the opening of a wide open door which will lead to Tamany Hall, in which the party is in power.

Mr Leong Ho Yuen said he did not question the necessity of introducing the Bill but its provisions were such that they did not place limitations on the number of political secretaries to be appointed. He expressed fears that soon we would find that kampungs and villages were swarmed with political secretaries. This was a situation, he said, which we could not afford to allow.

Mr Chong Kiun Kong, in opposing the Bill, said that if political secretaries were going to be appointed, they should be paid out of party funds, and the appointment should be entirely on a political footing. He pointed out that as a political secretary was not a civil servant he should not enjoy the privileges of the latter.

Mr Sim Boon Liang agreed that political secretaries should be appointed by the Chief Minister to assist the work of the Ministers.

Mr Chan Siew Hee, opposing the Bill, wanted to know how many political secretaries were to be appointed, and whether there was a limit to the number. It was stated in the Bill that the duty and functions of political secretaries were political in nature.

Mr Chan asked would this mean that the Government was trying to introduce politics in its machinery.

Pointing out that the political secretaries were only responsible to the Chief Minister, but paid from the State's funds, Mr Chan asked what were the safeguards in the event of them performing their duties contrary to the interests of the country and the people.

Mr Stephen Yong noted that the Chief Minister had now become conversant with the running of the Government, and he thought that political secretaries were unnecessary.

Senator Dato Temenggong Oyong Lawai Jau, supporting the Bill, said he could make use of one political secretary himself.

Necessary For Liaison Work

Mr Dagok anak Randan, also supporting the Bill, said that the Chief Minister should have at least one political secretary because, he argued, the Chief Minister was not only the Chief Minister of the Alliance, but that of the people, and the State.

The Chief Minister said that political secretaries were necessary for liaison work between the Ministers and the people. He said that at the moment he had only one political secretary but he intended to appoint many more in the future.

The Minister for Communications and Works, Inche Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, said he thought there was a very great need for the Government to have political secretaries. He said that because of communication difficulties, the appointment of political secretaries would facilitate the Ministers' abilities to gauge the feeling of the people in order to

arrive at the right decisions.

This attempt at appointing political secretaries instead of being an indication of violating the principle of the non-political nature of the civil service is, in fact, an attempt to preserve the impartiality of our civil service, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister, winding up the debate, pointed out again that the Bill had been put forward to regularise a position. As to the concern expressed by members of the Opposition about the number of political secretaries to be appointed by the Chief Minister, Dato Wong pointed out that the money for their remuneration would have to be approved by the House in a Supply Bill.

Dato Wong stressed that the Bill stood to lay down the specific duties and functions of political secretaries. Referring to a suggestion that political secretaries should not enjoy the privileges of a civil servant, Dato Wong pointed out that they did not have the same security as they were subjected to the whims of the Chief Minister.

A political secretary has got to be a man of many parts. Dato Wong observed that an opposition speaker had been rather ungenerous by referring to political secretaries as 'political adventurers'.

The Chief Minister's political secretaries were dedicated people and had served the country loyally. At this stage the Leader of the Opposition interposed by saying that he never intended to refer to any individual when he used the term 'political adventurers'.

Stressing again the political secretaries were very useful, Dato Wong said that he hoped members would support this Bill.

CIVIL LIST (AMENDMENT) BILL PASSED

Moving the civil list (amendment) bill, the Deputy Chief Minister said:

"There has been much speculation on the objects of this Bill. It does no more than set right what was an omission in the State Constitution. Clearly any person who may be appointed to exercise the functions of the Governor during such period when the Governor is unable to do so himself owing to illness, absence or any other cause, should be suitably remunerated. There was no such provision in the Constitution.

"The publication of this Bill has given rise to speculation as to whether we should consider the appointment of a Deputy Governor or, to use a colonial term, an Officer Administering the Government.

"In these days of independence the latter appointment is obviously out of place and it was in days gone by designed to allow the Chief Secretary to act in the place of the Governor when the Governor was away for a long period.

"Consideration was given when the Constitution of the State was being considered to creating a post of Deputy Governor. It was decided that this was unnecessary provided that there was some means of arranging for the exercise of the Governor's functions

should the Governor at any time be incapacitated.

"It was felt that the creation of another post would reuse more problems than it could possibly solve.

"I am sure that this House is thankful for the excellent recovery which His Excellency has made following his recent operation and his temporary absence in Kuala Lumpur has proved that even during such a period as this it has been perfectly feasible to continue the business of Government without having to appoint anyone to exercise the Governor's function.

