

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

HANSARD
OF MEETING

HELD ON 27 MARCH 1972

VOL. I

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The Twenty-first Meeting of the First Session of the First House of Assembly held in the House of Assembly Chamber on Monday the 27th March, 1972, at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT:

Mr Speaker (In the Chair)
The Hon A J Vasquez M.L.

GOVERNMENT:

The Hon Major R J Polizza, Chief Minister.
The Hon M Xiberras, Minister for Labour & Social Security and Housing.
The Hon Major A J Gache, Minister for Commercial Economic Development.
The Hon J Caruana, Minister for Public Works.
The Hon W M Isola, Minister for Tourism and Municipal Services.
The Hon Miss C Anes, Minister for Medical and Health Services.
The Hon L Devincenzi, Minister for Education and Recreation.
The Hon R H Hickling, CMG, QC, Attorney General.
The Hon A Mackay, CMG, Financial and Development Secretary.
The Hon P J Isola, OBE.

OPPOSITION:

The Hon Sir J. Shua Hassan, CBE, MVO, QC, JP, Leader of the Opposition.
The Hon A W Serfaty, OBE, JP.
The Hon A P Montegriffo, OBE.
The Hon E J Alvarez, OBE, JP.
The Hon M K Featherstone
The Hon I Abecasis
The Hon Lt Col J L Hoare

IN ATTENDANCE:

P A Garbarino, Esq., ED, Clerk to the House of Assembly.

PRAYER.

Mr Speaker recited the prayer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1st March 1972 having been previously circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENTS LAID.

The Hon the Minister for Medical and Health Services laid on the table the following document:

The Animals and Birds (Amendment) Rules 1972.

Ordered to lie.

The Hon the Attorney General laid on the table the following documents:

- (1) The Admiralty Waters (Gibraltar) Order 1972.
- (2) The Admiralty Waters (Gibraltar) Regulations 1972.

Ordered to lie.

The Hon the Financial and Development Secretary laid on the table the following documents:

- (1) The Financial Report for the year 1969 together with the Report of the Director of Audit thereon.
- (2) Supplementary Estimates No.2 of 1970/71.
- (3) Supplementary Estimates No.7 of 1971/72.
- (4) THE PUBLIC HEALTH (EXEMPTION FROM RATES) ORDER, 1972
- (5) DRAFT ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1972/73

~~ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS~~

~~(NO QUESTIONS)~~

ORDERED TO LIE.

(NO QUESTIONS)

STATEMENT BY THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, I promised at the January meeting of the House of Assembly to make a statement in due course on the forthcoming biennial review of wages and salaries. During discussions of the 1970 Marsh Award it was agreed both by the official employers and the Trade Union and Staff Associations that the effective date of the next review would be 1st July 1972. The Unions and Associations have now been consulted on the manner in which this review should be conducted and we are all agreed that it should be by direct negotiation. With this essential point established the Government and the other official employers are in a position to formulate more detailed proposals concerning the areas of negotiation and the actual negotiating procedures to be adopted. The unions and associations will be consulted on these matters very shortly. Sir, the Government is anxious to get the negotiations moving and to complete them with all possible expedition. This is bound to impose a considerable burden on the staff resources we have available for the purpose and we are considering therefore how these might be strengthened. It may well be that the Unions and the Associations will find a similar need and if they do the Government will be ready to consider helping them too. Thank you Sir.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

Mr Speaker, will the Hon Member say when the Unions were consulted and whether the unions have definitely agreed to follow the pattern he has enunciated this morning?

HON FINANCIAL & DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, the Unions were consulted last week but I should add that they were consulted on a question to which we were very confident that we already knew the answer, because in offering to conduct this review through direct negotiations we were confident that we were meeting the wishes of the unions as well as our taking in our own view the best course. It is my understanding that all the unions have agreed on the principle that we should proceed by way of direct negotiations.

MOTIONS

(1) SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO.2 OF 1970/71.

HON FINANCIAL & DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I have the honour to move that this House resolves itself into Committee to consider Supplementary Estimates No.2 of 1970/71.

MR SPEAKER:

If Hon Members agree I will instruct the Clerk to call out the item number and the Head and I will pause at each Head in order to give Hon Members time to raise any matter.

The House went into Committee.

Item 1 Head I. Audit. was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 2 Head IV. Education.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No.14. How is it possible to underestimate electricity and water by such an amount, almost 20%?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Which item?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No.14 Sir.

HON L DEVINCENZI:

As I see it, Mr Speaker, it is only £871. I believe this is mainly due to the taking over of St Christopher's School, which we were not sure whether this would come about at the time of the estimates and a number of additional points had to be installed at St Christopher's School.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Am I to take it that St Christopher's School accounts for £871 in electricity and water?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, no I haven't said that but it would take a good amount of that figure. Obviously there must have been some underestimating and in addition to St Christopher's School also part of Loreto High School which is used now for girls from the commercial school and all these items put together accounted for that. Another important item which has no doubt contributed to a very large

extent is that after many years we did install I think it was 87 additional heaters and this must have accounted for that too.

Item 2 Head IV. Education was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 3 Head VI. Fire Service was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 4 Head VII. The Governor was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 5 Head VIII. Judicial was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 6 Head IX. Labour and Social Security

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Sir, may I ask on Item 14 which has cost us for the full year £23,433, how much of that has been recovered in charges? This is purely for information, not critical in any way.

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, I believe that later on in dealing with the estimates proper and in fact with the revenue for last year, we shall be discussing this matter fully. The figures I could give the Hon and Gallant Gentleman opposite immediately, but I think I should not anticipate debate on the estimates. It is a major point which I would hope to make later on, so if the Hon and Gallant Member is prepared to wait for this I undertake to answer this particular question in respect of all expenditure and income due to labour from abroad accommodation.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Provided this covers the period 1970/71 which is what we are dealing with, I would accept that.

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, it covers specifically 1970/71.

Item 6 Head IX. Labour and Social Security was agreed to and passed without Amendment.

Item 7 Head X. Public Works was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 8 Head XI. Public Works Annually Recurrent.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

On Item 9. By way of clarification. It says it includes expenditure on fleet of lorries previously run by the City Engineer. Presumably there will be a saving in the corresponding part of the Municipal Estimates with regard to their transfer. I don't know who answers that, Public Works, Municipality, Financial Secretary.

HON J CARUANA:

Well, I think there is every indication that there should be a saving in the rationalisation of workshops and garages.

Item 8 Head XI. Public Works Annually Recurrent was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 9 Head XII. Public Works Non Recurrent was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 10 Head XIII. Law Officers - Attorney General was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 11 Head XIV. House of Assembly and Council of Ministers was agreed to and passed without amendments.

Item 12 Head XV. Medical was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 13 Head XVI. Miscellaneous Services was agreed to and passed without amendment

Item 14 Head XVII. Pensions was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 15 Head XVIII. Police was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 16 Head XX. Post Office and Savings Bank was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 17 Head XXI. Prison was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 18 Head XXIII. Revenue was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 19 Head XXIV. Secretariat was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 20 Head XXV. Telephone Service was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 21 Head XXVI. Tourist Office was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Item 22 Head XXVII. Town Planning was agreed to and passed without amendment.

IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

May I ask whether the additional £31,000 now asked for the Victoria Stadium in fact is the balance for Phase 1?

HON J CARUANA:

The Hon and Gallant Member is quite right.

The Improvement and Development Fund was agreed to and passed without amendments.

HON FINANCIAL & DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, I have the honour to propose that the votes detailed in Supplementary Estimates No.2 of 1970-71 be approved.

Mr Speaker proposed the question that the votes detailed in Supplementary Estimate No.2 of 1970/71 be approved.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

May I now ask Mr Speaker, please, why it has taken so long to bring these supplementary estimates? We are dealing with a matter of £286,000 and this relates to an account which ended on the 31st of March 1971, nearly 12 months ago.

HON FINANCIAL & DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, I have to answer a number of questions. May I say first that I wasn't here but you may imagine that I have looked rather thoroughly into precisely why this situation should have arisen. There are two points I want to make on these supplementary estimates considering that reference has been made to the large amount of £286,000 of additional expenditure. Well, Sir, in the same period there occurred on other sub heads such savings which will bring the expenditure excesses less the savings down to a figure of just under £55,000 and that will be seen when we come later in these proceedings to consideration of the Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance that figure will be seen.

I would answer the question as to delay by saying that Sir, Treasury don't seem to make excuses but I'm going to read from the Statement made by my predecessor this time last year. Between the end of 1969 and the beginning of 1971 that is when it was, and may I say Sir, that these difficulties persisted for many months more into this past year. It has been necessary to contend not with one but with no less than 3 sets of estimates. This has imposed a severe strain not only on the departments of Government but even more so on the Treasury, whose responsibility is to put all these estimates in final shape. If the House will consider that this has been done whilst the accounts of the City Council and the Government were being unified, whilst the many problems arising out of converting wages and salaries to give effect to the Marsh Report were being ironed out, whilst decimalization was being introduced, the House will feel, will understand why I feel that the Treasury which is usually a most maligned department, deserves commendation.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker, may I ask.....

MR SPEAKER:

No I'm afraid you cannot. This is a debate on the estimates and you have had your say. It is not for me to warn you before hand that you must have your say at one and the same time. This is a debate and as a debate of the full house you are only entitled to speak once.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

No, I just wanted to comment on what the Financial and Development Secretary had said.

Mr Speaker then put the question that the votes detailed supplementary estimates No.2 of 1970/71 be approved which was resolved in the affirmative.

(2) IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, I have the honour to move that this House approves Supplementary Expenditure of £38,492 spent in 1970/71 from the Improvement and Development Fund on the following works:

(C) Other Development

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 1. Aerial Photography & Mapping | £101 |
|---------------------------------|------|

(D) Tourist Development

3. C. D. & W. Scheme D.6923

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Little Bay Connecting Road | 358 |
|--------------------------------|-----|

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| (2) Little Bay Beach Area | 3,884 |
|---------------------------|-------|

(F) Medical Department Improvements

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| (2) Out-Patients' Department | 3 |
|------------------------------|---|

(G) Victoria Stadium

31,157

(H) Municipal Services

(E) (New) Telephone Department

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Provision for 1,000 lines | 2,989 |
|------------------------------|-------|

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| Total: | <u>£38,492</u> |
|--------|----------------|

Mr Speaker then proposed the question in the terms of the motion made by the Hon Financial and Development Secretary.

Mr Speaker then put the question which was resolved in the affirmative.

The motion was accordingly carried.

(3) SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO.7 OF 1971/72.

HON FINANCIAL & DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, I have the honour to move that this House resolves itself into Committee to consider Supplementary Estimates No.7 of 1971/72.

The House went into Committee.

MR SPEAKER:

I would like to inform the House that there is at the very last page of this supplementary estimate an amendment to the Supplementary Estimates. If it is acceptable to Hon Members I will give instructions to the Clerk to call each item of the amendment at the particular Head, therefore it can be carried as part of the estimates and it will facilitate the procedure.

1. Head IV. Education was agreed to and passed without amendment.

2. Head V. Electricity Undertaking was agreed to and passed without amendment.

3. Head VIII. Judicial - Supreme Court was agreed to and passed without amendment.

4. Head IX. Public Works Annually Recurrent.

MR SPEAKER:

This is one of the items which has an addition on the last page of the estimates.

4. Head IX. Public Works Annually Recurrent was agreed to and passed as amended.

5. Head XII. Public Works Non Recurrent

MR SPEAKER:

Again this is another of the heads to which there is an addendum.

5. Head XII. Public Works Non Recurrent was agreed to and passed as amended.

6. Head XV. Medical and Public Health

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

May I have some information, Mr Speaker, please on Item No.30, a new provision of £550 for telephones in the laboratory of the Public Health Section. This seems a lot of money. How many telephones and why?

HON MISS C ANES:

I am afraid I don't know the number of telephones but I can find out and let the Hon Member know.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Thank you very much.

HEAD XV. Medical and Public Health was agreed to and passed without amendment.

7. Head XVI. Miscellaneous Services was agreed to and passed without amendment.

8. Head XVIII. Police was agreed to and passed without amendment.

9. Head XIX. Port was agreed to and passed without amendment.

10. Head XX. Post Office and Savings Bank was agreed to and passed without amendment.

24. Head. XXIV. Secretariat was agreed to and passed without amendment.

11. Head XXV. Telephone Service

HON A W SERFATY:

On the question of these loud speaking telephones....

HON W M ISOLA:

You will find in the Improvement and Development Fund that there is provision for £4,800.

HON A W SERFATY:

What I would like to know Sir is whether these loudspeaking telephones are for use by the general public, whether the public is going to be informed or what they are about.

HON W M ISOLA:

Sir, these loudspeaking telephones I think there are two of them, they are required by large firms in Gibraltar and the cost will be recovered in a short period, certainly within three years.

Item 11. Head XXV. Telephone Service was agreed to and passed without amendment.

12. Improvement and Development Fund.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

Mr Speaker, I find that the supplementary estimate now required over and above the original provision is very much higher than the original provision. Could we get some more detailed explanation as to why we are now spending over £4,000 when the original estimate was only £3,400.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, quite obviously an estimate is made at a very early stage before work really goes ahead. A very similar foundation on an electrical generating station at the dockyard being installed about the same time collapsed and sank so we had to look at our design once again and try to ensure that the same thing didn't happen to us, because in our case the stoppage would have had more serious consequences.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

Thank you.

12. Improvement and Development Fund was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Mr Speaker then put the question which was resolved in the affirmative.

Supplementary Estimates No.7 of 1971/72 was approved.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1972/73.

FINANCIAL & DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, I have the honour to move that this House approves the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1st April 1972 to 31st March 1973. Sir, in the address I am about to make, I quote a lot of figures and I would seek your indulgence that I may read. Thank you.

Sir, it has been a fascinating experience for me to make my first appraisal of the finances of Gibraltar and to draw up my first Budget. On coming to live in this community I found the outward appearance of the economic scene rather reassuring. On looking deeper into it, and after examination of the accounts and figures my impression is not changed. Considering the problems that have had to be faced in recent years, we are not doing badly. Economic stability is however a precarious thing. We have witnessed examples of that even amongst large and powerful countries in recent years. And whatever its particular cause and form, the bogey is almost always inflation, costs and prices getting out of competitive line. Painful can be the consequences of that and hard and protracted the remedy. We must therefore be on our guard.

And so it is with great satisfaction that I find the Government already working for sound and progressive financial policies towards real increased prosperity. If in return for the improved services now being provided to a better-paid community we can raise more money and balance the recurrent budget at a higher level with provision set aside for the capital investment account, then we are on the right road. But let me repeat. What we must avoid is the vain and in every sense destructive chain reaction of increased wages, costs, prices, taxes and the same all over again in the familiar inflationary spiral. Hence the great importance attached by the Government to improved efficiency and productivity.

Sir, I shall now try to give as brief an account as I can of the financial position as I see it, how we have been faring and where we are heading. I invite attention to the Financial Statement on page 4 of the printed Draft Estimates. And here I am afraid I must confess that a few slips have crept into the printed draft Estimates. I hope Hon Members will be tolerant, and I am sure we shall succeed in removing them all at the next printing. In the Financial Statement in the fourth line under Improvement and Development Fund, Estimated Deficit 1972/73 should of course read Estimated Deficit 1971/72. And the second-last line should read Estimated Deficit 1972/73. Now this Financial Statement puts the matter in a nut-shell. I must however first pick up the story from one year earlier than is shown there. This is necessary in order to explain the first figure in the Statement, which is the General Revenue Balance on 31 March 1971, the sum of £1,278,966.

The financial year 1970/71 was the fifteen-months period from 1 January 1970 to 31 March 1971, when we changed our financial year from the calendar year to 1 April/31 March. It was also the year which saw the merger of the Municipal with the Government finances. We can be thankful that when the accounts for that period were finally closed they showed a surplus of £535,768 after a transfer of £200,000 to the Improvement and Development Fund. If the House agrees, I think it might help to keep our minds in the same channels if I point to where in the Estimates some of the figures I mention are most readily seen. The surplus of £535,768 in 1970/71 is derived from the actual revenue total of £5,952,060 shown in the Revenue Summary on page 5 and the actual expenditure total of £5,436,147 in the Expenditure Summary on page 12, but with the addition to the difference between those figures of the sum of £19,855 in respect of appreciation

of investments, an item which by convention is not included in Revenue. The only place where this item appears is at the bottom of the Liabilities side of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities on page 2 of the Estimates. Well, that was the amount of the surplus in 1970/71. Now, how to account for it. With fast recovering trade and general confidence, revenue in the period was buoyant and produced £266,655 more than the revised estimate. Government expenditure, particularly Public Works, did not at that time go ahead so fast, and in fact fell short of the revised estimate by £145,114. Thus in a particularly unpredictable period we came out much better than the £103,944 surplus forecast at this time last year, though with some backlog of uncompleted public works. And accordingly the General Revenue Balance at 31 March 1971, which at this time last year was put at £847,142 in fact as I have just stated came out at £1,278,966.

Then moving on to the 12-months financial year 1971/72 now about to end on 31 March, the original forecast was for a surplus of £65,250. This figure will be recognised as the difference between the Approved Estimates 1971/72 columns in the Summaries of Revenue and Expenditure on pages 5 and 12. We have however, been lucky. If Hon Members will look at the table for Revenue Head IX on page 10 of the print they will see that we had a windfall addition of nearly £250,000 to revenue in the form of transfers from the Savings Bank and Note Security Funds, in a period when the cost of money was unusually high. There was also continued buoyancy in customs and taxes, and improved Municipal receipts. Accordingly our latest revised estimate indicates that Revenue in 1971/72 will be £706,654 higher than was originally forecast (the difference between the totals in the second and third columns of the table on page 5). Fortunate indeed we are in this because the revised estimate of Expenditure for the same period, including a contribution of £100,000 to the Improvement and Development Fund, is no less than £558,060 higher than was originally forecast (the difference between the second and third columns of the Expenditure table on page 12). Mind you, £120,000 of this was cost-of-living increases to Government employees, the liability for which was foreseen but the amount of which could not be estimated in advance. And we may be sure that the rest of this considerable growth of expenditure would not have been allowed to take place had not in the course of the year an improved trend of revenue become discernible. But the fact remains that it was impossible to overtake the public works arrears from the previous year, but also to provide more for the medical, educational and social services. As will be seen from the Financial Statement we now estimate that the year 1971/72 will have seen expenditure of just over £5 million and will end with a surplus of £214,844 after the transfer of £100,000 to the Improvement and Development Fund. This will bring the General Revenue Balance on 31 March 1972 up to £1,493,810. With the mention I have just made of the Improvement and Development Fund, I will add now - though I will speak of this again later - that we estimate that we shall have spent from the Fund in 1971/72 a sum of £620,719 from Gibraltar's own funds, apart from UK aid. These were funds derived from the General Revenue Balance and from local borrowing, but borrowing made possible and justifiable for development by the good health of our current account.