"It has been possible to send to him all papers, whether urgent or not, with which he has to deal. It seems likely, therefore, that the provisions of the Constitution which allow the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in his discretion to appoint a person to exercise the functions of the Governor, after having consulted with the Chief Minister, are not likely to be required as long as the Governor remains in Malaysia. If he were, for example, to go off elsewhere on what would be a well-deserved holiday the need for such an appointment would arise but probably, not otherwise."

The Council passed the Bill without debate.

COUNCIL NEGRI APPROVES CMD. PAPER ON LOCAL GOVT. FINANCE

The Council Negri, at its session on Tuesday, June 14, 1966 approved Command Paper No. 3 of 1966 on Local Government Finance in Sarawak.

The resolution, moved by the Minister for Local Government, Dato Dunstan Endawie, was seconded by the Minister for Welfare, Youth and Culture, Dato Abang Othman.

Four members of the Opposition, including the leader, Mr Ong Kee Hui, spoke during the debate.

Moving the resolution, the Minister for Local Government recalled the undertaking he gave the House "to arrange for a revaluation of rateable property in Sarawak to be carried out on a uniform and independent basis, to enable the introduction of a system of equalisation grants provided for a Sessional Paper No. 1/59".

The Minister said that this undertaking had been honoured, and the results were available to the members in the Command Paper to which the resolution referred.

The Minister added: "It is a matter of deep regret to me that a measure which is bound to bring great benefit to rural people, have not got many of their representatives here this morning to give the proposals support on their behalf.

"In addition to setting-out government's proposals for a new system of recurrent grant-in-aid for local authorities, based on the concept of 'equalisation', the Paper also incorporates a review of past local government policy in the State as well as a statement of future policy.

Statement of Policy

"Part I of the Paper states the intention of the State Government to continue our system of local authorities in its present form and to improve and strengthen this as opportunity permits. This statement of policy is not only an expression of the government's confidence in local authorities, but recognition of the vital role they have played, and should continue to play, in the growth of democratic government in Sarawak as well as their contribution to current development. I feel sure that these sentiments will find support on both sides of this House.

"Part II of the Paper explains why the system of rate-grants, provided for in

Sessional Paper 1/59, is now unsatisfactory. The rate-grant system has served its purpose in establishing 'rates' as a fair form of local taxation in rural areas in place of the earlier undesirable forms of tax based on race. It also endorses the principle — recognised in Sessional Paper 1/59 — that any comprehensive system of financial assistance to local authorities must, as far as possible, maintain a balance between an individual Councils' needs and its own financial resources.

"Nevertheless, a small contribution by local authorities themselves, in the form of rates, towards the cost of the services they provide is still regarded as an essential part of the local government system. Therefore, an element of inducement for Councils to strengthen their present rating structures must be retained. I want to emphasise that a healthy local government system cannot flourish without that essential ingredient in the form of a modest contribution from rate-payers towards the cost of the local services which they, themselves, enjoy.

"Part III of the Paper indicates that no change is proposed in respect of the responsibilities which have been delegated to local authorities. The present arrangements whereby they are responsible for the planning and administration of primary education and maternity and child health services within their local areas in working satisfactorily. It is proposed, therefore, that these arrangements should continue in being. Similarly, it is not proposed that the road maintenance commitments of local authorities should be extended although the anomaly whereby maintenance by local authorities of roads constructed under the earlier Minor Roads scheme have not, in the past, qualified for direct grant assistance will be rectified.

"The government's proposals for future financial assistance to local authorities are contained in Part IV of the Paper. No changes are proposed to existing arrangements for direct local authority revenue or for assigned revenues. In particular, it is not proposed to earmark for, or to handover to, District Councils, in whole or in part, revenue from motor vehicle licensing. The present arrangements for Divisional licensing would not provide a fair basis for apportionment of such funds. Instead, the new equalisation

proposals specifically provide for supplementary assistance to meet road maintenance needs.

Assistance to Poorer Councils

"The crux of the government's 'equalisation' proposals is contained in paragraph 13 of the Paper, read in conjunction with Annexes A & B. This provides for a General Grant, payable to all Councils, based upon objective factors readily ascertainable from available statistics and which measure the individual needs of each local authority balanced against its own financial resources. The numerical factors in this grant will be fixed annually in advance, depending upon the amount of finance available to assist Councils.

"In addition, the proposals provide for a Rate-Deficiency Grant which is designed to 'top-up', to the level of the average for the State, the rate revenue accruing to Councils whose total rateable value of property (including government buildings) per head of population is below the State average in this respect. This grant will provide the necessary inducement towards strengthening the rating structures of Councils and prove of particular assistance to the poorer Councils with a low rateable value per head.

"This new system of grants will provide a much fairer means of distributing recurrent grant-in-aid. It will have the general effect of placing all local authorities — rich or poor — on the same financial footing. For this reason, it is proposed that all Councils should contribute uniformly towards the recurrent costs of primary education. This contribution has been fixed at the level of 10 percent. Great importance is attached to this contribution. It is small, but it is significant. It is regarded as sufficient to make Councils feel that they continue to have an important share in providing primary education services and in contributing towards their costs.

"In the same way, it is proposed that the new system of grants should apply not only to District Councils constituted under Local Authority Ordinance, but also to the Kuching Municipal Council. With the introduction of 'equalisation', it is considered that any special arrangements for grant assistance to this Council are no longer justified. As Honourable Members are aware, the Kuching Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance now tabled in this House seeks, inter alia, to repeal the provisions of Sections 35 and 36 of the Principal Ordinance, which provide for payment to the Kuching Municipal Council of obligatory and discretionary grant from

public revenue.

"Finally, it is envisaged that these arrangements will remain in force, initially, for four years and be subject to review after two years. I would emphasise here that, since calculation of both the General Grant and the Rate Deficiency Grant depends, in part, upon rateable values, the figures set-out in Annexes A & B are provisional and subject to correction in the light of any changes in rateable values which may arise from the hearing of objections by Appeal Committee.

"As I have said, the new system of grants will be much fairer than the previous system. It is also a much more generous one. Most Councils will be receiving more grant-in-aid as a result; in some cases, the additional assistance will be very considerable. This will give a new lease of life to the poorer Councils; that is, mainly those in rural areas. It is expected that the additional cost to the State Government in 1966 will be \$¹/₂ million and the total grant-in-aid will increase annually.

"In addition, the new system of grants will be easier to administer and will permit Councils a greater measure of discretion in deciding how to spend their monies on the services for which they are responsible. Nevertheless, whilst Government grants in their various forms continue to provide the major source of local authority revenue, the State and Federal Governments must continue to remain responsible for laying down policy in their respective spheres and ensuring compliance with such policy.

"Many of the suggestions which have been put forward by local authorities, from time to time, have been incorporated in the new proposals and I am confident that they will prove acceptable to most. I fear that many Councils — particularly the rural ones — would be greatly disappointed and many of their plans for expansion and development seriously disrupted were these proposals not to be approved. They are long over-due. I, therefore, commend them to the sympathetic consideration of Honourable Members".

'SARAWAK IS PROUD OF ITS LOCAL GOVT. SYSTEM'—ONG

Mr Ong Kee Hui (SUPP) speaking on the motion said that we in Sarawak were justifiably proud of our local government system, because compared to other States in Malaysia, Sarawak had a highly developed one.

Therefore any measure put forward to strengthen our system of local government should have the support of the House.

Nevertheless, he had one or two minor criticisms to make. One was they seemed to have lost half-a-year already in the introduction of this Sessional Paper, and consequently many local authorities had been held back in the collection of rates while waiting for this scheme which was now being put forward to the House.

Furthermore, on working out these proposals on the principle of equality, the Government had not taken cognisance of the very special position of the Kuching Municipal Council; also the fact that the nature of the proposals would hamper the future development of this local authority.

It might perhaps be said that the KMC was better off than other local authorities. It was largely due not only to the most fortunate position of the KMC, but to prudent budgetting over a period of years.

The Kuching Municipal Council over the years, has been very realistic in the provision of services to the people of Kuching. Mr Ong then went on to mention the provision of primary education. Although it was true that the money came from federal resources, quite a lot of money had still to be provided by the local authorities in the provision of school buildings and other expenditure.

Mr Ong then referred to health and social services which were being undertaken by the council, and mentioned that in the fields of social services the council had provided libraries and recreation facilities, and had also undertaken other welfare work.

All these, Mr Ong said, imposed financial burden on the local authorities. For instance, in the held of education prior to the introduction of the abolition of primary school fees, quite a number of local authorities found themselves in difficulties owing to the fact that many parents were unable to pay school fees.

There were also constant representations in some urban councils concerning the increase of rates. Mr Ong mentioned that in one case it was pointed out to him that the rate in one instance had gone up from \$1 to \$3.75 and now it might even be raised to \$6.