I regard this figure of £620,719 representing Gibraltar's own contribution to our development programme as a very interesting and important one. I have extracted it from Appendix F in pages 87 - 92. In future years I think we might with advantage identify this figure in the Estimates. And I might here add, to prevent any misunderstanding, that the statement at page 93 shows something different. The heading of that table should read Estimated Expenditure up to 1972/73, because what is there shown is the accumulated expenditure on schemes for which we have received UK aid and to which we have ourselves also contributed. A useful concept also, but a different one.

Sir, thankful should I be for the state of affairs which I have inherited. And I can now turn to the Draft Estimates of Expenditure for 1972/73. These amount to £5,183,393. As I have said, we reckon in our Revised Estimates for 1971/72 just to top the £5 million mark this year now ending. These are big figures but the money is all very much needed, as in due course Hon Members will hear.

The first point I must make, however, is this. We have recently been experiencing swings in forecast revenue and expenditure alike up to the order of £ $\frac{1}{2}$ million in a year. With a budget running at over £5 million, this is something for which we must be prepared, especially with the Gibraltar economy so much open to economic influences outside. And the swings could go either way. Now if the Hon Members would look at the Financial Statement on page 4, it will be seen that we have an Estimated General Revenue Balance on 31 March 1973 of £1,414,947. This is a high figure by what we are accustomed. It is however still considerably short of the desirable reserve level which has been accepted as the equivalent of four months' revenue. That does not mean that we need feel obliged to put the whole of our current surpluses into reserve until we reach that level, so long as the general trend of reserves is in the right direction. In respect of the year 1972/73 as seen at the outset now, I have indeed to envisage the possibility of some net drawing on the reserve to feed the Improvement and Development Fund. I shall discuss that later. At this point I just wish to emphasise the importance of adequate reserves.

Where now is the additional expenditure in 1972/73 going? Well, no less than some £225,000 goes on the Personal Emoluments Subheads of the various Heads. And this does not include the additional cost of wages brought to account in Other Charges under Public Works and other Heads. And furthermore, although the Estimates provide for a year's payment of the cost-of-living allowances approved in 1971/72, they include no provision for further additions to which the cost-of-living formula might give rise next year, or for any increased expenditure which may result from the impending biennial review of wages and salaries. And remember that the increased provision we see now comes on top of the recent very substantial Marsh awards. So this is why the Government consider that we must get improved productivity in return for rising wages and salaries. And furthermore, difficult as this is, we must make a real effort to quantify the improvement. The Productivity and Training Unit is already doing valuable work in this field. Again I repeat, we must be very wary of the dangers of inflation.

Next, in looking at increased expenditure, I invite attention to Public Works. The Recurrent and Non-Recurrent Heads X and XI amount together to £1,018,400. There is a lot of wages in this also. I estimate no less than £690,000. Maintenance and repair of public buildings, housing estates, roads, plant, transport and other equipment is of course a necessity. If we can do a bit more than just keep abreast of current wear and tear and effect some improvement, I think that is also sound investment. Ministers concerned will no doubt have something to say on this. All I would say is that from the financial point of view, due maintenance and repair are economic expenditure. A stitch in time does save nine. I think this year we can afford to do a bit of improvement as well.

We also have to look after the well-being of the people, in particular the sick and infirm and the old, through the Medical and Public Health Services. Their share of the increase over the Approved Estimates of 1971/72 is £78,453, bringing the total expenditure to £580,443.

Next Education with an increase of £86,730 bringing it into company with Public Works and Medical and Health Services with a provision exceeding the £ $\frac{1}{2}$ million mark.

Together with Education and Public Health one thinks of Housing. More of this later. At this point may I just record that with the aid of Her Majesty's Government the capital programme of new house construction is going ahead on schedule. At the same time, we propose in the coming year, from our own improved resources, to provide in the recurrent budget the funds necessary for a major effort on maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing housing estate. Parallel increased provision is also being made for the Electricity Undertaking to improve and expand its services. And the same applies to Water Supply.

At the mention of water, I might refer to the notional accounts of the Municipal Services shown at Appendix K of the Estimates. Hon Members will see that an otherwise well-balanced General Rate Account is rather marred by the Water Accounts. These show deficits of £70,308 under Potable Water and £15,890 under Brackish Water. The cost of purchase of imported water at £75,000 is a formidable sum and a sharp disappointment, not mitigated by the fact that we had to spend £61,000 on imported water in 1971/72. The purchase of the new Distiller will also in future years lead to a substantial rise in loan charges. The subject of water has already been much discussed in the House.

At this stage in the proceedings I will content myself to draw attention to the extent that we are having to subsidise the water supply.

Last year my predecessor announced that the Municipal Department was owed £193,000. He complained that in a community which demanded, and received, good services there should be those who avoided their obligations at the expense of their neighbours. In the past year great efforts have been made by the Revenue Department to increase the collection of arrears. As a result, at this present moment - or rather not more than a few days ago - the arrears of Municipal Revenue in respect of the period up to 31 December 1971 amount to £169,026. This of course is still a very large sum. Not all of it is in long arrears. And there may be some excusable cases of hardship. Nevertheless, I hope that the House would be unanimous in agreeing that effective measures must be taken to correct this matter.

To return to Expenditure Heads, I do not propose to go now through them all. Hon Members will wish to do this to the extent that they, and not I, consider necessary and desirable. But I should make a reference to Head IX, Labour and Social Security, within which the provision for Supplementary Benefits, with the increased rates from 1 October 1971, goes up to £130,000.

Under Head XVI Miscellaneous Services the total increase of £46,295 is mainly accounted for by an increase of £30,800 under Subhead 1 Rate Assessment of Government Buildings. This arises from rate collections from tenants who previously paid direct to the Municipal Department and who now pay through rent books or salaries. The contra appears in Revenue Head X Subheads 1 and 2. Provision is also made to increase the contribution to the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation by £11,800. This has become necessary as a result of increased costs. Under the current agreement with the Corporation the Government is required to compensate that body for increases in its expenditure which result from inflation. I shall therefore be moving the House, later in the proceedings, to take the necessary action on licences to cover this increase.

As regards Head XXII, Public Debt Charges, it will be seen that there is a large decrease of £157,780 compared with last year. To the extent of about £100,000 this is due to a change in the method of accounting for loans which in the past have been raised by the Government in the first place for on-lending to the Municipal Department. Hitherto provision was made under both Expenditure (Head XXII) and Revenue - under Revenue Head VII (see page 10) for interest and for capital repayment under another Head which is now disappearing but the last of which may be seen at the foot of the same page under the heading of Repayment of Loans by Local Bodies. I shall refer to this matter again later, when discussing Revenue.

Under Head XXIV Secretariat the main increase is for the Training and Productivity Unit set up in the past year and now estimated to cost £14,800, divided between Personal Emoluments and Other Charges at pages 73 and 74 of the Estimates.

Finally I take Head XXVI the Tourist Office, now to cost £117,890. On the promotion generally of tourism there is a point of balance to be determined. On the one hand it can be argued that if you don't make the effort and spend money on advertising as other resorts do, then you won't get the tourists. At the other extreme it would be possible to spend more on attracting tourists than the net benefit they contribute to the economy. We wouldn't wish to get anywhere near that point. We seek a sensible balance.

Sir, so it is against estimated expenditure of £5,183,393 that the Revenue estimates for 1972/73 have to be considered. The House will have noted that I have so far fallen short in estimated Revenue compared with estimated expenditure by £78,863. The revenue estimates total £5,104,530. They are based on current receipts and recognisable trends where these exist. Looking at the totals in the first three columns of the Summary of Revenue table on page 5, Hon Members may have observed that while the Estimated Revenue for 1972/73 is £418,900 higher than the Approved Estimate for 1971/72, it is £288,754 lower than the Revised Estimate Revenue for the latter year. Let us not be misled. This is not because of any anticipated fall in ordinary revenue. It happens first, because we could not prudently estimate for windfall revenue of the magnitude that occurred last year; and secondly because of the removal from both sides of the Estimates this year of approximately £100,000 of contra entries affecting both revenue and expenditure. I mentioned this earlier in connection with the decrease in expenditure under Head XXII, Public Debt Charges. Taking these considerations into account I am providing in the 1972/73 draft Estimates for an increase over the revised as well as over the approved figures for revenue in 1971/72. But still I show a deficit.

Sir, the House I am sure will expect me to close the budget gap and also to make prudent provision for the necessary additional revenue to cover expenditure commitments and contingencies as yet unprovided for. At a later stage in the proceedings I shall bring proposals before the House to comply, as is my duty, with these expectations.

I must now Sir, deal with the capital position. I would invite the attention of Hon Members to Appendices F and G of the Estimates dealing with the Improvement and Development Fund, and Appendix J dealing with the Housing Account. And if I may, I will take first the Notional Housing Account. Housing is costly and is being heavily subsidised. Moreover, any housing stock eventually needs replacing, and it is only prudent that provision should be made year by year against this contingency. Also of course, as our housing stock grows in size and value, the greater becomes this commitment to provide for the future. So far we have been making no such provision, although the need to establish a housing

depreciation fund has been emphasised repeatedly. The notional housing account gives the measure of what is required in this respect. Last year my predecessor said it was estimated that the Government would by now have spent nearly £9 m on Housing, on which investment the return was about £¹/₄ million per annum, or less than 3%. This year you will see it estimated that by 31 March 1973 we shall have spent on Housing a total accumulated sum of nearly £11 m. And we are making substantially higher provision, to be precise £213,650, on repairs, maintenance and painting of the existing housing stock. Yet the return estimated in the form of rents is still less than £300,000, again less than 3% return on our investment. Sir, the Government is determined not to delay any longer in taking appropriate action in this matter, to put our rent structure on a more realistic and economic basis, whilst protecting against hardship those tenants who need such help.

I come now to the Improvement and Development Fund, and I invite attention to the summary Financial Statement on page 4 of the Estimates and to Appendices F and G. These development works are of course the basis for all material progress in Gibraltar. This is where, having met our current expenditure, we invest the balance of our income. I think it highly commendable that of the revised estimated expenditure on the Improvement and Development Fund in 1971/72 of £2,396,654 no less than £620,719 was from Gibraltar's own resources, the balance of course being British Aid. In the estimated expenditure of £3,231,088 in 1972/73 which is £834,434 more than in the past year, it is appropriate that a higher provision should come from Gibraltar's own resources. It is in fact in the Estimates £713,078. You will see in the details from page 90 onwards that this includes £338,000 (just over half of the cost) of the new desalination plant, a token figure of £100,000 against the provision of the new Refuse Destructor, substantial further sums to complete the re-equipping of the Electricity Undertaking and over £50,000 to be spent on roads and car parks.

Sir, if I may make my last reference to the Financial Statement 1972/73, Hon Members will see that I have the large deficit of £652,887 to cover in the Improvement and Development Fund. This is of course just another way of saying that I have to raise finance in appropriate ways to finance these capital development works. I propose to do this by raising a loan within the limit already authorised in the Ordinance and by transfer of any necessary balance of funds from the General Revenue Balance, which is estimated will stand on 31 March 1972 at £1,414,947. With regard to the former, it will be observed from the Expenditure Head XXII Public Debt Charges on page 65 that substantial loan maturities will be taking place during the second half of the coming year, and I shall be proposing to invite the holders of these bonds to subscribe to a new Government issue. No provision is made in the Estimates because it is not expected that interest on the new loan will become payable in the coming financial year.

To sum up, Sir, what really I am proposing in this Budget is that we continue on the course that has already been set. I believe it is the right and only course. We aim for a moderately expanding recurrent budget, taking account of a measure of rising costs which is a fact of life. We then have to put all the savings and other resources we can into the Improvement and Development Fund, which must be the real basis of the future financial stability necessary to sustain prosperity for the people. Following on a difficult earlier period we have experienced two good years of surplus on the recurrent budget. This has enabled us first to build up our reserves, that is the General Revenue Balance, to a more satisfactory level though still below the desirable level. Second, it has enabled us to feed the Improvement and Development Fund. Thus we are now able to take a more appropriate share in our development programme, and indeed are able to make it a more rounded and effective development programme, we

ourselves financing the ancillary and complementary works associated with the major projects financed by British aid. Sir, these are objectives for which I shall feel able to come with confidence for the expanded revenue which my expenditure proposals require.

Sir, I have the honour to move that this House resolve itself into Committee to consider the estimates of expenditure in detail Head by Head.

MR SPEAKER:

In considering the estimates, if the House so approves, I will instruct the Clerk to call out the Head and the number of the Head and then the subheads of personal emoluments and other charges. Mr Clerk, will you proceed accordingly.

Head 1. Audit - Personal Emoluments

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker on Head 1. Audit. Can we be given some indication when the Bills detailing the accounting and finance procedure and the Audit functions are going to be published. These were mentioned in the Auditors report both in 1968 and 1969. And secondly as the Auditor has no direct access to this House and in fact is not answerable to the House will Government give consideration to setting up some form of committee to which the Auditor can become answerable.

HON M XIBERRAS:

In the absence temporarily of the Chief Minister I believe this suggestion was discussed somewhat not far away from this room and I believe it was made very recently as well and I would suggest that the Honourable Gallant Member opposite should put this formally to the Chief Minister for his consideration, that is on the second point. On the first point as regards the Auditor's Report, I believe and you can hear me out Sir, that this is perhaps not the proper place to discuss such a document, in fact it has not been in fact published as I understand. And again I think it is a matter which the Hon and Gallant Member should take outside this House and take it up with the Chief Minister as well.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

I cannot follow the reason there. We are dealing with the Expenditure on Audit which obviously includes the functions of the Auditor and I am asking when his statutory duties are going to be laid down so that we can in fact see what he is doing his job and if necessary help him along or criticise him or something else. Since we don't know what his duties are we can't do any of these things.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL:

I might comment on the question of Legislation. I am not personally familiar with the background to the legislation. We have on the stocks, I hope, legislation dealing with financial procedure and with Audit. When it is likely to mature I don't know but I may say that we are treating it with as much urgency as we can muster & while I cannot give any specific assurances to the date when this

legislation may be presented to this House, I would hope that it will be but a matter of a few months.

Head I. Audit - Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Other Charges was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head II. Cemeteries - Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed with amendment.

Other Charges was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head III. Ecclesiastical

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Just one very small point. I think it has been established by the Hon Financial and Development Secretary that the cost of living is going up. This is a head which never seems to increase, perhaps consideration could be given to some little increase in compatibility with increases in cost of living.

HON FINANCIAL & DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I will consider this proposal Sir.

Head III. Ecclesiastical was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head IV. Education - Personal Emoluments

HON L DEVINCENZI:

I do not propose to go into any lengthy speeches as I do not want the Honourable and Learned Leader of the Opposition to enjoy himself. As you know Mr Speaker, I have just returned from the United Kingdom but when I left I left with the satisfaction that apart from a few grumbling noises things were going quite steady and quite well with my department. We've just heard the Hon and Financial Secretary deliver an excellent speech both in substance and delivery. I think, Sir, that it is fair to say that in spite of rising costs, something of which we are all aware, it has been possible to put substantial funds both into the Improvement and Development Fund and also into the Reserves. In spite of this large amount of money that have gone into this two different funds it is indeed a satisfaction I think to all Ministers to see that it has been possible to increase the expenditure side of our department to a very considerable extent. As far as my department is concerned we are now spending 10% of revenue and I would like to suggest that 10% of revenue is perhaps more than most of the highly developed countries and highly progressive countries of the world spend even at this moment. So in that respect we are not doing too badly at all. In fact we have increased our expenditure by 21% over last year. When one considers that last year the increase was 31% this brings the increases in education to just over 52% in two years. In spite of rising costs I would like to say that this is largely due to improvements that have been made throughout and not just in

the increase of the cost of materials or even of wages. In fact for this year only 9.7% has been on Personal Emoluments and the rest has been on Other Charges. This of course Sir, is excluding Capital Works, I'm sure you are all aware that not only has the new Laguna School been built but a number of other perhaps major works have been undertaken and of course we are all now looking forward to starting work on the purpose built Comprehensive School. Mr Speaker, I would just go perhaps briefly over some of the highlights of my department and will then be very pleased to answer the Hon Mr Featherstone or for that matter any member opposite on anything that they would like to ask. But may I just say that as you all know the Director's salary has been increased from £2,750 to £3,300. We all know that perhaps if one had offered a salary of £5,000 to £10,000 you obviously would get men of corresponding higher calibre applying. We all have to realise that one has to be realistic about our problems, what we can afford, and that one must remain within the structure of salaries in Gibraltar. I think that with the salary we offered we have attracted the right person and we are now looking forward within the next day or two to his coming over and starting his duties here in Gibraltar. We have also upgraded the post of the Education Officer. Again very considerably so. This again will ensure that people who have applied or will apply in the future if the post remains vacant, and I sincerely hope it will not, that again people of a high calibre would tend to apply. There are a number of smaller things like the appointment of the Secretary for the Girls Secondary School which has already been done. We have also made provision, although a token one, for a Warden for the Teachers' Centre and it is proposed to start work on this within this year. I shall hope earlier rather than later. A very important aspect of our system now, of the expenditure we are going through, is scholarships. To some people it seems to be rising to rather frightening proportions. As you know last year we increased the scholarships from 7 to 10 and this year we are maintaining the same level. We have in fact made an additional contribution of £13,000 towards the scholarship fund and as things stand at the moment we shall have an expenditure in excess of £30,000 a year on scholarships alone. This is at the moment a commitment that even if no extra scholarships were to begin because of rising costs the expenditure will certainly be much higher. Only recently we were approached by students asking for an increase in allowances due to rising costs in the United Kingdom these were promptly approved and in fact they became effective retrospectively with effect from September 1972. I am glad to say that they are already enjoying the benefits of this quick action. Going to another item, that is adult education, there is an increase of £2,100 on this particular item. This is an increase in fact of about 100% over the 1969 estimates although it is of course more up to the 1971/72 Estimates. On the Youth Welfare side again there was a huge increase in 1971/72 and now there has been another substantial increase for 1972/73. I think I will say that in this particular item we have not in fact withheld a single penny from the amount that was requested by the Youth Officer. That is not to say that we did not thoroughly examine his request. We thought they were fair and this in fact has been approved and it is now in the Estimates. On the Victoria Stadium here again there has been an increase and this increase I would like to say meets not only the higher cost but also further improvements of a minor nature. Mr Speaker, I did say at the beginning that I would not make it very long. I suppose that there are a number of things which one could go over, perhaps I'd rather not, I will be quite happy as I said in the beginning to answer any questions and on that point may I say thank you.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I don't intend to make any speech at this juncture either for the enjoyment of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition or even the Chief Minister. We can leave buffoonery etc. to the Honourable Mr Devincenzi. Sir, I do have a number of questions, once again I presume I'm going to be charged with cross examination but I think this is the easiest way to elicit some of the facts which are essential to our knowledge of expenditure and our passing of same. On page 17 Sir, Other Charges, Item 2 - Books and Equipment.