Such increases, Mr Ong said, created a good deal of concern and misunderstanding. It was, however, a good thing that serious consideration was now being given how to aid these local authorities. Although they welcomed such generous treatment for rural councils through equalisation of grants, they viewed with some concern paragraphs 15 and 16 in the Sessional Paper which stated that Kuching had to be treated on the same basis as other councils.

Improvements Carried Out

It must not be forgotten that certain parts of Kuching were taken over while they were still undeveloped. Over the years they had been able to carry out certain improvements to certain areas — the kampung areas. Furthermore, the Kuching Municipal Council was concerned over the loss of revenue from grants.

Mr Ong Kee Hui went on to point out that considerable sums of money were required for the maintenance of Kuching Municipal Council roads. Furthermore, sums were required not only for maintenance of roads but also for the provision of car parks. Mr Ong foresaw the time when the pace of development in Kuching would quicken, when not only widening of roads would be required, but also the provision of 'flyovers' might become necessary as in other fast developing cities.

Then, under such circumstances, special consideration might have to be given as to how the KMC would have to discharge its responsibilities. Finally, Mr Ong Kee Hui said that while they welcomed any measure designed to strengthen our system of local government, at the same time they should not forget the needs of all sections of the community all of whom have an equally important role to play in our economy.

MATERNITY AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Chong Kiun Kong (SUPP) spoke on maternity and child health services which are at present a responsibility of the local councils.

He said, like primary education and maintenance of roads, these services were "much needed especially in the rural areas where it is difficult as well as costly for expectant mothers and young children to come to town centres to receive attention".

He added: "But this service is equally costly. With the possible exception of one or two very rich urban councils I think I am correct in saying that most rural councils are not in a position financially to maintain more than a very limited number of Maternity and Child Health Clinics and their corps of midwives. Even this limited number absorbs quite a portion of the council's annual rates revenue".

Mr Chong pointed out that the KRDC was already spending not less than \$100,000 a year to meet the current and capital cost of running the service in its area.

"Because of Council's attempt to provide, in a planned programme, new clinics each year and more trained midwives to man them, the year 1965 saw the Council spend over \$70,000 on recurrent expenditure, of which not less than over \$30,000 was the cost of sharing the service with the Kuching Municipal Council at the Central Clinic in Kuching and at Sekama Road for the benefit of KRDC ratepayers living in the suburban and fringe area," said Mr Chong.

He added: "On capital expenditure Council paid up to 50 percent of the total cost of a clinic as well as midwives' quarters. This in 1965 amounted to over \$12,000, only because one clinic was completed in time".

He pointed out that \$100,000 was a heavy drain on the Council's rates revenue. If an expansion programme was carried out in the next few years, much more money would be needed.

Mr Chong stressed that, in the midst of many rural development programmes to improve the living standards of the people, maternity and child health was a worthy subject for assistance under development. He said the amount of financial help given by the State Government to the local council for maintaining the maternity and child health service was inadequate, especially as regards capital expenditure, and that it was appropriate, at the present juncture to consider the whole question.

"In my view, the cost of this service should be borne entirely from State or Federal funds, in the same way as the country's medical and health services are maintained at present," said Mr Chong.

Finally, he said the local council should perhaps be asked to contribute towards a share of the recurrent expenditure "but should not be expected to pay capital expenditure for half of the cost of clinics and other essential buildings, while it is appropriate for the local council to staff and run the clinics and provide the service as before".

MR SIM CONGRATULATES MINISTRY

Mr Sim Kheng Hong (SUPP) said they were happy to see the long-awaited proposals for equalising government grants to local councils coming out in the form of Command Paper 3 of 1966. He congratulated the Ministry of Local Government "for putting up a very good and comprehensive Paper and for arranging for a far-more equitable and simpler to work procedure in respect of local

authority grants to various councils".

Nevertheless, he said it was his duty as a Councillor and Deputy Chairman of the Kuching Rural District Council (in the face of the Council's financial difficulties and its current efforts to collect outstanding rates) to draw attention, first of all to the payment of 10 percent of the recurrent expenditure on providing primary education and up to 25 percent of the capital expenditure.

Mr Sim said: "It is usually conceded that the provision of primary education is the most important service that the Council offers in exchange for the payment of rates by the rate-payers. But what is generally not known and possibly unheeded is the plea that for the larger rural areas, with a fast growing school population and an expansion programme which snow balls all the time, some councils like the KRDC are driven to the very limits of their resources in order to keep pace with the service on what otherwise appears to be a very small contribution of 10 percent towards the recurrent costs.