MR SPEAKER:

May I call the member's attention to the fact that we are now dealing with Personal Emoluments exclusively.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Oh yes Sir. I have no questions on that, its simply that as the Minister's speech did cover everything I thought we were doing the two together, but I will wait.

MR SPEAKER:

There is no objection if you want to address the House generally, but if you are going to ask on a particular item perhaps we should go in the right order.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I have no objection on Personal Emoluments.

Head IV. Education - Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed without amendmen

Other Charges.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Now Sir, page 17, Item 2 - Books and Equipment. How much, Sir of the money approved last year was for books for the primary school and how much for the secondary schools and what are the figures for this year's Estimates, Sir?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, there is an increase this year of £2,500. This, in fact, is mainly for the secondary schools this is an increase of 25% over last year. This is based on the recommendations of Mr Brown, the School Inspector, who was sent over and did suggest that the primary schools should get a 50% over 2 years and that the secondary schools should get a 75% based over a 3 year period. This is what is being done following his recommendation. I cannot give an exact figure of how much is going to secondary in the terms of actual figures but I have to limit myself to the percentage.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, the Hon Minister seems to love percentages and doesn't seem to give us any facts. Do you think Sir, that perhaps by after lunch he could bring us some figures on how much is being spent on books for the primary and how much in actual pounds, not in percentages and increases and recommendations, in actual pounds, how much is going on books for the primary and how much for the secondary Sir. Could he do that Sir?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

I certainly will. That will be very easy to do.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

If it is so easy it is a wonder he hasn't got it at his finger tips Sir. Sir, Item 7 - this Sir I'm sure the Hon Mr Isola will be very interested in. This is milk meals to schoolchildren, something I believe very much dear to his heart. Although he did say at one time that there wasn't an enormous response to milk meals. This time Sir, there is an increase of, to take the Hon Minister's line, a 168% in costs, £4,200 Sir, and the little note says increased costs. Sir does this mean that milk has gone up a 168% or does it mean an increased number of children are getting the benefit of this service?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

The increased cost is due to the fact that the type of milk we are using is now somewhat different. I will refrain from saying whether it is of better quality but I would like to suggest that normally speaking, although this is not necessarily so in every occasion, the amount of milk we are using is now fresh milk by Gibraltar standards. It is ultra high temperature milk which comes in plastic containers and it is certainly much more expensive than the one we were using before. This is enjoyed much more and we are at this moment quite prepared to supply this. Quite frankly I think you will appreciate when I say this, this might go rather against me in the future, but I'll say so. One doubts whether at the moment with the present higher wages and more affluence whether it is 100% justified to supply free milk.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, we didn't get fully to the commercials. I thought we are going to get "Drink a daily pint", Sir. I still haven't fully got an answer. I do understand and I fully appreciate that this new type of milk which I believe is supplied now partly because the other type is no longer available. I fully appreciate this has incurred an increase in expenditure because it costs more but I would like to know are more children receiving milk, or perhaps if I could put it another way, are the same number of children receiving milk but perhaps to a higher age level and therefore for a longer period?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

No, it is the same number of children. Its just the increased cost.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, item 8. The Dockyard and Technical College seems to be going up by leaps and bounds. This year, Sir, nearly another £16,000 has been spent on this, the increase is £15,980 I believe. Can we have some details of all this increase?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Sir, with the advent of the Industrial Training Ordinance there have been some sharp requests from the Principal for additional instructors. A number of them are UK based and naturally the salaries and accommodation for which we also pay, this I would like to say is to my mind subject to more thorough examination, but the fact remains that there has been a number of increases in the amount of courses that have been taken. Also they are now running the adult education to some extent. There has been a lot of coordination and they have taken a bigger part in the running of these evening classes. When we also consider the normal rising costs, I think these three factors tend to rather inflate these figures. I do not believe there is anything here on capital works, I know that we have in fact provided for three extra class rooms which will be of a temporary nature. No, they did not include that, this is strictly on the running of the school. I think you will also appreciate that in a technical college any piece of equipment does tend to be rather pricey and here again we are somewhat concerned with the increases that do take place in the college that seem to be justified but may I ask at this juncture that we are now very much in the process of examining the whole relationship between the college to be able to come to a more equitable distribution and actually going into what sort of hours and what number of school children and adults who go there and work it out to the last detail to see whether this is all as justified as it does appear to be.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I am very grateful for that Sir. Can we, in due course, when this comes through have a report laid before this House on this and on the same subject, same item Sir. Of this £15,980, how much actually is referred to by the remark (e) the full implementation of the March report and cost of living allowance?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Again Sir if I may be allowed I would also bring the exact figures at a later stage. I do not have them with me now. I do have comprehensive details here on the college and either I will give them to the Hon Member opposite later on or perhaps at a later date I could supply them. Certainly.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I am grateful for that offer, Sir, I would like to have them later on some time during today if possible because I may need these facts later on in the debate.

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, before the Hon Member goes on, may I with my colleague's permission say something about this Dockyard and Technical College on which I have some interest from the training side. Sir, I think the Hon Member opposite is right in showing concern for the increased industrial training that the Government feels justified

in providing these funds. I think the Hon Member opposite is quite right in saying that we in this House should make it clear that our voting the money depends upon Gibraltar, the community generally, getting benefits out of the funds which we vote. I think that up to now the technical college has been geared mostly towards the official employers and the UK Department in particular and therefore that our commitment to increase the fund substantially - £15,000 is a substantial increase - should not be on the basis that any programming of courses in the Dockyard would reflect the contribution being made by the Gibraltar Government. I believe that there has been cognizance taken of this already by the Dockyard and Technical College but the Minister, who is responsible and myself who have interest in this, have been pressing that the industrial training for the private sector should benefit from any increased expenditure by Government.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, my cup is full and running over. Praise from the Hon Mr Xiberras is really welcome. So this House is fully in agreement and welcomes very much anything that can be done to improve industrial training and of course it has our fullest support. If it was simply that I wished to elicit this information and I am very grateful for the intervention and contribution of the Hon Minister of Labour which does put the picture very much into perspective.

Sir, item 11, Examination expenditures. These seem to go up by £500 every year. We haven't got the expenses of the 11+. Are we having more examinations or are costs just sky rocketting in examinations and is this going to be a general trend?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, here again I did query this one myself and it appears that they are strictly increased costs in examination fees at university level and otherwise. We do recover part of the examination fees from students and in fact when there was an increase of examination fees we also increased our charges. I am afraid we did not increase them as much as they went up and this accounts for the increase there. There could also be a greater number of children taking examinations and more subjects, this in fact is correct and the amount of 'O' level and 'A' levels being taken is in the increase all the time and this reflects in the increased costs.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Well, Sir, I was expecting that answer. We had it last year that more money was obtained in revenue. I think last year and this year the figures are the same. £300 comes in and £500 goes out, this is new lamps for old or old lamps for new. It is generally, a net loss of £200 a year Sir. Item 18, Sir, Transport of school children. Again we have a pretty steep increase, more than 50%, Sir. How much of this is due to increased wages etc., Marsh Report etc.? Have we any ideas on this or is it something out of the control of the Minister Sir?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Well Sir, the fact is that for some years although provision has been made in the Estimates, I think for many years now, for transport for school children and this includes those who go to Services schools, we have not in fact been making any contributions towards the children who go to Services schools. This has been provided free of charge although there was no agreement to that effect by the Services. It appears that that year they had a re-think and they said that we

should contribute and we would have to pay and this is what is going to happen. We shall have to pay from now on whilst we were not paying before.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, I thank the Minister for those remarks but I cannot quite swallow them. If he would look at the estimates of 1971 and 1972 there is an item, Item 18, it seems to be the same number, that is, transport of school children and the remark there says: "Includes contribution to the Ministry of Defence for the transport of local children attending Service schools." It seems we had it last year Sir, so it cannot be a new item they just thought out this year. Since he likes percentages, it would appear that the actual expenditure in 1970 was £1,000 last year £2,000 estimated, this year nearly £5,000. This is a geometric progression and I hate to wonder what is going to happen next year. Would he agree, Sir, that last year we did make provision in the estimates and apparently we must have paid the Services for transport so this is not something new this year.

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, this is not quite so. Provision was made in the estimates, they have been made for years now. This I queried myself I was told "We must make provision because we may have to pay at any time". Somehow we never did pay so in fact last year we did not pay at all to the Services.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Well, Sir, this does seem to be a most haphazard method of working. It appears they do not know what they are doing or what they are paying. If we are going to make provision for things that we may get charged we could have a wonderful estimate. Sports equipment, Sir, Item 21 - £1,400. This is rather a meagre sum I think it works out to about 35p per child. Does the Minister have any comments whether this is really an adequate figure or is it just something put down to make the figures look reasonably good?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, like with all figures and all expenditures this again has room for improvement. A considerable amount of equipment is now provided free at the stadium and can be made use of. Again as I said perhaps it could be improved, I am not aware at all that any substantial cutting has been made into the request for extra school equipment. If anyone can make a case, a good case for more equipment, this of course is always forthcoming within reason, but here again as taking everything into the context of where we should spend our money, perhaps once again it would not be amiss to say that children can also help themselves to some extent, in providing their own equipment.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Can the Minister therefore assure me Sir, that no child will be procluded from sport through lack of equipment.

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Absolutely. This is unthinkable.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, Item 24. What happened last year with school broadcasts?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

As you know we did intend to go into school television and there was some discussion on this with the Gibraltar Teachers Association. I remember having a gentleman who was in the Gibraltar Teachers Association then who was very interested in this aspect and quite frankly on this one in particular I must say I myself am rather disappointed because although fraught with technical difficulties we have not made much progress in this respect. As you know again we have been going through a very difficult period vis a vis our illusive directors who would of course of necessity have to take a considerable amount of interest in the matter and months tend to pass rather quickly and nothing concrete has come out of this. I am glad to say that our new director did enquire whether we had school television and when told we did not said he was very interested in this and I do hope that once he comes he will be able to deal with this matter effectively. This is all I can say on that one.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

So I am very happy to see that the old adage "There is many a slip between the ~~cup~~ and the lip." could be put into House of Assembly language, there is many a month between promise of implementation and actual implementation. Government is always saying that they are going to have this and it just doesn't seem to come off. We had the approved estimates 1971/72. We even had a revised estimates when they apparently knew nothing was coming along. It is rather interesting to note that they did revise money on something they were pretty sure was not going to be spent.

Item 28 Sir, Holidays for school children. The sum last year was £12,000 the actual expenditure 1970/71 was only £11,100. Is it possible to state at this juncture what was the expenditure 1971/72? I would like to know the actual expenditure.

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Again Mr Speaker, I think I can be fairly accurate on this one. I think we are getting very near to the £12,000, I don't think we will quite make it. At least two things are coming up now. One of them will be included in the 1971/72 the other one I don't think that for practical accounting purposes that it would be possible to include it in the 1971/72 but I think it will be very near the £11,000. As the Hon Member will know because of the attempted coup d'etat in Morocco, school children had to be brought back and those who were going to Morocco in fact did not go and so we were badly off in this respect. I was keen that we should spend as much as we could and we immediately made contact with Lisbon and in fact this has come off to some extent. But because of that we have not been able to spend all the money but I think at least around £11,000.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I am very pleased to see that the money has been spent. What I am worried about at the moment Sir, is that since we are only voting the same amount of money and since we know that many items to do with transport and holidays have gone up, does this really mean a decrease in the possibilities that we are going to be able to offer for holidays this year?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

I don't think so Sir, I think that much as we do try to encourage these holidays which are no doubt very successful it does appear to me again perhaps because of higher wages and salaries that a number of children do not take full advantage of the opportunity offered. You do find that many of them perhaps prefer to go with their families or they are perhaps a bit fussy where to go or how to go. I would have thought that there would be very great enthusiasm for this and perhaps there is though not as much as one would have liked. I would have thought that the number of requests for their holidays would have been much greater than the amount of money than we spend on them but this is not quite the case.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Will the Hon Minister look into the position that he promised last year that young workers, especially those who have not got very large income, can come into this scheme if there is any spare or excess money?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, this is something which I have very much in mind, in fact the Youth Officer is very well aware of my feelings and any request coming from him who deals very much with this aspect would certainly be entertained. I think that this year there have been less than last year but not because of any suggestion on our part that the money was not there but there were just less people interested in organising the thing.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, Item 29. This is a regular item - Meals for school children. Last year there was a little footnote saying that the sum voted under the Education vote is just for other expenses the actual cost of the meals, themselves, is borne by the Medical vote. This year we don't get any little remark on this but would it not be better Sir, that either the whole of the money should come under Education or the whole of the money should go under the Medical Vote rather than have it split between the two.

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, this is something which as far as I am concerned is neither here nor there. Perhaps for administrative purposes this may well be so. I will certainly take up the point and if there are no objections in other quarters certainly I wouldn't have any objections at all. I will certainly follow it up.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I thank the Minister for that Sir. I think I've been very gentle, That ends the cross examination for this point.

HON P J ISOLA:

By way of cross examination. Item 19. Could I draw his attention to Item 19; Item 23 and Item 30. Item 19 I'm glad to see that the programme for adult continuation classes is to expand and I'm sure all Hon Members think this is a very desirable direction in which to go. I noticed the expenditure is up by 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % it seems to have escaped the Hon Mr Featherstone's notice. Could we have some information as to what sort of expansion this programme is undergoing? That is my question on that, adult continuation classes. Special equipment I'm glad to see there is additional expenditure being provided. Again is that in connection with any particular aspect of education? Perhaps we might have something on that. And the last Item 30. Children outside Government Schools - I notice from the note that this also provides for handicapped children sent to schools in the United Kingdom. This I think is or I may be wrong whether this is a new, well its only really a new departure I know it has been done in particular cases, but I think it is a desirable part of the vote, are we to hope that Government's part in providing extra help for handicapped children will in the educational level be developed slowly to the extent as to enable handicapped children who could benefit from specialised education in schools in the United Kingdom to benefit from them?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

On Item 19, Mr Speaker, there has been an increase in the number of courses which have been offered. I must again on this one say that at least three or four have had to be cancelled due to extremely poor attendance and we have kept this up at a loss but we have had at least three or four courses with perhaps just one or two persons really. Nevertheless we do our best to keep them going and as the Hon and Learned Mr Isola is aware I think we are running now between 28 and 32 courses at the moment. Now, on special equipment Item 23, I cannot expand on whether there is any special equipment. I'm not aware there is. Is the Hon Mr Isola thinking of any particular item perhaps which he would like to know whether it has been included because I could only say that I could not answer that specifically rather than special equipment in an overall sense.

HON P J ISOLA:

Am I right in thinking that all the additional equipment that is required in the nature of special equipment is being provided?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, I would like to think so. I do not think that anything at all was cut on special equipment.

HON P J ISOLA:

There is one more answer. Under Item 30.

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker with your indulgence may I perhaps ask the Hon Mr. Isola to repeat the question.

HON P J ISOLA:

Item 30. On that point, my main point on this was with regard to handicapped children that can obviously benefit from attending a specialised institution in the United Kingdom for handicapped children. Am I right in thinking that Government policy is tending towards helping in this way?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

I am just being told by my colleague as I was away that for the St Bernard's School £500 was specially voted to help in special equipment for the school. I was of course very much aware that there was this request but I was not aware that it had gone through as I only returned two days ago. Anyhow this is in fact Government policy and as you know there is at least one child who has gone to England because he could benefit from specialised treatment and should there be any other that would be fully justified I'm sure this would also be considered sympathetically.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Mr Speaker, this is nothing new, this is a thing which has been going on all the time and I hope (a) that there are not too many cases that require it, and (b) that those who require it, get it.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

May I have a little elucidation on a couple of points. First of all Item No. 19 was mentioned. - Adult and Continuation Classes. Would it be right to say that this expansion has come about by rationalising or merging with the Services in their evening classes, this has been the real cause of the expansion programme. As regards the second item, could we next year have an addition to footnote F, that is examination fees, to show that part of it is offset by Revenue under recoveries and the third point that I'd like to get some information on, Mr Speaker is whether there has been any teacher exchange with the U.K. this year. A great deal was said last year about the desirability of doing this. What has happened?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Sir, on Item 19, what has happened is that there is very close liaison between all the Services and the department. This has of course resulted in more rationalisation of methods of going through the different courses and there has been less duplication.

On the question of teacher exchanges with the U.K., this is something which we all like to talk about and it is a very good thing, but again it seems that when it comes to the crunch because of lack of accommodation on our side it appears that this doesn't go as much as one would like to. I think we had three last year and we certainly encourage it.

HON I ABECASIS:

Mr Speaker, may I make a comment on Item 28 Holidays for school children. The Hon Minister said that there is less response to these school holidays than he had expected. Can I suggest that perhaps this lack of response is through lack of proper advertising and proper putting across to the families how their children would be treated when they go away from Gibraltar. The Minister I am sure will agree with me that most parents take their children up to age 11 and 12 to school every morning and when they go away from Gibraltar for a long time I'm sure they worry. If Government could produce a film from the moment the child lands in Britain or wherever he goes to the moment he takes off to come back to Gibraltar, if this is explained to the family I am sure the response would be much greater than up to now. That is my suggestion to Government.

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, when the Hon Mr Isaac Abecasis got up to ask a question on holidays I thought he might be thinking perhaps we could go again on holiday. One must always accept, and this I think is only fair, there must always be room for improvement. I think that we deal with the matter quite well, the senior schools are circularised not once but twice and sometimes three times. Of course it depends very much on the enthusiasm of the Headteacher of the school, and in turn with the form teachers to actually get across to the children. On the question of a film, is the Hon Mr Abecasis thinking of our producing a film that could be shown later in the schools? Well, I suppose the suggestion is a good one, it can be looked into.

HON I ABECASIS:

Or on television.

HON L DEVINCENZI:

On television. This is a good idea, I think some have been taken, I don't know whether this has been covered very adequately but the point is taken and we will certainly see about that. I think I will mention here that 90 children are going to Portugal.

Head IV. Education - Other Charges was agreed to and passed without amendment.

MR SPEAKER:

Perhaps this might be a reasonable time to recess for lunch and we will resume our sitting at 2.30 p.m.