"The KRDC with some 70 council schools to maintain, involving the employment of about 200 teachers, not to mention a similar 10 percent contribution made to all aided schools, requires \$175,490 (1965 figure) a year to meet this 10 percent recurrent cost, and \$175,000 unfortunately represents more than the total rates that Council was able to collect in that year.

"The amount \$175,490 does not take into account the special expenditure of up to 25 percent for the school building programme which in 1965 cost Council \$31,800.

"Clearly, this state of affairs cannot go on indefinitely. Whatever the well-intentioned attempts meanwhile to increase Council's revenue and annual grant assistance will come to nought so long as this heavy straw remains to break the camel's back.

"The Council is appreciative of the fact that it is the provision of primary education in its area which really puts the local council on the map as it is the only service that benefits all races and all areas at present. The Council is most anxious that the service should continue to improve and expand but how could this be done so long as the expenditure increases yearly but the increase in revenue does not keep pace with it? Dependence on increased grant assistance or exhausting already low reserves will not provide a solution.

"In all seriousness, I call upon the Government and the Ministry or Ministries concerned with the cost of financing education in

this country to make a complete re-examination of their problem. On KRDC's part (and possibly on the part of other local councils feeling similar strain) the solution seems to be that the contribution to the cost of primary education by local council should cease and that the State and Federal Governments should devise ways and means of defraying the full cost of primary education.

"This does not seem to be so unreasonable in the face of the universal practice of or clamour for free primary education or education the costs of which are borne entirely by Government through taxation or other means.

"My next observation is that although very large grants (supplementary) are going to be paid to local councils for maintenance of classified types of roads and although it is clearly indicated in Command Paper No. 3 that the responsibility for developing major roads (including feeder roads) is that of the P.W.D. whilst local councils' commitments are in the field of road maintenance being confined to bazaar service roads and minor roads and pathways, local councils would probably welcome an outright statement to the effect that in future local councils will not be expected to build or develop minor roads and bazaar service roads but only to maintain them, if such is the intention.

"My final observation is not concerned directly with Command Paper No. 3, but with the recent referencing and revaluation of housing property in KRDC area (and, I believe, other areas) upon the results of which the equalisation grants have been based.

'Adjust anomalies'

"I notice that the zoning of certain suburban areas e.g. to impose a uniform rateable value of \$1 per square foot for all types of houses has produced ridiculous results (I will mention just one of the owner of an attap house who before the revaluation was paying an annual rate of \$18.36 a year (rateable value \$72) but after revaluation he will be required to pay \$85.80 a year. Rateable value \$780)".

Finally, Mr Sim said that in KRDC area this type of cases was quite numerous and, as it was not the intention to increase the rate burden of the ratepayer through the revaluation exercise (they had the Minister's assurance on that point) it was hoped that immediate attempts would be made by the authorities concerned to adjust anomalies rather than that the ratepayers should be expected to appeal which would further deteriorate the good relationship between ratepayers and the council.

KMC NOT A "FAVOURERED COUNCIL", SAYS YONG

Mr Stephen Yong (SUPP) thought it would be better if paragraph 16 was omitted altogether. He did not think the remarks contained in that paragraph were justified. It suggested that the Kuching Municipal Council had been "a favoured council" and had been given grants and assistance.

"What are these grants and assistance referred to?" he asked. Firstly, he thought they referred to the proportion of revenue from motor vehicle licensing and the other was the public health services grants.

Mr Yong went on to say that 80 percent of the vehicles licensed in Kuching used KMC roads. Referring to the maintenance grants, Mr Yong pointed out the Kuching Municipal Council was running a fully organised engineering department.

They were maintaining a fully organised department because they have to serve the motorists who were paying licensing fees.

Mr Yong then went on to compare the Public Works Department's road making to those of the KMC, and said "We have no confidence in that department at the way they were trying to construct especially the building of the 3rd Mile Road to the airport".

Mr Yong said that the phrase "assistance to the Kuching Municipal Council" was no longer justified. It meant just the reverse, because the Municipal Council was only asking for the money for which they had provided services.

Touching on the grants for other public health services (\$60,000 per year) Mr Yong said that this money was used entirely on the preventive side on the promotion of health such as the eradication of malaria. If this grant was taken away he did not know from what other source they could get the money from.