Other Charges

HON W M ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I won't go into great detail under the Electricity undertaking because I note that on the other side there are ex City Councillors who are well aware of this particular vote but perhaps I might just mention a couple of items which I consider might be of interest to the House. Item 21 training of apprentices. This is an increase of £3,375 of the sum voted in the previous financial year. This is due to an increase in the number of apprentices at present being trained in the Dockyard Training Centre and to the high cost of fees charged for this service. However, what is interesting to note is that in 1971, for the first time in many years, there were more vacancies for the official employers apprenticeships than candidates and the electricity department was able to obtain the number of apprentices which the department required. The other item which I would like to draw members' attention to is Item 47 at page 22. This is a new head of charges which has not been included in previous years. The object of this vote is to carry out certain improvements in offices as would be involved in converting the flat now occupied at Kings Bastion into proper offices for senior staff and the conversion of these casemates previously allocated as stores for future use as workshops, transfer of the distribution section to Orange Bastion and what I also consider to be rather important, the provision of proper washing facilities for certain sections both within the Orange Bastion as well as in Kings Bastion. I would also like to draw attention to the House on the purchase of a motor vehicle for the electricity undertaking. This sum is £3,500 and it is for the purchase of a hydraulic platform mounted on a landrover vehicle. This plant is intended for use of the maintenance of public lighting fittings, lamp posts, etc., on the installation of new equipment for public lighting and flood lighting of public buildings as well as for the installation of decorative lighting at such festival as the Gibraltar Fair, the Catalan Bay Festivities and the Christmas lighting. It is anticipated, and this is somewhat important, that a considerable saving in labour costs will be possible with this equipment. It is also hoped that an improvement service will be given to the community in the speed with which public lighting stages are tackled ~~and in the~~ generally high standard of lighting. The delays which at present result from the need for traffic diversion while certain fittings are repaired using our outdated tower ladders will be eliminated and reports will be tackled much more expeditiously. The other two important points in the electricity undertaking is of course the new engines which should be in commission some time around August or September and which will have a 5,000 kilowatt which is nearly double the capacity which the present engines have. Coupled with that, and a very important matter, is the question of the inter-connection system with the Dockyard power station. Now this is extremely important for this particular reason - I hope I do not become very technical because I am not a technical man myself - but once the 5,000 kilowatt engine is brought into operation at the same time the Dockyard are also having an engine more or less of the same size, strictly speaking our reserve power will obviously go down because when you talk about a reserve power, Mr Speaker, you talk about the highest capacity engine. With this inter connecting system between the Dockyard and Kings Bastion it will mean that we will be able to play off one with each other and of course it would save the electricity department having to think about having to buy an extra engine and of course the Dockyard. The sum involved in this interconnection system is about £19,000 which the Government is paying and another £19,000 which the Dockyard will be paying for their share. Apart from that, Mr Speaker, I don't wish to say anything further under this heading.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Mr Speaker, the electricity department is a very important department which does not get all the publicity that other departments get, but their work is a continuous, silent service and only recently the power difficulties in the United Kingdom has shown clearly how much the electricity undertaking of any country ~~can~~ either do or undo the whole of the system of the country and I would like in rising to support these estimates to say a few words of praise to the undertaking. It is easy to highlight failures as there are from time to time of things that were done either recently or in the past but when something goes well very few people remember about it and the electricity undertaking is one of those which foresight and proper planning have made possible to allow all the expansion and all the new requirements in developments that are taking place. There is only one item, which I think is worthy of congratulation for ourselves in these days of increased costs is that the cost of the fuel has gone down £15,000 about 10% which is very good indeed. It is revenue producing, it is an undertaking that pays for itself and leaves a little margin as required for expansion. The Minister for Municipal Services, of course, has jumped a little the Estimates which were before the House, by referring to the schedule of extra work but I think perhaps it is tidy to take it up here. I think that the two items that he has mentioned are very worthy of support. The inter-connection with the Dockyard of course completes the round ring connection since the connection between the power station, the Calpe Hole and the City Council was carried out some years ago and now not only with this intercommunication the Dockyard and City Council but all round the ring and I think certain in a major breakdown this is much better to be able to maintain the supply. I think it is also fair to say that during the year the undertaking underwent a major breakdown which nobody could avoid and think they are to be congratulated by the way they got over their difficulties and supplies were never affected.

Head V. Other Charges was agreed to and passed without amendments.

Head VI. Fire Service - Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed without amendments.

Other Charges

HON W M ISOLA:

Just one brief note Mr Speaker, Sir. The only matter which is new here is the purchase of a 45-foot extension ladder. This is required to replace an old one which is in a dangerous condition. Perhaps I might quote the words of the Hon Leader of the Opposition, this is again a very silent department, silent in the way that it works day in and day out and there is really nothing under this item which really needs any explanation at all Sir. So I will not take any more of the House's time.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker, I would like to emphasise this, that this is a service which is taken very much for granted. It meets all sorts of unforeseen emergencies and they are always up to their tasks. I don't think enough credit is ever given to this service.

Head VI. Fire Service was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head VII. The Governor - Personal Emoluments and Other Charges were agreed to and passed without amendments.

Head VIII. Judicial - Court of Appeal was agreed to and passed without amendments.

Supreme Court was agreed to and passed without amendments.

Magistrates and Coroners Courts - Personal Emoluments.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Could I point out a rather lamentable printing error there. Against vote G which refers to productivity bonus. This is £80 payable to the process sewer. I think it is the process server.

Magistrates and Coroners Courts - Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed without amendments.

Head IX. Labour and Social Security - Personal Emoluments.

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, I rise deliberately on this part of the Labour and Social Security vote because the most important innovation in this department has taken place under this section of the vote in personal emoluments. Those members who are familiar with the structure of the Labour and Social Security Department will know that there are three sections to it, the Labour Section, Supplementary Benefits Section and the Social Insurance Section. If members look down the list at items 2, 3, and 4, they will see that an important change has taken place there, the Senior Labour Officer's post has been upgraded somewhat, the Social Insurance Officer's post has been changed into Social Security and Insurance Officer and we have the inclusion of a new post, Family Care Officer. Sir, about the upgrading of the first post, I think I need say little in this House. It is entirely deserved especially in connection not only with the various difficulties that we have had to face in connection with labour and the new structure of wages and earnings that have come into existence over a period of 2½ years, and in which the present holder of the post has given a great example of devotion to duty and ability, but also because of the great weight that has fallen on the department in respect of accommodation for labour from abroad. I find myself repeating things which I said at the very beginning of this Government's tenure of office but things which I feel I must repeat even on this occasion. With the inclusion of White Stores with an addition of 170 beds to which I shall be returning in a minute, the department will be running a total of 1,200 beds which compares not unfavourably with my colleague's figure of beds

for tourists. This part of the labour department is also one which seldom reaches the news and one which advises all the time and one which normally does not spend the sort of money which attracts attention to it but without it many things would not function and topically I think the electricity department would in fact if we took recent months have been one. As regards the Social Security and Social Insurance Officer these posts have been combined so that supplementary benefits will be taken now by the Social Insurance Officer and no post has been created for the Social Security Officer as he was at one time. This represents a saving to Government which is not entirely lost even with the creation the Family Care Officer Post. The important reason for this is that whereas last year, for instance, the Social Security Officer had to make a case on behalf of an individual, at the same time judge the case as Social Security Officer, in respect of any given payment, now it will be the Family Care Unit that makes this case and it will be the Social Security and Social Insurance Officer who judges on the worthiness of the application. This is something which is felt will give equal weight to the representation and to the fairness with which the representation is judged. Sir, there will be a particularly heavy amount of work on the Social Insurance Officer, this year being the year which we hope to bring about changes in the Government social insurance scheme and the actuary report to which I will turn in a minute is expected now in April, on the latest communication, and this side of the Labour and Social Security Department will be faced with a considerable amount of work. However, I am satisfied that there is not too much work involved in social security and that the structure of the section is adequate. More important however as an innovation is the Family Care Unit. At the moment it is embryonic, in fact, it is composed of two people, the Family Care Officer on the scale which you see there and a special grade clerk who will perform, as the note says at the bottom of the page, the duties of probation officer. While this is a most important service and one which it has taken quite some time to even start, it is true that a good amount of this type of work was done before but this particular innovation is in pursuance of a report produced by a Miss Thayer who came quite some time ago and submitted to Government a comprehensive report on the childcare and protection side of the House after care service for the prison and so on.

These two posts are the beginning. I already have authority for two other posts of Assistant Probation Officers and that would bring the total up to four. The Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition, in fact, raises an eyebrow. I can assure him that these posts will not actually be created until the money is voted in the House and I'm sure he would not begrudge this expenditure either. So, Sir, with four people on this side of the House all of whom it is expected will receive training in the measure to which one can expect at this time we would have the beginnings of an effective Family Care Unit which is much needed. Apart from this, Sir, the Government has very much in mind and has agreed in principle and it will come to this House as well to provide a hostel for girls in need of care and protection and the building, together with the House parents that will be necessary or it is thought ~~at this~~ stage it will be necessary, will again provide for a very, a very important need in the community. It is hoped that paper work will be kept down to a minimum in this and that the officers concerned will be able to do family care and prevention work before trouble starts. I have highlighted this particular part of the Personal Emoluments Vote of this department because the Government has been accused and not only by the Opposition, may I add, of paying rather a lot of attention to productivity and efficiency and yet neglecting the more human side of development. Social development, I need not preach to the House, is considered important but it is difficult to justify, it is difficult to initiate. It is more easy for the public to see the need for a new generator than it is to see the need for a probation officer or some such service. There have been many changes in Gibraltar, Sir, over the past two and a half years since closure of the frontier and there have been many changes in the structure, the way people live, and so on. If I may anticipate some remarks that I hope to pass at a later stage, we have seen in this House and we have heard from the Financial & Development Secretary how necessary it is to this general approach of productivity and efficiency if we want to have the sort of money which would allow persons like myself to make these sort of speeches to the House occasionally. It is important to earn our keep and then it is important to distribute this, and it is important to provide the social services that go with a higher standard of living and with the problems arising out of a higher standard of living. In this, as in other areas, I think that what we must be clear about in our minds is that we can't have one without the other. We cannot have material expansion without hard work and we cannot have material expansion without having to face up to problems, social problems, which nobody wants to create as a part of increased prosperity but which society has a duty to face if it is helping people along the road to material progress. Sir, I'm sure that this is not the only direction in which the Government is trying to create this kind of social institution which will help in this more affluent Gibraltar of ours. The Minister for Education referred to this when he referred to handicapped children, I'm sure that going through the estimates from time to time you will see that the Government does not begrudge social expenditure of this kind or, may it be added, the Opposition begrudge the Government its support. But this is not a materialistic Government, it is a Government that knows that Gibraltar can enjoy a much higher standard of living even than now provided we are prepared to do the work and it is also a Government that is prepared to meet, fully meet, all the social commitments which increased prosperity unfortunately brings with it. If I may pass on now to Item 10, 11 Clerks Grade II. In fact the extra clerk there is for the Accounts Section of the Hostel is an indication of how much work the hostel accommodation has brought upon the department and I'm proud to say that I believe that this is the only time in 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years that I have come to the House

asking for a new person there to deal with hostel accommodation. Up to now it has been done with existing staff. Sir, a word about the factory inspector. We do not have a factory inspector who is able to go out and visit and this is unfortunate, there is provision there in I believe it is Item 6 - three Chief Clerks. I beg your pardon Sir, this has been, I believe, subsequently amended and I haven't looked at it, Sir, since then. I believe it was included as a Chief Clerk before. The point I want to make is that the factory inspector's post is not filled yet but there is a qualified factory inspector in the department who is able to give his views on particular issues. This matter has been a matter of some discussion in the press. Turning Sir, if I may to Other Charges....

MR SPEAKER:

We are dealing now with Personal Emoluments.

HON M XIBERRAS:

I see Sir, very well Sir.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

Mr Speaker, I would like to start in commenting on Other Charges under Head 9 by completely subscribing to the thesis of the Minister of Labour and Social Security on the question of working hard and more or less it boils down to the distribution of wealth and I think it is nice that the message should go out from this House, from both sides of the House - I think we are at idem in this - that whilst we are prepared as far as the Government is concerned I'm sure and as far as the Opposition is concerned I know, to try and help people by giving them all the good things that we want for them they must also play their part by working and working harder if we are going to get the wealth that we are prepared to distribute. And I think it is quite proper that this message should go out, in a way, jointly from this House. Now, as regards the estimates of other charges I entirely endorse the upgrading of the Senior Labour Officer because I know of the hard work he does and the practical manner in which he approaches problems and therefore I have got no hesitation both in supporting the increased money and congratulating the officer in question. Item 3 which presents now a unified service for a social security and insurance officer at the top is again welcome but I would like to see also, if I may say so, more integration - unless the Government get the false idea this is the only form of integration I would subscribe to - at counter level because as the Minister well knows both things overlap in a way. People may go far to get benefits of the social security and if someone is helpful enough they should go out of their way or perhaps it is a duty to be able to tell them whether they can get something under public or supplementary benefits. At times this does not happen and people have come to me and of course the whole matter has been settled because I must mention at this stage that the facilities offered to me by the department are quite sufficient for me to fulfil my work amongst my constituents and therefore they are settled in the long run. But I would like the Minister to take note of this suggestion so that we can see this merger which is happening at the top permeating down to counter level. I won't comment at this stage though it is welcomed on the new unit about family care because I would like to see how that develops and works, but I notice that nothing was said about the scrapping, so to speak, of the factory inspector. I don't think any

mention was made, was it? The other point I would like to raise is the question of the hostel for girls again this is an extension of what we have for boys now, and I'm wondering whether it would be possible when planning this hostel to build near the area of the boys' hostel so that we can have both hostels apart but common services supplied by one central department. I know we have got to be careful otherwise we will have to build another hostel to place the people who misbehave who belong to the other hostels but I wonder whether this can be done or whether already a site has been chosen for the hostel?

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

I would just like to make one point. I think the Minister would answer both perhaps better. I would just like to mention the question of Family Care Officer which is welcome. I wonder how far the responsibility would extend and I would just like to mention one avenue of family care which would avoid a lot of trouble and I have had occasion of saying this in other places, in Court actually, and that is people who do not find themselves yet convicted to come under the care of the probation officer, yet inevitably because of their suspicious conduct and so on they are sometimes persecuted by the police. I say this here because I've said it somewhere else. At least they may feel that they're doing their duty but sometimes they're almost provoking them into doing harm to the community and I wonder whether this matter could be referred to the Family Care Officer to avoid in these cases rather than that the matter should come under the Probation, that is to say in cases of unsettled behaviour of young people who have not yet committed any breach of the law where some guidance, some help which is sometimes outside the strict province of the welfare department might be helpful. I know there is great need for that from my practical experience of dealing with young people on the point of being offenders.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sure my Hon Friend will answer the Learned and Hon Leader of the Opposition on his question but he has raised a very serious matter. There is a serious allegation that the police literally are persecuting people in Gibraltar and I would like him to clarify that because if this is the case of course, perhaps he could write to me and I would take it up seriously.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

No, I say it quite clearly. It looks to the chaps as if they're being persecuted, and this gives them a sense of grievance. If I have to make a definite allegation against the police in respect of any matter I will either make it here or write to the Chief Minister or make a statement or whatever it is, I don't shirk that responsibility, but I can assure the House that from dealing with people, say for example in a big family where one of the young people has found himself in Court, you find complaints about the others, they may be justified and I've drawn the attention of the police to this. They may be justified or they may not but they have a strong feeling that the police have got it against them, and it is in this sphere where I think the Family Care Officer could bring in a little spirit of understanding but you see until he is an offender he cannot come under the Probation Officer, and

the Probation Officer does a considerable amount of good work as I only know too well from dealing with him in some cases, but it is before the stage of the offence having been created when there is this sense of being persecuted, I don't say that they are, I say they have that feeling, maybe justified or it may not be justified, but this is an area in which I'm sure that its perhaps too far to expect the Welfare Department to do this whereas a Family Care Officer in his investigations of family circumstances could well do something.

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, to take the Hon Mr Montegriffo's points first, he must have his ear very close to the ground on this question of the girls' hostel because in fact that is precisely what we have been doing for quite some time. We hope that will be possible to have a rationalised system there but my own view is that it should only be done if the place is going to be socially effective and we must not have of course as the Hon Member mentioned, the delinquent girls effecting delinquent young children or children in need of care and of protection and having a bad influence there. So these matters are being investigated. What will determine it in my mind is what sort of a place can be got for the girls' hostel. The present Edmund Rice Home caters in fact for too broad an age range, but unfortunately here we cannot have one hostel for the older boys, another for the older girls and so on. We cannot afford to distinguish so much but that point in fact is already in mind. I think the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition referred to other work. May I first of all as he must be aware from his own profession the number of cases of people in need of some sort of service from the Probation Officer has practically tripled in fact. Now as with all such statistics one doesn't know whether in fact more people are coming forward or are being brought forward by the authorities or whether there has been exceptional public interest in a particular crime or whether in fact these are the problems of a more affluent society as I mentioned. But in fact what the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition referred to was something which I mentioned in one word, prevention, and then I added, after care. Both these sides are being looked into, the first from the point of view of the unit and I should hope to be able to bring to the House several legislative amendments which would help this work as indeed would be the case with after care where the Prison Board for instance is already considering after care. However, a word of warning about this that the more help you are to people the more money it is going to cost, so an after care service is going to cost quite heavily because more people will have to be cared for for longer and statutorily I think that that deals with the points that have been raised except for one. Later on Sir, I hope to be able to talk generally about productivity and efficiency when we come to discuss the Productivity and Training Unit, but the point that I had made I have made simply to show that the Government is willing to meet the social obligations that arise from a more affluent society.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

I would like to make on small point that I should have raised before. It is by way of enquiry. Hasn't the factory inspector got certain statutory obligations under the legislation and if, in fact, the post is being left in abeyance is somebody being nominated formally to carry out the statutory obligation? I believe there was a case recently when there was an enquiry about the factory inspector and he could not be found just then.

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, the point is that the Senior Labour Officer is in fact a qualified Factory Inspector and named Factory Inspector under the relevant ordinances. The one I was referring to was a more junior officer who would in fact carry the title Factory Inspector and it is this post which is not being filled.

Head IX. Labour and Social Security - Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed without amendments.

Other Charges.