Another thing the ministry concerned should bear in mind concerning the White Paper was that there was not enough consultation. As far as he knew there was hardly any consultation with the KMC when paragraph 16 was prepared.

There were so many implications which could have been dealt with and discussed and ironed out.

Touching on the assistance of differential rating, Mr Yong said, that they took a much lower rate from houses in the kampung areas. They charged lower rates in the kampung areas because they considered people in the kampung areas could not afford to pay the same rates as those in the bazaar and town

areas. Mr Yong said it was not wise to introduce a measure that would have bad repercussions.

PWD 'Efficient Road Making Organisation'

Mr Yong conceded there was a lot of merit in trying to standardise things, but in doing so they might create a lot of hardship and trouble. He then complained that many people in the Kuching Municipal Council were ignorant of the fact that such drastic changes were taking place.

Here, Dato James Wong interrupted to reply to points raised by Mr Yong concerning the Public Works Department. He said: "The PWD is in fact an extremely efficient road making organisation and, if sufficient funds are made available, it can carry out work to a first class finish. No funds have been made available for improving the 3rd Mile/airport section for a number of years — funds have just not been available. However, funds are available for improvement of this section and work will start in September this year".

Mr Yong replied that maintenance was different from road construction. KMC constantly maintained public thoroughfares which were different to those being maintained by the PWD. There was also no provision in the Command Paper as to what happened to road construction. He did not know whether other councils were physically or financially capable of constructing roads except asking PWD to do so. All these years KMC had done and was still doing some road construction.

Finally, Mr Yong said he believed the Kuching Municipal Council was not entitled to equalisation grants for some reason or other because it was slightly different from other councils, and because the Kuching Municipal Council had more autonomy than other councils.

While admitting that it would be wiser for the State Government to treat the KMC as a council which was providing satisfactory services and had been able to, by prudent planning make certain reserves, Mr Yong said the Council should not be penalised.

It would be wiser for the State Government to make the KMC "a shining example", rather than break it down and make it go bankrupt.

Finally, he appealed to the Minister "to actively think of some other replacement whereby the standard of the services provided by the KMC could be maintained, so

that on the one hand the ratepayers are happy to pay higher rates and on the other Kuching town itself can maintain its facilities and become a better town".

WINDING UP BY MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Replying to the points made during this debate, the Minister for Local Government said: "It is true that the new grand-in-aid proposals are delayed. This is not the fault of the Ministry. We have been working at full-steam, but in the matter of revaluation we have had to move at the speed of the slowest Council.

"On the subject of Sections 35 and 36 of the Kuching Municipal Ordinance, these provisions have never been enforced. Instead, a mutually agreed arrangement for the refund of motor vehicle licence fees was applicable in lieu. Although the KMC will no longer receive revenue from motor vehicle licences, it gets back the road maintenance supplement provided for in the General Grant on the same basis as all other Councils.

"It may, perhaps, help to reassure any who have fears on the point, if I give a categorical assurance in this House that the proposals are not intended — and will not be used — to discriminate against any local authority.

"On the contrary, the object of the new grant-in-aid proposals is to treat all local authorities according to the same principles as far as recurrent aid is concerned. It would defeat the object of the proposals if special arrangements applying to any one Council were left in being.

"I would take this opportunity to place on record that my Ministry will ensure that every proper consideration and support is given to any legitimate financial requirement particularly as regards development-type expenditure — of the KMC, or any other Council.

"On the subject of Maternity and Child Health Services, the equalisation grants to provide now a special supplement for this purpose. Regarding Mr Sim Kheng Hong's representations on behalf of KRDC, he was talking about the past. The whole object of the equalisation proposals is, in future, to make it equally easy for each Local Authority to provide services.

"The Command Paper makes it clear that Maternity and Child Health services are regarded as best run by local people. The same applies to primary education.

"If the State and Federal Governments are

to pay the whole of primary education and M.C.H. services, there would be no point in having local authorities and we would not need 'equalisation' grants. However, I have taken the point about the possibility of increased federal assistance towards the cost of M.C.H. services and undertake to pursue this.

"We know that urban Councils have been treated more generously in the past than their rural cousins. Proof of this lies in the fact that some urban Councils were able to abolish school fees when rural authorities could not afford to do so. Also, such Councils have accumulated unnecessarily large reserve balances and this has enabled them to avoid being burdened with loans. This is not the case with poorer councils which have had to borrow large sums.