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, dealing with the Other Charges of the Labour and Social Security I draw attention to Item 2. Supplementary Benefits. The House will remember that sometime earlier a full scale revision of the supplementary benefits scheme was undertaken, this being the third time that this Government had tackled this important question. The review, which was conducted and which I consulted the Hon Mr Montegriffo, left the rate at £6 for a married couple; £3.50 for a single person, a person living on his or her own; £2 per entitled person living with others, and a £10 ceiling in Supplementary Benefits. These represented increases of 20%, 16% and 14% over previous increases but considerably hard percentages if one takes into account the figure when this Government came to office. The improvement, Sir, has not been announced on this occasion but I think the people have benefitted to the extent that we introduced this in October when we might have left this measure for the budget session. I can report Sir that the supplementary benefit scheme is much improved and the response from the public as I said on another occasion continues to be excellent. We hear no complaints and you know that people are generally getting what they consider to be fair service. One modification which is currently being considered in the scheme is an as of right **entitlement** for handicapped persons who are of working age and yet are unable to work because obviously they are handicapped. I think that the House would support any such measure and it is not so much a question of how many people would be involved but that I have had representations about this from a number of quarters, including the Transport and General Workers Union, the Society for Handicapped Children, and last but not least the Integration with Britain Party in the Assembly. So I think the Government will be able to see its way to accepting that as a commitment, as of right entitlement. Sir, the next point is the non-contributory Social Insurance Benefit and here, Sir, if I may speak generally on what I mentioned earlier, by April this year I hope to have the figures of the actuaries and to see, have a look at the state of the fund. If members looked at the figures presented somewhere earlier in these estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, they might have gathered that the fund is not in a bad state and that therefore it is hoped that some significant improvement will be brought about in this insurance scheme. There are important considerations to be taken into account this time round, Sir, because: 1. we are seeing into the UK a more regular review of insurance benefit and contributions and we are tied to 5 yearly reviews in all and the second point is, Sir, that in UK I gather that a person does not get a full insurance pension unless he is not working. Now the important thing is that in Gibraltar whether you are working

or not you receive the same benefit in accordance with the contributions obviously. Now one of the matters to be considered at this stage is whether or not we should adopt the UK system or whether or not we should try to raise everybody. There are a number of other problems connected which I will not enter into except for one and that is the generation that opted to be excluded from the scheme or who were not prepared to pay the back money in order to come into the scheme, and I would hope Sir that given the state of the fund appears to be quite good I would hope that it will be possible in some way to make up in some degree this gap. I don't know how it might be done but it is certainly my intention to try to do this. Sir there are other points connected with social insurance which might better be dealt with elsewhere but I would like to say this that there is no doubt at all that the Government as soon as it can and taking into account the reference that is necessary to the actuaries, is going to bring about a good increase in social insurance payments and for the uninitiated, for the man in the street, this is going to be good news because now the pension that people are talking about in the street is, in fact, the insurance pension. Sir, the other things is the family allowance where I would point out that there has been no change this year and it is again something which the Government is keeping under review and it is hoped that at some future stage this might be modifiable. Sir, the rent relief differential scheme I shall deal with at another stage perhaps with the permission of my colleague the Minister for Public Works under the Public Works vote when we come to Housing generally. As to the accommodation for Labour from abroad there is no doubt that we are not losing money in this area but there is again no doubt that we could make more money in this area. We should bear in mind that if we increase charges for accommodation unduly then we can have widespread dissatisfaction and also a pressure for increased earnings as well, these are considerations of general validity. The income which will come from the hostels is based in fact on £1 a week charge rather than 10 shillings. Now this yet has not come about but we do feel that in the present circumstances of Gibraltar it is quite reasonable to bring up these charges to the £1 level and include in the £1 provision for laundering of clothes and so on. Last year, to answer the Hon and Gallant Member, when we were discussing the £4,032 I believe it was supplementary estimates, the expected revenue was £18,700 and the actual revenue was £18,541. The extra expenditure with which we were dealing this morning was in respect of furnishing new dormitories at Casemates where the number of beds available will go up to 700. Improvements of facilities including the installation of hot and cold showers, new staff for cleaning, and one or two other items perhaps the most significant of which is reprovision, nothing to do with Casemates really, but the reprovision of certain facilities given to the flower people, given to the people who are the flower merchants who in fact we had to move out of Casemates in order to make this space available for accommodation for labour; that amounts to some £1,300 or so. Sir, now with £1 I think that we should be able to set aside some money and start building straight away and none too early because as the House is aware we have an important Accommodation for Labour from Abroad Ordinance coming into effect and we must have as much Government accommodation available in order to deal with any overspill from the private sector. The last item, Sir, unless there are other questions on that one is holidays for the elderly. This is a relatively small sum, - £1,000 in fact it has been doubled to £2,000 - but I think Sir, members if they are as unaware as myself of the kind of joy which comes to people when you do something which you don't expect. I have here some actual reports of people, the old people who went to Tangier. Two parties in fact went to Tangier, all people apart from an unfortunate old lady who broke her

arm the very morning she was supposed to leave, the reaction was simply incredible. And we are now examining the possibility of sending parties further afield to Portugal and even to the UK. We have sent two parties so far under the Family Care Officer and a nurse from St Bernard's Hospital and the reaction has been simply tremendous and I think that this type of expenditure is very worthwhile. I think that there is nothing much more to add on this point and if Hon Members would like any questions answered I shall try to answer them.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

Of course, the fund is quite satisfactory. I am referring of course to the Social Insurance Fund. There are, I am sure the Minister is aware, many reasons for that, one of which I should not like to deal with at this particular stage but we all know, but the second important one is the fact or must be due to the fact at least that we have had quite a sizeable fluctuation in alien labour coming in and out and obviously the contributions have accrued to the fund without them taking anything away. So this will give us another lever when we come to the revision of the pensions and the other benefits being given out under this particular fund, to review them generously and bring them up to date, they really need it. The other point mentioned about pensions of bringing the people who were given the chance to opt in and did not take it; there again I have always been very worried that this should have happened, there were a great many difficulties at the time, especially from the formidable treasury, but the only thing I would like to warn the Minister and I wish him all the luck if he can be successful in trying to bring them in now, that they should not be given any advantages over those who have been regularly contributing and as a suggestion I would perhaps, if they wanted to come in or they would be forced through legislation I don't know which way he intends doing it, it can be done to the legislation, whether it could be possible to spread the money they were supposed to pay over a much longer period than that which was offered to them originally. I think with respect I can say so now being on this side of the House, the treasury at the time was rather cruel in expecting that this money should be paid and no matter what fight we put up, so I wish him all the success in the world to get this one sorted out. The highlight is I think the supplementary benefits. And there again as we have always stated we would be always most receptive in supporting any such measures from this side of the House, I think the people should be well aware that everybody in this House are very conscious of the needs of the destitute and the pensioners and that we do what we can with our limited resources and that this should be appreciated rather than the opposite. The next one is family allowances. There I would have liked the Minister to have told me that later on in the day he was going to increase family allowances, for one very special reason. The cost of living has gone up tremendously through no fault of our own but the fact remains that the wages are adjusted to the formula. The wages in Gibraltar are based on an average and those who got more than the average get nothing except the basic average wage, and in this respect I do hope that as he has mentioned the word future, future should be prefixed with the word 'immediate' future. So if they can do it now perhaps if it is possible that this should be tackled some time during this year. On the question of holidays for the elderly, the only thing that I have got on that one is that though I agree it gives much joy to the elderly, I am wondering why they did not take up the full £1,000 last year. Was it because there were not enough applicants, I am just wondering why the money was not spent last year?

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, on that, in fact there were two trips which I think cost in the region of £800. The reasons for this is that we started off on persons on supplementary benefits, old persons, elderly persons on supplementary benefits, and we limited it to those and we found that we cannot have enough to break into different category of persons, except to go also to some of the Homes. Now with more money if we still go to Morocco rather than elsewhere, we will be able to break new ground and benefit the older person whether in receipt of supplementary benefit or not, on some sort of a means test. But it wasn't enough to make another trip. Sir, another point which I will deal with briefly in relation to what the Hon Member has said about family allowances. One thing which we would very much like to see on this side of the House is some sort of detailed analysis of social expenditure of the Government. In other words where does the money go to or does it go towards people with small families, large families, sick families, old families and so on. If we look under the medical vote and then the Housing, at rent relief, then under the various items of expenditure I think one would be surprised (a) at the persons that are being helped and perhaps getting a double dose of help whereas other persons are getting just one where they might need two. I think this is most important and in fact we did something on this last year and I hope we shall be able to have the Statistician do something on this social spending of the Government. At the moment and with the increase put about by the Government sometime ago, family allowances are not all they should be but they are not drastically behind everything else, I would say.

HON A W SERFATY:

Sir, the probable proposed increase in rent for the accommodation for labour from 10/- to £1 is perhaps realistic. The Minister probably is sure to know, about the condition in the contracts with the Moroccan workers. How does he propose to solve this, by a subsidy from employers. What will happen with Government employees?

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, I mentioned this item in passing on various occasions and I propose today simply to explain why we intended to get more money now than in fact the number of beds that we had on the 10/- basis, and there are various difficulties connected with this increase which I would not like to go into at Estimates time, the financial considerations in fact being the more important ones. Let me say this, however, that financially speaking I hope there should be no change in the obligations to be incurred by employers.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker, my enquiry this morning on this very item was not based on any idea of making money - this is a social service and has to be supplemented from funds, capital funds - but on ascertaining whether the user is in fact paying a just rate for the services he is getting at the present time and especially applicable to those who may be coming over in the future. We know about the people on contract - these rates cannot be altered - but people coming along

later should pay for the services they are actually receiving .

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, again I don't think it advisable to go into the wider considerations of this. The fact today is that in Government hostels, in all but one, Moroccan workers pay 10/- and that we feel that this is not quite enough to reprovide for hostel accommodation. I think that this is not a social service to my mind, this is provision of accommodation at reasonable rates. Social considerations come into reprovion of rest roomss and other things but we cannot afford to subsidise the accommodation for these workers, not in any large measure anyway. And secondly, we should bear in mind the type of accommodation, it is of the barrack room type and therefore one cannot charge as much as one would for a flat or a bigger place. So I think the Hon & Gallant Member should be satisfied that in fact with this £1 we shall be able to reprovide considerably for the numbers that may come from the private sector on the application of the new ordinance.

Head IX. Labour and Social Security - Other Charges was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head X. Public Works - Personal Emoluments.

HON J CARUANA:

I would like just to point out to the House there are four new posts on the administration added to the Public Works department; an office assistant, a Technical Grade IV., a graduate engineer and a quantity surveyor assistant and over & above that, if my friend on my right will allow me, I think its only proper to mention under this head under the Housing Section the upgrading of the post of Housing Manager which I think is long overdue and well deserved in view of the increasing demands of the Housing Section. Mr Speaker, I think it is relevant to point out to the House that the total cost of administering the Public Works Vote comes to under 5% of the total monies which the Public Works Department spends and for which the Public Works Department is responsible for, and I think that this is a very important point to bear in mind because far too often people tend to think that this department is over staffed with superfluous bodies. Far be it from it, Mr Speaker, any administration of this kind in any other kind of country would demand an administration which would cost the authorities something in the region of 10% of their total expenditure money as a given figure. Mr Speaker, under administration comes all those people who are responsible for the supervision of work and it has been the policy of this Government for the last year and a half now to have the supervisors in most of the grades, in most of the departments concerned, retrained and in some cases with refresher courses in order to improve the product of supervision and which I hope at a later stage I shall be able to give evidence of how this kind of situation has helped to improve the Public Works Department's responsibilities.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker, I didn't quite get a complete breakdown of the new posts in the Public Works Department, but I think he mentioned a Technical Grade IV. This

surely is the Beach Supervisor that we approved last year, it is not a new one, it is really a bringing forward from last year. It was approved last year, and its repeated this year. The other point that I would like to pick up is this question of overheads supervision - call it what you like - at 5%. To me this isn't remarkable when so much of the work is being put out to contract. It doesn't need detailed costing clerks supervisors and all the rest, if the work is out to contract in a lump sum. I'll just make those two points, that the Grade IV is not a new post and that the overheads is not remarkable because of the greater incidence of contract work.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I'm grateful for the remarks of the Hon and Gallant Member opposite. The Beach Supervisor was a very valuable addition to the department which took place in the course of last year and which is shown this year as a new head with no expenditure in 1971/72 and I hope that this Beach Supervisor's work which already is showing good results will in itself be evident during the course of this year. On the second point raised Mr Speaker, it is quite true that the policy of this Government has been to go out to contract more and more, and therefore giving not only life to the local building industry but also producing a certain amount of efficiency. I would not agree with him that because work goes out to contract we require less supervision. On the contrary the more you put out to contract the more supervision you have to have, possibly of a different kind, but nevertheless very essential in the public interest.

Head X. Public Works - Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed without amendments.

Other Charges.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

A point on which I would like to get some further information Mr Speaker is at Item 6 - Training of Apprentices, and its footnote which shows there is a decrease in the number of apprentices. Why is this, can he give us any indication, is it the people are not coming forward or that they are not required?

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, quite honestly during the current time, there is no call at the moment to provide for extra apprentices. The department is always keen in taking new apprentices in and if and when they do apply they shall be taken in. At the moment we only cater for what is realistic at the time. We don't expect any at the moment until a couple of months time, after the summer but when there is a need they shall be included, but that is not at all a certainty.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

One more item is item No.10. Courses of instruction, which has never appeared before. It is proposed to spend £400. Could we have a bit of information as to who is intended to go on these courses of instruction, where, and on what subjects?

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I must confess the Hon Gallant Member has caught me on that one. I am not at the moment prepared to answer the question in detail. I should be very glad to let him have it later on in the proceedings.

Head X. Public Works - Other Charges was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head XI. Public Works Annually Recurrent.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I would like to quote words spoken this morning by the Financial and Development Secretary when he said in his speech that considering the problems that have had to be faced in recent years we are not doing badly. Mr Speaker, I think that today is a great day for Gibraltar to be able to realise that in spite of the restrictions, that in spite of the withdrawal of labour from Gibraltar, in spite of every attempt to cripple Gibraltar and to bring Gibraltar to a standstill, today we are able to see with our own very eyes that Gibraltar has stood its own, Gibraltar has risen to the challenge and that Gibraltar as is self evident is rising to the occasion and progressing forward even as the Financial Secretary said earlier on in a moderate way. This is a great moment for Gibraltar because it is no longer necessary Mr Speaker, to have a contingency plan, it is not necessary any longer to have stop-gap measures, our work is now planned, our work is as it were, intelligently relaxed and this has been possible because of the Government's policy on labour, because of the Government's policy on accommodation as already been stated very eloquently by my friend on my right, Mr Xiberras, by the Government's policy on productivity, by the Government's policy on training of apprentices and the retraining of the various grades of tradesmen in Gibraltar. We are expanding our economy, Mr Speaker and Gibraltar to a large extent today can be said to be self sufficient because of these measures. Far be it for me to place myself in a position where I have to praise the Public Works Department but Mr Speaker, one must give credit where credit is due and I think that this year's estimates, the figures we have today, calls for this House I think in a small measure to congratulate the Public Works Department for reasons which I shall say in a moment. The Financial and Development Secretary was able to say that in 1970/71 the Public Works Department left unspent something in the region of £120,000 as unfinished work. One could say with hindsight now that this money unspent was in a way a consequence of the impositions and the influences for the reasons I have stated earlier on. Today, Mr Speaker, I am saying that we must credit the Public Works Department and that it's a great moment for Gibraltar because the Public Works Department originally started with a vote during 1971/72 of something in the order of £700,000 and has finished the year by spending more than £900,000 in extra work and this is a great achievement to have been able to surpass the work which we set out ourselves to do, modestly, and if I recall my words last year, in last year's statement I said that we are catering for what we can reasonably expect to complete during the year. Well, we have finished everything, virtually everything, we set ourselves to do last year, we have spent even more than that and hence this is why I said that it is a great moment for Gibraltar that we are able to expand in this fashion. However, Mr Speaker, I am not yet fully satisfied, there yet remains a lot to be put right and I hope that this year's budget indicates the way that this Government sets itself to go during

last year. I may like to say that on the question of repairs and maintenance, Mr Speaker, the Government this year is making provision for £130,000 worth of maintenance and repairs works for the repairs of Government buildings. This compares Mr Speaker with £71,000 in 1967 and £63,000 in 1968 and £71,000 in 1969. Today we are contemplating spending almost double that amount of work. As if that weren't enough, Mr Speaker, in the context of repairs and maintenance this Government is looking forward to the construction of new houses in the course of the next year and the year coming and we are making an extra provision of no less than £30,000 for the rehabilitation of houses as they become empty, and this is tremendous provision for which we must be very grateful that we find ourselves in a position to meet this expenditure. I am grateful to the Financial Secretary for his help in this direction. On the painting front this year we are allowing £38,000 as against £20,000 in 1967 and £27,000 in 1969. This is again an increase of about £15,000 even from last years provision. Mr Speaker, coupled with the painting of buildings and the idea is that we should improve and enhance the appearance of Gibraltar not only for the benefit of visiting tourists but also for the benefit and the enjoyment of Gibraltarians. Last year I said that any improvements, any painting, any embellishment which took place in Gibraltar should go hand in hand with whatever the Ministry of Defence had to do. I am very glad to say that as a consequence of discussions, as a consequence of attention being paid to these remarks, the Ministry of Defence through the DOE has undertaken a programme as hitherto unknown before in Gibraltar in painting and embellishment of buildings, and this is manifest for all to see today. We are most grateful to the Department of the Environment for the good work that they are doing in Gibraltar in the painting front.

I would have liked the Public Works Department to follow on this and even thought it might be a bit late because I intended to set the example first, we are now in a position this year, all documents being ready, to go out gradually and with good timing for the painting of more and more buildings, in Gibraltar. Only last week we issued out tenders for the painting of King's Bastion. I cannot recall the last time that King's Bastion was painted. We are also issuing tenders for the painting of the Police Barracks, along Willis's Road which will fall in line with the beautification done by the Boy Scouts and the youth clubs, Mr Speaker, coupled with the painting and the work that the DOE has done. We have also the clean city campaign which we have made provision for in this year's estimate something in the region of about £6,000, which includes further embellishments of the unsightly districts in Gibraltar. If the department is expected to do the work which we have set ourselves to do, the department requires to be highly mobilised and centralised. In this respect the department is being centralised and within the next few weeks the depot at Sandpits, the depot at Library Street and the depot in Casemates will all be moved from now on or in the very near future to the Ragged Staff Depot thereby making the department a centralised affair and not a disbanded and dissected affair. To get the department on its feet one requires transport. Mr Speaker, the figure this year for transport is an unprecedented provision of £27,000 for transport for the Public Works Department. Mr Speaker I leave it to the House to see whether this is not in itself a tremendous effort to mobilise the department. This does not include £3,500 for transport for the electricity department. Plant and equipment is also receiving the attention of the Public Works Department and we are providing for £9,000. Last year we provided for £2,300 and this year we are providing for about four times that figure. The £27,000 for motor vehicles trebles the figure for last year, Mr Speaker, a figure which stood last year at £9,000. I hope I am putting fairly clearly to the House, Mr Speaker, the attempt the Public Works Department

is doing to put Gibraltar on a good footing and to help in the little prosperity that the Financial and Development Secretary referred to earlier this morning. I think he was very modest Mr Speaker. On the question of roads we have the problem of cars and parking and the confinement of Gibraltar and therefore the Government is setting itself as one of its priorities the job of tackling the question of roads. And this year, Mr Speaker, we are providing about £108,000 for the upkeep, maintenance, repairs and improvements of roads, and the resurfacing of roads Mr Speaker. We are hoping to take full advantage of an English firm which has come to Gibraltar to do some resurfacing work and we hope to be able to give to this firm sufficient work which will interest them in staying in Gibraltar just a little longer and tackling in Gibraltar possibly in a period of six months, work which has been pending for the past ten years.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Can the Minister say where he is reading from? We are trying to read it in the Estimates. We are asked to vote money and we want to know where they appear in the Estimates before the House. The Financial and Development Secretary at every stage he said anything told us where to find it and that was easy enough.