"On the subject of differential rating. The proper course with people who 'cannot afford' to pay their rates should be exemption on grounds of hardship as the law provides; not to impose different rates based on race..No

other Council does this and it is timely that the KMC abandoned this historical relic".

"Finally, on the subject of valuation which the Honourable Member for the Opposition has tried to raise, he misses the point that the new rateable values are fairer in attaching correct values to properties and so ensuring that the rate burden is shared fairly.

"He has chosen some interesting exceptions to quote, I am satisfied that when re-valuation is complete, the general level of rate payments will be lower. There will, of course, be exceptions, but such persons must console themselves with having got away with it so long!"

The Minister concluded by saying that he appreciated the generally favourable reception which had been accorded these proposals on both sides of the House. It could now be said that "we are now on the right lines — and lines acceptable to all our local authorities".

Impressive Presentation Ceremony:

COUNCIL NEGRI RECEIVES SPEAKER'S CHAIR FROM HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Council Negri was presented with a Speaker's Chair at an impressive ceremony in the Council Chamber on Thursday, June 16, 1966.

The Chair was handed over by a delegation of four British members of parliament on behalf of the House of Commons. They arrived in the state capital on Wednesday.

Welcoming the delegation, the Speaker, Dato (Dr) M. Sockalingam, said that that was indeed an auspicious occasion because it was the first time in the history of Sarawak that the Council Negri had ever received a delegation from the House of Commons of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

He continued: "It is very fitting that the presentation of the Speaker's Chair to this Council should come from one of the oldest, if not the oldest, democracy in the world. One might say that our legislature has nothing to compare with the colossal House of Commons, but I am sure the Honourable Members of the Delegation will be pleased to know that parliamentary democracy has been practised in Sarawak for almost a century.

"It is with a sense of pride and honour that I wish to announce that the Council Negri of Sarawak will be celebrating its centenary on the 8th day of September, 1967.

"The Speaker's Chair is an essential and imposing article of furniture in a legislature and, as one would expect of such a chair, is fully in keeping with the dignity and authority of the office of Speaker.

"It symbolizes best the essentials of parliamentary democracy and the quality most essential to a Speaker i.e. strict impartiality and the sense of duty to protect not only the rights of the minority and ensure that their voices are heard, but also those of the majority if need be.

"It is the focal point for debate, that essential prelude to the making of decisions in the House, by which the majority justifies its right to govern and the minority its constitutional right to criticise the acts of the majority and to oppose it in every legitimate way. It is the brief the epitome of a system of Government that puts the highest importance on the rights of the individual, on the freedom of speech



The Serjeant-at-Arms presenting the Resolution to the leader of the delegation, Mr Driberg. The Speaker's Chair, which Mr Driberg had earlier unveiled is seen on the left of the Serjeant-at-Arms.

and expression, and on the rule of law"

Tangible Token of Goodwill

Mr Tom Driberg, a Labour M.P. for Barking and leader of the delegation, said before presenting the Chair, that it was their honour and duty to convey to the House greetings from the Commons House of Parliament at Westminster and to present to it a tangible token of goodwill of that House in the form of a Speaker's Chair.

"We are performing this present task not as representatives of Her Majesty's Government, nor as delegates of political parties, but on behalf of the House of Commons as a whole: and our mandate to do so was expressed in a resolution carried unanimously by the House," he said.

Continuing, he said: "We are not so naive as to assume that the Westminster model of Parliamentary democracy is necessarily suitable for export in every detail; democracy develops in each country in accordance with the historic conditions of that country.

"But there are certainly principles common to all versions of Parliamentary democracy, and one of this is surely the impartiality of the Speaker, and the respect owed to his office and his rulings, by all sections of a legislative house, ministerial or non-ministerial.

"We are, therefore, particularly glad to be able to present to you this material emblem, in wood and leather of this great principle and of the goodwill felt by our House of Commons for your Honourable Council".

Concluding, he thanked the Council Members for the hospitable welcome and congratulated them on the forthcoming centenary of Parliamentary democracy in Sarawak.

"We assure you that we in Britain will never forget you in Sarawak, and our mutual obligations of friendship, and we hope that this chair will serve you, Sir, and your successors for centuries to come," he added.

Mr Raymond Mawby, another member of the delegation, in his speech said that he would wish to associate himself with everything that Mr Driberg had said. He added that it was a difficult but rewarding duty to preside as Mr Speaker in an assembly such as the Council Negri, and the British House of Commons, because, of course, it was important that all the varying views which will obviously be put in any democratic assembly shall be clearly put and that any minority should be able to rely upon the

support of Mr Speaker in being able to express their views, however small, their minority might be.