MON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I am most grateful to the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition for his remarks. I must apologise, I do not have a written set of notes, therefore I am dedicating this little speech to a general proposition of what is the aim of the policy of the Public Works Department, and I am sure I will not rob the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition of going head by head and discussing each item as they arise, and answering any questions developing on any matter which he wishes to raise later on. I thought Mr Speaker that it would be in the interest of the House if I were to give a general proposition of the policy and exposition of the department's intentions for the year, and then they might be in a better position to understand what the Government is doing. I do appreciate Mr Speaker, that I am referring to some items which are annually recurrent. I am referring also to items which are annually non recurrent, and I am also referring to some items which are in the Improvement and Development Fund. But I have a note here, Mr Speaker, where the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition agreed with my friend on my left when he said that it is better to tidy things together and take them together and.....

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Oh, I can explain that. He was referring to one item of £3,500 in respect of a lorry. And I said, just as well you mentioned it in this small thing but to cover the whole spectrum of all the wonderful things that the department is making without reference to the particular vote is a different matter. If he presents a quick picture of everything and then he goes back, I think it is all right. But with respect, Mr Speaker, I think it is a bit confusing to have to listen to so much self praise and yet not to know where we might find the wonders that he is asking us to vote.

MR SPEAKER:

I would like to say that I have been liberal because we are in committee. In your general comments, Mr Caruana, you have gone through three different heads of the

estimates. I have not called you to order because it has not been on a particular item on which we would have required to vote. Now that the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition has raised the matter of course on the question of the vote itself I will most certainly expect the matter to be taken under the right head. Being in Committee I have not interrupted because we have had general comments exclusively and nothing else .

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

I am only asking **the Minister** to tell us where **he** is reading from. If he deals with an item which is non recurrent, if he just says so, he must have a note against it, it makes it easier for us to go up and down.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I am very sorry that the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition is confused with what I thought was a very brief and concise and very to the point exposition of the facts. I thought I would take the matter in the way that I did because virtually every head is triplicated in the other headings. Take roads, for exmaple, we have provision in the Improvement and Development Fund, we have provision in Public Works Non Recurrent, we have provision in the Public Works Annually Recurrent. What best, Mr Speaker at this stage in committtee, to be liberal and be able to say what the department's policy in the broad sense, a general proposition of the thing, and then as the heads come one at a time they will verify what I am saying is correct and there is no question of self praise here, facts speak for themselves, the expenditure for last year are there and the intended expenditure for the following year is also there. So there is no question of self praise, it is a question of giving credit where credit is due, and in this case the credit goes to Gibraltar as a whole.

HON A W SERFATY:

Before we tackle, some of us tackle some of the items in these votes of Public Works, non-recurrent and recurrent, I think it is only fair that we should try and get our facts right. The Minister has said that he is doing much more work in painting of crown properties and maintenance and repair of crown properties that we were doing in 1969. This is not a fact. Prices have gone up so much, that I very much doubt that with the increased sum that we now have we are going to get as much as we were getting 2 or 3 years ago. I mean I think this is most unfair to try and lead us up the garden path like this.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I am very grateful. I will not accept that red herring from the Hon Member opposite. Prices have gone up, no one denies this but there is nonetheless a 50 per cent increase in a year and a half in expenditure and one could substantiate the statement that more work is being carried out by possibly giving a detailed account of all those buildings which are intended to be painted. I think he is referring to the painting programme, Mr Speaker, and therefore it will be seen that there is more work undertaken and therefore more expenditure to be met.

HON A W SERFATY:

I don't want to press the issue too much, Sir, but the Minister said that the expenditure had gone up 50%. We all know that costs have gone up at least 60%, so how can he substantiate that we are doing more work.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I, at this moment, would not venture to substantiate anything of that nature, but could the Hon Member opposite substantiate that costs have gone up 60%?

HON A W SERFATY:

The Minister himself at the last meeting told us that the increased cost of the Glacis Project from £800,000 to £1,300,000 was a 60% increase. That's why I didn't pursue the matter further because it is reasonable that costs have gone up 60%.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I think he has chosen a very bad example. That was a very special case of increased costs for other circumstances....

MR SPEAKER:

We must not deviate from the question before the House which is the head of Expenditure No.11 Public Works Annually Recurrent. We might perhaps debate at a later stage what the increase in the cost of building has gone up by.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I have not quite finished. Do I take it Mr Speaker, that I would be permitted in the Committee Stage to make a general proposition of policy. I was referring to roads and car parking Mr Speaker, and I would not like to disappoint the Hon and Gallant Member opposite and I would like to inform him that the bus stops which are so much awaited are leaving the UK on the 26th April via the North African Line, so apart from having our roads improved we are also going Mr Speaker, to have our bus stops properly constructed as well. It is quite true, Mr Speaker, what the Hon Member opposite said, it is the policy, and it was the policy last year and it will continue to be the policy during the coming year to, as it were, dish out more minor works to contract. I follow two principles here, one is that one finds the private contractor have more flexibility doing the work and secondly, one gives also life to contractors to carry out this work. And I think that by encouraging these people with extra work, we can progress a little faster. On the question of the embellishment side which I referred earlier on the policy of the department is eventually to arrive at a self contained unit which will take care of the parks and gardens and open spaces and be responsible for the further improvements of other beautified areas, and the set up in this department will take more or less the line of the cleansing section, where they have a supervisor. Our intention is to make a case during the course of this year to administration for a Parks and

Garden Supervisor who will be responsible for all this outdoor work. At the moment a lot of money in gardens is supervised by one head gardener which I think is most unfair on that department. The department is growing so much that it calls for something more drastic than this. We have already referred to our beaches, Mr Speaker, and the engagement of the beach supervisor and at the last meeting of this House I made reference to the question of the new life saving system and here again there is an increase in the vote for beaches. On the refuse side enough has been said about the old Destructor, not enough yet has been said about the new one, and I would like to say that on the collection of refuse and on the sweeping of our highways, the productivity deals carried out with the men continues and I must say with satisfaction both from the men's side and from the Management side, and that there has been a general improvement in the standard of collection and in the standard of cleanliness in our streets in recent months. This is indicated by comments received. So here again, Mr Speaker, this department seems to be going well because there is at the moment very little that is upsetting it and very little which is stirring things up. So that when we see things quiet we know that everything is going well. Mr Speaker, having dealt with this I would like to sit down now and give an opportunity to the Opposition to address however and how many questions they wish. I have attempted Mr Speaker, to keep the amount of time I have stood up much shorter than last year, because a general proposition was not made last year and because we took item by item I was forced Mr Speaker, against my better judgement to speak for $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Today I am glad to say it has taken $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour to have given a general proposition on the policy of the Government and I will only be too glad to enlarge on any other matter which might arise.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker, I would like to say thanks twice. First to the Public Works Department for the work they do and secondly to the Hon Minister for keeping it short. Before I deal with individual items, I was rather intrigued by a couple of his remarks, particularly that one about progress forward. Is there any other kind of progress? And secondly he made much play about the work being performed by DOE. He is obviously aware that the uniformed staff of the services now do a two year tour and the people that wield the big stick at DOE, I can assure you, are the services themselves. Then he dealt with some length with the unspent funds in previous years. I haven't a very good memory for some things - at least this is what my wife tells me - but I remember a lot of revotes 1970/71 having to come through last year on work services, that must have been unspent funds. So let us hope that next year we don't get a lot of revotes 1971/72. And finally the contracts. I am glad he has seen the red light now, that putting work out to contract is generally cheaper than directly employed labour because the amount of supervision given by people who are directly concerned is much closer than a big organisation, this is a fact of life. And finally I would like to pass to him on behalf of the League of Canine Friends the gratitude of the dogs for the extra bus shelters he is providing. If I can go on to individual items Mr Speaker, I want to deal first of all with Item No.1 - Painting of Crown Properites. £38,050 as against estimated expenditure last year of £38,320 so this is a continuation of the programme. Not as the foot note (a) says, expansion of programme. It is a continuation of the programme and I would have thought too that it would have been appropriate to put a note (b) there, or is it that these people don't get a cost of living addition, is it just extra work, or is it that people on painting of crown properties don't get cost of living addition? Then I go to page 38 Item 22 - Roads. This gives a figure of £100,000. In fact for the maintenance of roads we are providing £29,000 compared to last years revised estimate of £28,260.

I don't think that is a remarkable increase. Still on page 38 I would like to deal with Item No.26 - Upkeep of Gardens and Open Spaces. Last year the revised estimates amounted to £31,010. This year we are providing for £28,000 only, but there are many gardens springing up all over the place, surely, these will have to be maintained and therefore the cost. One would have expected to see an increase there. Now, dealing with page 39, Item 60 - Pumping. Last year we allowed for £11,150 but the revised estimate is for £10,120 yet it was found necessary to bring two supplementary estimates. Why is this, that we haven't used the full amount? The same remarks apply to 62 - Maintenance of Sewage Pumps, and in that there were two estimates of which one was earlier on in this very meeting Item No.85 of Supplementary No.7. Coming to Item 57 Mr Speaker, Purchase of Water £75,000. The revised estimate for last year was £61,000 but I can only find that we approved Supplementary Estimates because there was no provision made originally amounting to £33,000. Presumably we are going to get further Supplementary Estimates later on the additional £28,000. I was really foxed by these supplementaries particularly at this very meeting when we hadn't used the original estimate. I think there must be some lack of budgetary control somewhere, or some lack of tie-up. I think it is elementary that one should not allow for more money unless you are sure of using it and particularly what you've already got.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, the Hon and Gallant Member opposite started with the word progress and from his position I must say I have not progressed at the moment with what he has remarked. Of course there are revotes from 1 yr to the other. In 1970/71 about £140,000 remained unspent and I said this and I said why and also in 1971/72 I said that the department had spent more than had been estimated and this was something to the tune of £200,000 so there's no doubt that most of it were also revotes of works which remained to be done during 1970, but isn't it all that more creditable to the Public Works Department that they did all the work that they had planned for that year and were able to finish all the work in the same year that they had been unable to do during 1970 which was a most difficult year and of course, Mr Speaker, I would challenge the Hon and Gallant member opposite on this question of putting out work to contract. It was this side who has advocated all along since 1969 of going out to contract. We have not heard this kind of policy from the other side, in fact we have not heard any kind of policy from the other side on this matter or any other matter.

HON A W SERFATY:

Surely the previous Government put out quite a large number of public works to contract. Is the minister trying to say that this is an innovation.

HON M XIBERRAS:

This point has been much discussed in the House, to what extent a difference in amount represents a difference in kind. The Opposition always says that they have done a similar thing before, I think what my Hon Friend the Minister is saying is, and I'm speaking for myself, that as early as the first budget was taken in this House in the life of the present Government, we made it a point because of the withdrawal of Spanish labour, because of the difficulty in maintaining a large directly recruited labour force, because of this, we were

considering putting out even small items to contract and this the Government decided very early on, took a decision in March 1970 and therefore it is a qualitative difference because as the House has seen many items have been put out to contract, and the numbers in the direct employed labour force are much more than they used to be so this amounts to a policy, an important and successful policy.

HON A W SERFATY:

Let us at least establish the fact that there you have Moorish Castle, Laguna, Glacis all given out to contract by the previous Government. Let us establish that fact, at least.

HON M XIBERRAS:

It is quite obvious that these things were done and it is absurd in fact to suggest that Government would be in a position to do the reverse but the doing of this kind of work much smaller, minor work, on almost a recurrent basis is a new policy of this Government. I am glad to see the Opposition agrees with it.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I would remind the Hon Members opposite that when we took over in 1969 and there was work being done in Little Bay that this work was being done by direct labour and that this work through direct labour has worked out very expensive and is very difficult now to make a break and give it out to Contract and hence it is still continuing by direct labour. We, on the other hand, when we have had to do all the demolition etc. have given that out to contract. I will not quibble that the last administration gave things out to contract. Of course they must have given things out to contract but there was a heck of a big labour force which we are trying to keep today to a minimum.

HON M XIBERRAS:

Sir, may I add to this that even though it is advisable to put work out to contract, none the less before anything is put out to contract these days we try to establish to what extent the direct employed labour force is employed and indeed what the level of earnings of the men directly employed is and we have maintained, in fact, the level of earnings of our own workers before giving the work out to contract, none the less the policy of giving out to contract is one which has been initiated by this Government.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

May I also say that this question of whether it is cheaper to do it one way is just the mechanics of the thing and that contracts of works have been done for the services from time immemorial. It may be new to this Government but it is a very old baby as far as the services are concerned.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would like to come out in defence of the officials of the Public Works Department who are working extremely hard and who were faced with tremendous difficulties, even before we took over. That is the loss of a labour force in 24 hours and it is only natural that it will have to take some time for the organisation to come back to normal. I think that this is what the estimate shows now, that gradually we were coming to terms with our labour force and that from hence forward I should say we should see better products coming out of that department and an indication of this happening is the great amounts of money that will be spent this coming year and indeed that has been spent last year and also I think the fact that included in this spending and worked by the same men is the great development programme running into millions of pounds. I think that they deserve our thanks and I cannot associate myself with the remarks made by the Hon and Gallant Gentleman.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

May I remind the House that my very first words on rising was to give thanks to the great work done by the Public Works Department and the Chief Minister's remarks are therefore totally inappropriate.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I'm glad that the Hon and Gallant Member opposite has put his case clearly now. I'm trying to answer now, Mr Speaker, one or two queries which the Hon and Gallant Member opposite has raised and I shall answer them to the best of my ability. He referred to Item 1, where he, no I think it was the Hon Mr Serfaty who referred to the painting of buildings where he said that the revised estimate for 1971/72 was £38,000 and that this year we were only catering for exactly the same amounts of money £38,000. Well, Mr Speaker, the fact is that the approved estimates at the beginning of 1971/72 was a provision for £23,000 for painting and that the Public Works Department was able to do work to the tune of £38,000 by the end of this year. So the coming year we start at the high figure at which we left the previous financial year. We could not possibly with any realism exceed that extravagantly. What remains very clear is that the increase over the approved estimates 1971/72 is £15,000. Now, if the rate of strike during the course of this year is consistent and continues to be the same as last year then I would venture to suggest that the revised estimate 1972/73 at this time next year will be something in the region of about £45,000 if the money is available.

HON A W SERFATY:

I was referring before to what the Minister said that in 1969, £27,000 had been spent on painting whereas this year, this next year we are going to spend £38,000 and all I was trying to say was that we are not going to get any more square yards of walls painted now that were painted in 1969.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the Hon Member walks around he will see and he will notice that much more is being painted now that was being painted then.

HON A W SERFATY:

Nonsense.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

I made that point, that there was only £38,320 in the revised estimate as against £38,050. The comment by the Hon Minister for Works that only £23,000 was provided initially, surely he didn't allow anything for COLA last year at the initial estimates. This came afterwards, and this accounted for a great deal of the increase and it is this very point which has been omitted this year. There is no (b) showing that this year's figure includes an increase due to the COLA.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, a most valuable point to raise and I would like to inform the House that the extent in terms of pounds, shillings and pence which COLA has on this vote is something to the tune of £1,000 so I think the case the Hon and Gallant Member is trying to make does not hold.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

That seems a most remarkable figure out of £38,000. Perhaps this is the cost of living addition to direct labour but does he overlook that contract labour is based on basic wages plus COLA and how much of the work put out to contract, what element of COLA is included in that?

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, the element of COLA which has been allowed here is 30 men by 70p by 50 weeks. If he cares to make that little arithmetic he will arrive at the figure.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Is he really going to tell me that 30 people did £38,000 worth of painting last year?

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, with the exception of the City Hall, which was put out to contract, virtually all of it which was something in the region of £4,000 all of it was done by direct labour.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

When they say; "We are the only people who give contracts", everybody claps. When they say: "We have all done it", everybody claps. This is funny.

HON P J ISOLA:

Could I ask, to come to more mundane matters, under Item 7 - Furniture for Government Offices and Residences, and I notice in the note that this House of Assembly is to be blessed with additional furniture, could the Minister tell us whether it is the House of Assembly or the Department of Labour and Social Security that is to get the lion's share of the additional £4,800. That's one point, that's a small one, but I think it is of interest to members of this House that we are being asked to vote this large sum to know what is the additional furniture that we are to get, if any at all. But I would like to go from that to a point of somewhat more substance and that is that I noticed that for 1972/73 the Government is to spend £50,920 - Item 55, on the operation of the North Front Distillery as opposed to £67,100 that has cost us during 1971/72. In other words some £17,000 less. I also noticed that we are to spend £75,000 in the purchase of water. Am I to gather from that, Mr Speaker, that the North Front Distiller, smarting under a guilty conscience, has decided to ~~cost us~~ **cost us** £17,000 less this year than last or has decided to take rather longer holidays than it did during this year, or what is it, because it is surprising to me that this distiller of which we have heard so much should suddenly for the year 1972/73 take on a new lease of life and cost us £17,000 less. Are we to hope from this that all is now well and that the distiller will be in full operation or are we to suspect something else?

HON J CARUANA:

I'm most grateful to my friend the Hon and Learned Mr Isola for bringing this matter up. It was a question also which the Hon and Gallant Member opposite raised, the question of the water purchased. Yes, I think it's quite true to say this year, Mr Speaker, we have only approved so far the supplementary amount of £33,000 in respect of importation of water for last year and that we still have £28,000 in respect of last year to meet in this House, so I think that one answers the question put from the other side Mr Speaker. I must confess because I cannot hold this back, the purchase and the expenditure of £75,000 of the importation of water is a very disappointing thing for me to have to bring to this House and to have to agree. It is very disappointing because, Mr Speaker, if one were to look at the balance of the potable water account one would see that the deficit for this year is something in the region of £70,000 so, therefore, one could say that if one did not have to import this water there would be no deficit whatsoever in the potable water account and therefore that account would be in a much healthier position than it finds itself today. I think it is only pertinent for me to remind the House that two weeks ago the Government invited tenders from the private sector for the importation of water and we have had a few submissions in and we hope that by using that means we will possibly stick to this kind of figure of £75,000. At the same time I think I announced in the House, Mr Speaker, on the last occasion that a productivity deal had been done with the men at the distiller plant and that this plant had been closed since January 16. If this productivity deal with the men is successful the plant should be able to come back on to line during the middle of April possibly towards the end of April saving a considerable amount of water. It will not reduce the need to import the amount of water that we have planned for but it will save possibly one large tanker in the course of this year. At a very conservative estimate we will still need to import something in the region of about 16,000,000 gallons of fresh water to keep Gibraltar supplied during the summer in spite of the heavy rain we have

had this rain was predicted, it is average rainfall for this time of the month so we are not getting a bonus for this rain. We could do with a little more. I would not like to disappoint the tourists and neither would I like to disappoint this House but it is with very great sadness that we have to provide for this amount of money for the importation of water. Yes, I thought Mr Speaker that the Honourable and Learned Friend on my right would not forget this. The auditorium I think in the House of Assembly is due to be blessed with chairs, I do not know Mr Speaker, quite frankly what proportion is divided between furniture for the Labour and Social Security and what proportion is for the House of Assembly.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Mr Speaker, could I make a general comment for next year's estimates if we're going to have cost of living additions all over the place would we not when we have an increase, know exactly how much is cost of living and then how much is something else, because this provides rather a good blanket for everything. You find nearly everything says cost of living addition. To be specific, Sir, Item 17, Operation of Stores, the increase is £1,200. Is this entirely cost of living addition?

HON J CARUANA:

I would not think so Mr Speaker, this includes cost of living, the increase includes cost of living, so there is some other expenditure in the operation of stores other than cost of living.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Mr Speaker, item 16 Operation of Depot. There is a £7,300 increase. It is obvious that the amount for cost of living addition must be very small. Why are these depots costing so much more to run?

HON J CARUANA:

Last year this item was underestimated and there should be in fact a footnote which says underestimated, because I have a vague recollection that this was the case in the estimates for last year.

Head XI. Public Works Annually Recurrent - was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head XII. Public Works Non-Recurrent

HON A W SERFATY:

Sir may I ask on item 20 - Rehabilitation of Housing Accommodation. I notice that the expenditure this year is going to be £30,000 instead of £5,000 last year. This is a good thing, houses must be rehabilitated but there is one thing I 'd like to ask the Minister. Is he thinking long term on the question

of reconstruction of old properties. You see, Mr Speaker, in three years, two years, four years from now, about 600 people are going to get new flats in Viaduct, 650 families. I think it is the time now to start planning on the reconstruction of old houses. This is a good sign, the expenditure of £30,000 of rehabilitation, but the point I'd like to know is, are we planning ahead now, with sufficient vision, on the reconstruction of old properties, Government properties, and perhaps others in places like Flat Bastion Road and other places? On item 79. This is only a very minor thing. I fail to see why an expenditure of £12,660 should be called a token vote. £12,660 on Item 79. The sea damage to Catlan Bay Road. And on Item 100 - Tourism Departments, I would like a few details on what kind of improvements are going to be carried out that will cost £7,500.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, in the general comments I made earlier on in the House I made referenced to this incredible expenditure of £30,000 since one must look at the figure, that since 1950, since the 1950's only £62,000 has been spent on the rehabilitation of houses and this year the Government through going out to contract etc. will be spending £30,000 on rehabilitation alone, at least this will be the aim of the department this year. I will allow my Hon Friend Mr Xiberras to expound on the housing question later on when I finish answering the two other questions which the Hon Member made. Head 79 - Catalan Bay Road. Why a token vote on such a big figure? Well, Mr Speaker, it could be a very much bigger figure than the one we have allowed for. We are not sure what the extent of the damage is at this stage and we must in the initial stage make a very deep survey and take whatever remedial action is necessary for this year. But it is by no means certain that this will be the figure that it will cost. The damage along the layby in Catlan Bay Road is serious and it could be more expensive so therefore the initial estimate of the department can only be taken at this moment as a token figure to give warning to the House that it might be necessary to come for more money at a later stage. Head 100 - Tourist Department. Improvements £7,500. I would like to mention here that this is in respect of improvements to be done to the Air Terminal and also to improvements, substantial improvements which my friend on my left has been making all along to improve and introduce a complete new system of son et lumiere and other improvements in St Michael's Cave and I think that this will be a very noble thing and very worthy of the greatness of St Michael's Cave.

HON A W SERFATY:

Mr Speaker, have these alteration to the Air Terminal anything to do with the project for the enlargement of the Air Terminal which was discussed here about a year or two ago and the Hon Chief Minister gave me assurances that I would have an opportunity of looking at the plans, because I haven't been shown them.

HON J CARUANA:

Hardly that, Mr Speaker, for £7,500. The kind of discussion which the Hon Friend opposite would like to have on the Air Terminal would involve something in the region of £150,000 which is in fact the reprovision of a completely new Air Terminal with all the ancilliary equipment. No, this includes various modifications including a lean-to or covered way where passengers waiting to have their passports stamped will be protected from inclement weather.

HON A W SERFATY:

Surely Mr Speaker, there will be no question of having a two-tier, two floor part of the airport at this stage without our having an opportunity to oppose it.

HON J CARUANA:

No, Mr Speaker, there is no contemplation of a two-tier air terminal at this moment.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Before we go away from that very item, is there any intention to improve what is the most chaotic part of that airport, the delivery of luggage from the aircraft. Is there any way of improving this?

HON W M ISOLA:

There was some plan sometime ago about having a revolving platform like they have at London Airport, but I'm afraid that when we looked into that the expense was quite high and it would mean really extending the airport, so at present I'm afraid there isn't.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

If I can now deal with individual items, Mr Speaker. Item 55 on page 42 - Protection from Rock falls-Camp Bay and Little Bay. We propose to spend £1,600 of the original estimate of £16,600 and of which only £10,000 has been spent. First of all will this in fact complete the works or, if not, what is intended with the additional £5,000. Is it just an overestimate? Then might we go on to Item No.60 Embellishment - Improvements West Side of Cathedral Square £2,000. Could we have some idea of what is going to cost £2,000? And then an item very much dear to my heart No.66 and 87 together. Will this solve the problem of the sewage disposal at Catlan Bay or is this primarily the cost of the construction there, because the smell at Catlan Bay in summer is quite something, quite atrocious. And finally, since he's got spare items at 81 to 85 on roads, 80-81 for which there's no provision, actual provision, Is it intended to allow for works so that the road from Europa Road to Upper Sandpits Road, Upper Sandpits Area, can be used for vehicular traffic? This would ease a great deal of congestion and then it would be possible to make it one way. At the moment two way traffic is quite chaotic. Also is it the intention to provide for works from the bottom of Witham's Road to the Sandpits Magazine in connection with the new housing development at that area?

HON J CARUANA:

Rock falls Mr Speaker, we hope and here we can only hope that the work at Camp Bay and Little Bay will be completed with this money subject quite naturally to other things which might come to the surface in the course of the year but let us hope that nothing of that nature arises since it could constitute a danger to life. I am grateful to the Hon and Gallant Member opposite

for having mentioned the improvement on the West Side of Cathedral Square, Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. This will provide for a lay by for the bus stop with a pavement so that people who are waiting for the bus in the rain are not on the road and get their feet wet. We provide for the repositioning of the entrance to the childrens playground, a better safer position and repaving part of the area. So that would be a very small but significant improvement in that area. I would also since the Hon and Gallant Member opposite has mentioned Head 60, like to refer to 58 and 59 previously, which I have mentioned in my general proposition earlier on, the general embellishments, we are providing £2,000. At the moment, I could not give a detailed breakdown on what we are hoping to do, but it is a provision that we will have to do things as they arise, odd little things here and there. At Devil's Tower Road last year we provided for £1,000 this year we are providing for £2,000 so I think here again small strides forward are taking place in Devil's Tower Road for those who want to see it. This is also close to my heart, it has been on occasions close to my nose, the sewage at Catalan Bay. For many months now we have taken into account the provision of a new sewage pump at Catalan Bay which we hope will do away with the existing one which in the first instance should not have been placed in the place where it was. Who has heard of a sewage on the ground floor level of a block of flats so we will do away with that one and put in a new one in a distant place and underground and this is why it is a submersible sewage pump which will be underground, possibly even underwater. Item 87 - Taking up and Relaying of Sewer at Catalan Bay and 86 - yes, this is connected with the same thing, it is connected with the new housing scheme at Catalan Bay which everybody can see at last one brick has been placed on top of another for housing. Something very gratifying to see that there are a lot of things which have been started only recently but which should be finished during the course of this year and Catalan Bay is one which should, if everything goes well, be finished by next spring. So the sewage is taken into account there. I will say that there are sewers in Gibraltar under Head 86 - which is related to 87 which have not been looked at since the 1800's and these are going to be looked at for the first time in possibly nearly 200 years, so Mr Speaker here again a question where the Government is not afraid of facing unpleasant tasks. The road at Upper Sandpits and Moorish Castle Road Upper Sandpits, the one which will go past Plata Villa should not incur much expenditure and the one servicing the new housing estate remains to be decided upon but if the Hon Member will wait till we get to the Improvement and Development Fund a reference to which I made earlier on in my general proposition on roads, he will see that there is a provision, a blank provision, for roads in the estimates, in the I & D Fund. So this will be taken into account but I will warn the Hon Member opposite that one will have to look very carefully at the priority on the question of roads when we come to decide which one we are going to tackle first.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker, let us hope that we don't have to have a special bicentenary celebration of the opening of these sewers and secondly, I think he's got the wrong road. When I spoke about the road in Upper Sandpits I meant that piece that comes down from Europa Road almost opposite the Casino to Upper Sandpits House. How this cannot be used by vehicular traffic because there are two great big posts there. If these were taken away the whole of that area could be turned into a one way street. Will he look again at that?

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I think I'm sure that we will look into that matter when the time comes but I have vague recollection that it has been brought up recently and it has not met with general approval, but we will keep that one in view in any case.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

I have a point to ask the Minister on Item 17, the purchase of a beach cleaning machine. Is that machine alone to be towed or has it got its own steam power or something because at £500 it looks rather a good buy. What is it?

HON J CARUANA:

Yes Mr Speaker, this is a petrol driven machine. It is very similar in type and construction to a very wide lawn mower and it is manually operated. It has rotating arms which throw up the dirt on to a wire netting and its Italian made and this is the kind which is used in the beaches in Italy and France as I am advised and we are hoping that this will be a pilot scheme and we will see how it works in our sandy beaches. It will be very labour saving in any event. We have got five men now working in Eastern Beach collecting stuff and this perhaps could reduce at least the time it takes to clean the beach up.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Mr Speaker, I'm a little intrigued on item 53 - Beach 'Nourishment' I'm sure this doesn't mean the leaving of food refuse in the beach as often happens in Summer. It does say dredging. I wonder if this is actually the removal which dredging usually means or some method of increasing the amount of beach possibly by putting large stones etc. or groynes. I would suggest Sir, whether Government has any plans under 79 Sea Damage Catalan Bay Road, once again possibly the answer there is to build up the beach by extending groynes out from either side. The only other point I have, Sir, I would like some details on Item 98, the Improvement to Government Schools.

HON J CARUANA:

Yes Mr Speaker. Beach nourishment dredging. This is a good one. This is one of the small items which one could not possibly make in a general proposition of policy earlier on, but we are hoping to put afloat a sand pump, a small sand pump, which will be placed say for example at Catalan Bay, about 150 yards from the seashore and which will pump up sand through a hose, a long hose, on to the beach thereby if at any time the beach is covered with rocks, or rather than wait for a very big levant to bring the sand back one could possibly assist it through human effort by feeding the beach with sand. The buying of the pump itself will not cost us anything because we have already purchased a sand pump which we ordered last year and included in last year's estimates for dredging the intake of the distiller in North Front and we are hoping, because of the size of the sand pump, to put it afloat on a whaler or a raft of some sort or other and possibly put it to work. It is intended to be also of an experimental nature and if it works it could be very useful. It is an idea that

I think warrants trying because as the Hon Mr Featherstone said earlier on the placing of large pieces of rock in the sea bed is very costly, extremely costly, one must talk in sums of five figures at least if one wants to get anywhere, so this could be the simple way. We have it that this is done in other beaches where they have like a snow plough and the sand is thrown from the sea bottom on to the seashore when no one is present obviously. The question of a groyne under item 79 Catalan Bay sea damage. Yes Mr Speaker, Government has plans for this, in fact the Development and Planning Commission has already considered a paper and proposals on the construction of a groyne somewhere in the vicinity of this damaged wall which ought to save that part of the coastline from the sea action. We have, however, deferred any inclusion of that in here because we are having that part of the exercise investigated by a Dutch firm who are at present in Gibraltar or will be very shortly if they are not here now considering the construction of a little boat bay for the Caleta Palace Hotel, so we are hoping to use their services at the same time and advise us on this matter. Item 98 Government School Improvements, what was the question Mr Speaker?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I will take this opportunity if I may Sir, to bring in another one I had forgotten. What were the improvements envisaged under item 98, is there anything substantial amongst it? And the other one is item 91, Sir, the repairs to Youth Clubs, does this envisage anything that will help the Plater Youth Club to have their own premises?

HON J CARUANA:

Yes Mr Speaker, a very good point. I think we have all made great efforts in making sure that the programme of helping Youth Clubs continues and this is also a round sum which at the moment has not been apportioned to any specific Youth Club but I would venture to suggest that the order of cost in converting the Gorbals which I think is what the Hon Member opposite is referring to, into any suitable promises could certainly not be done for a £1,000. In the state in which that place finds itself it would certainly cost far more than that. This £1,000 is intended to cater for the odd bits and pieces that most of the Youth Clubs call on the Department to do. One of the things is running water for the Youth Club now in Montague Bastion, they've made this request, we've put it in. Another one is patching up of the patio putting tarmac on it, that is also in there and odds and ends which at the moment escape me. The other one I think was Item 91. I think I've dealt with both of them, I Haven't dealt with the school, £2,500. No doubt in the current year we shall have to consider a revote for the £25,000 to £30,000 which the House voted only a couple of months ago for improvements to schools. So this will bring the total up to something in the region of £32,000 for improvements to schools because that money is now committed to the one which this House has voted so that work can proceed and this would be additional to that, so really improvements to school is not £2,500 it will be something in the region of £32,000 taking into account that we only recently voted £30,000.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

Just one item, I noticed that the vote for the maintenance or rather the Medical Department improvements have gone up by £2,000. I still consider that vote rather low when one takes into account the big department we are dealing with. Does that amount include the maintenance of the hospital buildings?

HON J CARUANA:

No, Mr Speaker, it does not include maintenance. These are odd bits and pieces which the Medical Department calls for. It could be a draining Board here, a cupboard there, new hinges etc. However, I would like to say that with the Medical Department a vote of £2,000 is not enough I quite agree, but let me go on to say that when this department requires anything to be done, they get it done. They are not in any way deprived of any improvements that they wish.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

I feel Mr Speaker what the department really requires is a permanent maintenance team of a carpenter, a mason and a painter all the time there, because if one goes through now in the new wing you will find dilapidated walls, flaking paint, loose things and this is not the fault of the Medical Department at all I think its the fault of the lack of a proper system to do the proper maintenance work, otherwise one leaves these odds and ends until they become major works and its all the more expensive and in the meantime the whole thing looks a little bit untidy.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I agree with the Hon Member opposite. This would be the ideal thing to strive for and I think this is something we should try to put right. The hospital is a very large department which requires constant maintenance I believe that one of the present porters is also a handyman and although there are tradesmen there at all times it is not the same. However at present the department finds it very difficult to release on a full time basis any tradesmen for this purpose, so there must be some flexibility, but this I agree would be a desirable thing to strive for.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

I would like to raise one rather important point. The Minister mentioned something about this sand pump and the first thing that occurred to me before he finished was had it not been timed at the intake, if in fact the difficulty about the distiller is the sand that gets through the intake. Has it been successful there and if not is it going to be successful in another place and why hasn't it been successful there, and is it hoped that it will be successful somewhere else?

HON J CARUANA:

What I am saying Mr Speaker is that the pump, the sand pump at the distiller is not required all the time. The sand pump in the distiller is required after

heavy seas, after a heavy levanter when the pump gets into play and cleans up the place, In that respect that sand pump is successful. So what we are hoping to do is to employ this pump fully by having it available when it is required in another place which I think is a reasonable thing to do.

HON A W SERFATY:

On the question of groynes there are two groynes which were erected during the time of the last Government in Eastern Beach which were in a way successful particularly on the southern side. This could be brought to the notice of the Dutch firm previously mentioned by the Minister.

HON J CARUANA:

Yes, we will bring it to their notice.

HON M XIBERRAS:

There's one point I think the Hon Mr Serfaty raised. Well, in fact it is a major point it could be a major point, and that is in view of the fact that Government has now put to the House £30,000 for the rehabilitation of houses this year, is the Government thinking in terms of reconstructing on the site of existing houses. Sir, I think my Hon Friend the Minister for Public Works made a very valid point and that is that first of all the rehabilitation itself is a most praiseworthy thing, I can say this as Minister for Housing, and in terms of the amount of money which has been voted on this occasion as compared to the amount voted up to this occasion, this is really a tremendous stride forward. The idea was already under very active consideration when the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition mentioned this in relation to the census debate in the House and at the time I said that in fact I knew that my colleague had this matter very much under consideration. We are very glad that the Government as a whole has agreed in fact this amount. First of all what do we intend to do with these £30,000? How we intend to use them? We intend to do such things as converting wash-houses, converting wash-houses possibly at Laguna into bed-sitters and things of a kind, putting potable water into houses, toilets, showers; knocking down walls and making bigger rooms where necessary, converting terraces into living accommodation in properties where it is worthwhile doing this. We already have the complete co-operation of the Housing Allocation Committee as to the order of priority in which the work should be tackled. This is most important in indicating that the Government is aware of the need not to allow our present estates to go to rack and ruin and to make the best possible use of existing accommodation. This is a theme on which I have spoken to the House before and this is in a sense a beginning. To move on from there to other more substantial work of reconstruction is a different matter entirely. I think these £30,000 will give people the idea that you don't have to wait for new construction to be able to have a good flat and many people, I think, would be satisfied if they have a shower. If we spend about a £1,000 on each property I think the effect would be quite considerable and satisfiable. Now the building programme of the Government on which my colleague is the expert provides for about 1,100 houses by the time Viaduct is finished, possibly it would be more and I have here a very long speech which I was going to read to the House about housing generally but I shall do this on another occasion and I think that the point is a * valid

one but we should not just build castles in the air to use another analogy, we should be prepared to pay for the improvements which are going to be brought about to the Government's Housing Estates and this leads me to the question of rents and that is that money of this kind is not easily obtainable from HMG. IF we want to build on existing houses HMG does not normally give you this type of money, therefore we must raise the money ourselves and to raise the money what other place to raise it from than rents. Now we must get to the position where rents begin to contribute towards the upkeep and the expansion of our housing estates. Of course in increasing rents one has to bear in mind other things as well. One has to work not only from the amount you would like to have at the end of the day but also from the budget of the ordinary man in the street what he can afford to pay. But because some can afford to pay more or even the majority can afford to pay more whilst the minority cannot, because of that we should shelve a decision on rents completely and therefore the idea of subsidising the tenant rather than the flat must be given concrete expression. Now we are all aware that this is something which Governments tend to shelve because it is not popular to put up the rent to make people pay rates, and things of the kind, but nonetheless if you want to create good accommodation for those people who are underprivileged, the people who have the money to pay must pay more and if we don't do that, if we don't do that then we can build castles in the air in this House but we shall never see a really substantial improvement in such places as Flat Bastion Road and Rosia and other areas. But also apart from that, I think it is important to try to get the private landlord also to better his accommodation. Now this is most important. There are arguments on both sides and there is an inertia problem to be overcome here. One side looks at the other: "He won't pay me enough rent therefore I won't improve my property". "You won't improve my property so why should I pay more rent". And therefore we also consider making some grants to private landlords in order to bring their properties up to scratch and this is an idea which was, in fact, has been under consideration for some time with both my predecessors on this side of the House and at the same time making sure that minimum conditions are observed by private landlords before increases in rent actually take place. Minimum conditions that the house is watertight, that there are showers on baths, that the toilets are there and so on. I don't know to what extent Government would be able to help in this but I can inform the House at this stage that this is something which we have under consideration. When we have launched this part of the programme which is making good the accommodation that we have, then I think we shall have to turn depending on what comes out of rents, to the question of rebuilding and I do hope that if measures come to the House for this purpose that both sides of the House would be at one in supporting this kind of betterment of housing. The very last thing is that if something can be done through building societies effectively to promote better housing, then this too should be examined. There are one or two other ideas which I won't put to the House at this stage but which I shall bring to the notice of the House in a statement at some stage.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Mr Speaker, I would just like an assurance that these improvements that are going to be made with the £30,000 are made to worthwhile properties because it is no use spending money in properties due for demolition in a short while and it is going to keep very bad standards and that it will not be limited to houses that become vacant as a result of reallocation but that the improvements will also be made where possible even when the tenants are there.