Of course, he said, this was the essence of democracy and they hoped that the small gift they made on behalf of the British House of Commons would remind them of their visit, and on behalf of his colleagues and himself he would like to give his best wishes to the House in the many years that the council would indeed be responsible for the handling of the affairs of that pleasant House.

The leader of the delegation then presented the Chair.

Handing over the Chair, Mr Driberg said: "Mr Speaker, Sir, in the name and by resolution of the Commons House of Parliament of the United Kingdom and in fulfilment of the Queen's direction, I join my colleagues of this delegation in asking you, Mr Speaker, to accept this gift".

Before leaving the Chamber, the delegation was asked by the Speaker to accept a Resolution of the Council Negri as a token of its appreciation for the gift and to convey it to the honourable the Commons House of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Council's Resolution

The then Chief Minister, Dato Stephen Kalong Ningkan, began his speech quoting a Resolution which was passed in Council Negri on Tuesday, June 14:

"Be it resolved that this Council accepts with grateful thanks and appreciation the gift of the handsome Speaker's Chair from the Commons House of Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to mark the independence of Sarawak within the Federation of Malaysia and to serve as a token of friendship and goodwill on the part of the British House of Commons and people towards the Council Negri and people of Sarawak. Dated this 14th day of June, 1966."

He said that it was a great privilege for him on behalf of Council Negri and of the people of Sarawak to thank the British Parliament for the fine gift of a Speaker's Chair. "For us it represents a tangible sigh of our link with the British people, a link which has been built up over more than 120 years of close association with the people of Sarawak," he said.

One of the results of the link was that Sarawak has accepted British ideas on representative government.

He continued: "Our efforts to follow established patterns of democratic develop-

ment axe not confined to Council Negri. We have also a comprehensive system of local government which covers even the most remote areas of our State. We have during the last meeting of Council Negri been debating proposals for an improved system of rating revaluation. We believe that Local Government is the essential and indispensable foundation for successful parliamentary life.

"I would therefore ask you to convey our sincere thanks to the British Parliament for this very handsome gift which we will treasure as a token of the goodwill and understanding which exists between the British people and our State. This goodwill has been especially manifested in the resolute and most skilful help which we have been given by the British military services during our recent difficulties with our neighbour.

"We are deeply grateful for the skill of British soldiers, sailors and airmen serving alongside our Malaysian forces and those of our other Commonwealth friends. I hope that you will tell the British people how much we appreciate the good work of the thousands of British servicemen who have been here during the past 3 years. They have proved themselves not only most efficient and courageous in the exercise of their profession but also most friendly and helpful to our people in innumerable ways.

"We pray that our difficulties with our neighbour are now resolved and that we shall be able to concentrate instead on the peaceful development of our State and of Malaysia based on those well-tried democratic processes the evolution of which began elsewhere".

Close Ties with Mother of Parliament

Mr Ong Kee Hui, speaking after the Chief Minister said that the people of Sarawak were proud of the fact that by next year our Council Negri would have attained its centenary and

"that we have the oldest legislature among the States in Malaysia and perhaps in this region".

"We are happy that when we celebrate our centenary we would have in our possession not only the mace presented to us this year by Dato Wee Kheng Chiang on behalf of the people of Sarawak but also this handsome Speaker's Chair now presented by our friends in the House of Commons, both of which are symbols of the authority of the Speaker in keeping with the tradition of Westminster on which we have modelled ourselves," he added.

Mr Ong continued: "Since its constitution by the Second Rajah, the late Sir Charles Brooke, our Council Negri has evolved into a parliamentary democracy on the pattern of Westminster. We also have close ties through visits by members of this House to Westminster, the Mother of Parliaments, and we have had the pleasure from time to time of receiving Honourable Members of the British Parliament in Sarawak. The presentation of this Speaker's Chair is therefore a very fitting and welcome gesture as it will be a constant reminder not only of the authority of the Speaker but also of the source of our inspiration in the practice of parliamentary democracy in the tradition of Westminster.

"It is our earnest hope that although we meet today under the shadow of the threatening clouds of a constitutional crisis we will be able to continue to maintain this tradition of parliamentary democracy.

"We all appreciate this magnificent gift by our friends in the House of Commons and I therefore have much pleasure on behalf of my colleagues in the Opposition to associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable the Chief Minister and thank the Honourable Members of the House of Commons for their very kind and generous gesture".