HON M XIBERRAS:

I have agreed with my colleague the Hon Mr Caruana as to what balance to give to works considerations and housing considerations in this matter. Generally speaking, we would like to tackle those houses ~~that are~~ nearby because its cheaper to do so in a particular area but at the same time we have only got £30,000 this year so you want to do those houses which would profit from the treatment, to be treated soonest and also for housing reasons, people are crowded and things of the kind. From the Minister of Public Works point of view it would be easier to decant people and to improve the house, but I think that he too will realize and being Housing Minister that this is often very difficult to do and leads for claims that people should stay on in the accommodation they are granted temporarily. We have agreed in fact, that repairs can be carried out whilst the tenants are still there should be carried out.

HON A W SERFATY:

Mr Speaker, one small point and that is that the Minister has spoken of the reconstruction of certain areas. I entirely agree. I do hope the Government doesn't lose sight of the fact that the reconstruction of these areas could very well come under C D & W Schemes.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Mr Speaker, before the Minister answers, perhaps he can answer the two together, would he also consider a scheme whereby tenants who are capable of doing it can have a grant that they can do the work themselves. You do get good carpenters and good plumbers. They could easily put in a bathroom in their own flats.

HON M KIBERRAS:

Sir, first of all, on the C D & W Fund I think it has to be realised that there is a tremendous expenditure on capital works coming and therefore while one is going to get 650 flats at Viaduct over a particular period of time plus all the other housing up to 1,050, again this is a very satisfactory programme for Gibraltar, I would say. I would tend not to pass the buck on this one to HMG. I would tend to think realistically and say to what extent can we start building here and there and I'm always willing to have - I am sure the Minister for Public Works will welcome any kind of financial support from any area - but I think, realistically, we must think in terms of Gibraltar contributing to the building of houses. The other point which is that of providing people with materials to do their own jobs again I think I would pass this on to my colleague the Minister for Public Works.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, my belief is that the Viaduct scheme will be possibly the last of the comprehensive housing developments for many years to come in so far as grants from the United Kingdom are concerned. I have no facts on which to base this argument but it will be very difficult in the future to improve on the Viaduct scheme so I think that whoever might be in Government will be forced to consider very seriously the question of demolishing old sites.

MR SPEAKER:

We are, of course, in committee but we are exclusively debating one item for the expenditure of £30,000 for the rehabilitation of certain properties of Gibraltar. We must not fall again into the temptation of debating the full implications of the expenditure on generalities.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I shall answer the specific question raised by the Hon Mr Featherstone. We shall certainly consider, as we have been doing in the past, a system of making grants to tenants for the improvement of their own buildings. However, this is fraught with many complications and I would say that if one could achieve a system where one could do this easily it would be very a good system but it is fraught with many difficulties.

Head XII. Public Works Non Recurrent was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head XIII. Law Officers - Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Other Charges was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head XIV. House of Assembly - Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Other Charges

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, on this one I think I ought to draw attention to the House that certainly the Government is hopeful that in the not too distant future we may be able to increase the allowances of elected members. I have already in fact written to the Leader of the Opposition and I was hopeful to have had a reply before the estimates, but this has not been possible, since this of course had to be taken in the general context as well of Civil Servants, certain grades of Civil Servants participating in a more direct form of democracy in Gibraltar and perhaps also ensuring that certain grades in the UK employment could also stand for election in Gibraltar. So I thought it was important that I should bring this to the notice of the House as hopefully we shall be introducing Supplementary Estimates later on in the year to cover any extra allowance that the House may decide to grant to elected members.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Mr Speaker, I am sorry that this matter was mentioned in this way ^{because} /first of all the matter about which the Chief Minister has written to me is much wider and this was one of the incidentals, and apart from the fact that I admit that I have had the papers a little longer than I should have had and in fact I have already dictated something for him but I haven't seen it yet, in draft form. I'm sure he will agree there was no indication that he wanted a reply before the estimates

in order to make an inclusion. Whatever happens about allowances I will perfectly understand that if there had been some agreement before the estimates they should have been put here and that would not of itself be any impediment on our side apart, of course, from the principle on which we must reserve the position generally but I am hopeful that the Chief Minister will have a reply, I am not going to say in the very near future because that is used from the other side, not later than a reasonable time.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I hope a reasonable time is not in any way the delay that we used to experience with the previous administration.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

You did not experience any delay because you had nothing to do with it.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that as a member of the community of course I had a lot to do with it.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Well, what were you doing since 1962 that you didn't come and participate with your missionary work and left everything to all the others.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is not necessary to have to stand for election, Mr Speaker, to take an interest in Government or to be at the receiving end of Government.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

You are at the receiving end all right now, and will be more by the time this House finishes its sittings and by the indications already given from the Financial Secretary.

Head XIV. House of Assembly - Other Charges was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head XV. Medical and Public Health - Personal Emoluments.

HON MISS C ANES:

Mr Speaker, on the Personal Emoluments. Item 6 - Visiting Consultants. Hon Members will notice that there has been an increase in this and this has been unavoidable by the department. We could not refuse this increase otherwise than having to do without the consultants. It is a part of the Medical Services to the Department.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

On that particular vote, all I would like to say is that I welcome the appointment of a full time superintendent for the King George V Hospital. We had a part-time one, now we are having one full time and I welcome that.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, one has heard that with regard to the visiting consultants and indeed with the senior staff in the Hospital, one has heard that there is a tendency to deal with fee paying operations and consultations in priority to those who come in under the normal health scheme. I don't know whether it is so or not. I have heard it said that if you pay for your operation or something you are likely to get it sooner than if you don't. And I have heard it said that if you don't there is a tendency to have to wait in the queue for your turn. Can the Minister dispel those rumours or assure us that this sort of thing does not happen?

HON MISS C ANES:

Mr Speaker, Sir, these are the kind of rumours that usually circulate in a community but I have not received any recent complaints at all. Certainly I will investigate the matter and if there is any case I shall bring this to the House for the members' consideration.

Head XV. Medical and Public Health - Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Other Charges

HON MISS C ANES:

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is obvious, no doubt, to the members of the House the amount of money that has to be voted for the Medical Department. It is a department which unfortunately one cannot do without and it is one where the best services that can be available in any community have to be provided for. We try to give the best to those in our community who unfortunately become sick, this is something beyond the control of anyone its a part of nature. The cost of drugs and medicines is something that keeps rising in cost at source and we cannot, I don't think any member of this House, could begrudge the money spent on these items for the welfare of the community or our less fortunate members who have to go to hospital for operations, or have to take certain drugs. There is also the question of sponsored patients. There are more sponsored patients than there were last year but here again I don't think we can cut on that. It is unfortunate that members of our community have to be sent to UK for further treatment. Not all come back to enjoy their life with the rest of us. There is also improvement. Hon Members are aware that most of these items have a little (a) which means cost of living increases and so on and we cannot avoid that. I don't think, Sir, that there is anything else except if any members would like any question answered I will do my best to explain to them any matter which they think is of importance and which necessitates an explanation.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

Mr Speaker, I am not going to be very long, very brief rather. The reason being of course that when one looks at the expenditure under other charges one finds that we are asking to vote practically the same than what we were being asked to vote last year except for the four uncontrollable votes which are provisions, drugs and dressings, laboratory expenses, wages and electricity. Those are the four or five votes which will always bedevil the department and it is very difficult to control if we are going to give the service that is required of a progressive community. We must also take into account in comparing figures with the Medical Department this year with two years or four years ago, that now the department is taking in its stride Public Health too and this of course brings up the annual budget. But there are only two very minor points I would like to question the Minister on and one is No. 30 Contribution towards the Upkeep of City Hall. Is it suffering from a coronary or what? Page 61, Item 30. And the other one is where is the money that was previously charged for Medical Services to members of the staff which has not been provided this year. Where is this money now being charged to? One is number..Item 30, that is, Contribution from the Medical Department towards upkeep of City Hall, and the other one is the last item under subhead 31 which deals with Medical Services to members of the staff. There is no provision this year and I wonder whether this has been transferred somewhere else.

HON MISS C ANES:

Sir, item 30 is part of the contribution towards the upkeep of the City Hall which houses the Laboratory and Public Health Centre. And the item regarding Medical Service to members of the staff, this was a vote which at one time was a City Council vote.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

Mr Speaker, it is very deceiving wording, this contribution to the upkeep of the City Hall, a rather odd way of putting things. I wonder whether it would not be better - I assume that this estimate will be reprinted and corrected - to change the wording from contribution towards the upkeep of the City Hall to contribution towards the particular service that the contribution is being made.

HON MISS C ANES:

Sir, I would look into this and find out.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I should bring to Hon Members' attention the purchase of a new hearse.

HON MISS C ANES:

Mr Speaker, this has been needed because the other hearse which had been in service for quite a number of years was costing more to repair than to purchase a new one and after 10 or 12 years it was reasonable to buy a new hearse.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

I hope that when it is sold second-hand it will be made a condition that they cannot underwrite or put it in competition to the service provided by the Government.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker, we were talking earlier on of a handyman for the hospital to do the odd jobs. I think this could fall very easily under Item 11. Wages - Staff, which covers all trades and all requirements.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

With respect to my friend I did not suggest a handyman and I would not like to ~~see~~ one handyman looking after the whole hospital. I suggested a maintenance team composed of various people. I would not agree to have just one handyman doing the odd jobs. He cannot cope with it.

HON M XIBERRAS:

There are a couple of points that I would like to make here. First is that the Public Health - I hope I am under the right head - the Public Health Inspectors have carried out a very extensive review of housing for which the housing unit is very grateful and, secondly, the creation of two extra posts of Enforcement Officers to deal with Labour from abroad. Both these are of the greatest importance and the work of the department in connection with this is highly worthy of praise.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

There is only one now.

HON M XIBERRAS:

There is one enforcement officer at present and if the two others are like him we shall be very well pleased.

Head XV. Medical and Public Health - Other Charges was agreed to and passed ~~without~~ amendment.

Head XVI. Miscellaneous Services

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, if I may refer to my statement this morning when I dealt very briefly in running through the expenditure heads with this one, and if I may be permitted to draw the attention of Hon Members to the copy of my statement of this morning which I think was circulated I would refer now to the paragraph at the bottom of page 8 of it, if I may. In these summary remarks of mine about this Head I was perhaps, Sir, a little too summary and I would like to put that

matter quite straight. I referred to the major increase in this Head of £30,800 which is in Item 1 - Rate Assessment of Government Buildings and I said that this arises from rate collections from tenants who previously paid direct to the Municipal Department and who now pay through rent books or salaries. In fact I should have qualified that I should have said that that was the explanation in regard to the major part of the £30,800 but in fact to a part of it amounting to £18,950 and this may be seen if Hon Members could bear to turn to page 97 of the estimates and looking down the left hand side estimated income, Item 5, they will see Rates paid through rent £18,950, that is the figure. Now the balance, the difference between that £18,950 and the £30,800 increase on this item is rates on new properties, new Government properties. The contra to this expenditure is, as I said this morning, to be found in Revenue Head X. It is also however, to be found in Revenue Head VI. on page 9 included in Item 2 House Rent £271,900. So that, Sir, this expenditure is twice offset by Revenue, which of course gives the right result that these rates are being credited to the budget. Thank you Sir.

HON I ABECASIS:

Item 17 Honorarium - Catalan Bay Village Council. It was a small sum. Why has it been reduced further?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Yes Sir the year 1970/71 was of course the 15 month period from 1st January 1970 to 31st March 1971.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

This is a very nominal sum which has been there as far as I can remember for 25 or 30 years and though it has no direct link but if proposals are being made about Members' allowance the opportunity could be taken to bring that into a decent figure not a living figure but at least something more than just for buses or taxis that would be required.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think this is a new thing. It used to be for the Headman of Catalan Bay, and this is, perhaps constitutional progress in that now instead of for the Headman it is for the Village Council and no doubt I think, when we do consider the question of allowances for elected members we could include perhaps the Village Council in our discussion and to what extent we are prepared to raise their allowance.

HON A W SERFATY:

Sir, I see there is no cost of living increase on the care of apes. I hope it doesn't mean that their rations are going to be decreased.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker, first of all I would like to deal with Item No.16 and its footnote (i). This is not as comprehensive as it was last year. Can I have the breakdown of that because it is not clear. May I suggest that footnote (i) could be emphasised to show the correct position.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Yes, Sir, certainly. In the approved estimates most certainly Sir.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

What is the breakdown, could we have it, please?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, the breakdown of £6,055 is annual contribution £3,500 and contribution to the Reserve of Officers £2,555.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Am I to understand that there is no grant to the Regiment in addition to that. Those two items only come to £5,555. We are catering for £6,385.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, there are contributions of £50 to the Commanding Officer's Fund; of £50 to the Sports Activities and of £225 to training.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

That makes roughly the allowance. In other words should footnote (1) read - because of that typographical error there - includes £3,500 annual contribution, a contribution towards the cost of Reserve of Officers payable to the Ministry of Defence and grants to the Gibraltar Regiment. Would this be more accurate?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I should say so.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Would I be right then in thinking that grants, similar grants, were paid last year but that no special supplementary estimate was necessary as there were savings on this expenditure, on expenditure on other aspects of this particular item. In other words this is not a new item, it was paid last year.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Yes Sir.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Thank you very much. I'm now dealing with Item 22 on page 53. Does the £1,800 entertainment by Government include any for the Municipal department and, if so, how much? Last year a separate allocation of £750 was made for the Municipal Department. Is that the same this year? Last year's footnote on this same item shows: H.E. the Governor £1,200; Deputy Governor £460; Government £1,050; Municipal Dept. £750; Contingencies £60. What I am after is, has there been change of policy or is it just an omission there?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, the answer is that the contribution which was formerly made to the Municipal Department is now included in the contribution to Government referred to in the footnote.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Formerly there was no contribution at all. The total amount which was voted was earmarked and sub-allotted to these various heads. No question of a contribution at all.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I am sure Sir, the Hon and Gallant Member knows the details of this very much better than I do. I am sorry if my answers are not satisfactory. I will see to it that he is given full information at the first opportunity, if that is agreeable Sir.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

There is a matter of very substantial constitutional importance here - the Chief Minister is in the habit of using the word constitution for anything - and that is that if there has been no change of policy, then it would be much more satisfactory if the allocation should be set out below in order to make sure that Municipal Entertainment is completely free from any political pressure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I rather resent the remark. There is no political pressure whatsoever on Municipal Entertainment. There is a tremendous insinuation in that which I think is really below the dignity of the Hon Leader of the Opposition if I may say so. And as far as this is concerned the reason is that through the amalgamation of the Government of Gibraltar and the City Council it was found necessary to put it all under one Head and I think this is a sensible thing to do but there is no political undertones whatsoever in this change. Nor do I think it is necessary to have it under two Heads, nor will I have it under two Heads.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

It was not under two Heads last year, Mr Speaker, and the Chief Minister need not get so upset, so easily upset, about a matter on which I said that I was sure we all wanted to keep Municipal Entertainment free from political influence and therefore that all that I was asking is, that the note in the estimate should read as it read last year. If there has been no change of policy the merger was there last year but Mr Speaker, I am rather diffident to deal with this matter because you are concerned in another capacity but, surely, there must be a specific amount allotted for the carrying out of the civic duties in this without having to go and I'm not suggesting that this is the need, I'm not suggesting if the Chief Minister will restrain himself before getting up, I am sure he will restrain himself also from unnecessary remarks. But all I am saying is that since it was there last year, since it is apparent that this is more or less the ratio in which the thing was divided before even if it is a different one, we don't mind, but at least if there is a change there must be a good reason. If there is no good reason then there should be no change. As simple as that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, of course there is a very good reason for the change, the Government has taken the place of the City Council and obviously there is absolutely no need to have a head here under Municipal Services. The Mayor is now a member of the Government or a member of this House elected by the House of Assembly and this is the position today. Under the constitution the Mayor is supposed to carry out civic functions not social functions as I see it, and therefore it is to the Government to decide which are the social functions that the Mayor should carry out.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

I am afraid that this Sir raises a very important matter. It is not up to the Government, it is up to the Governor-in-Council to decide the functions of the Mayor and if that is the case we do not want to have in future a Mayor who is subservient to the Government in order to carry out his civic duties without any embarrassment. It is no use laughing, this is very important and if the thing were the other way about you would be making much more of it, but it is important that if the Mayor is going to be free for any pressures there should be an allocation.....

MR SPEAKER:

May I interrupt and say that we are debating an item of expenditure and not the duties or the responsibilities of the Mayor in any manner or form and I think the question before the House just now is whether a particular item of expenditure should be described in one particular way or another, exclusively, and I think we must even though we are in Committee keep ourselves to the question before the House.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I would just like to clear one point and this is a factual point and that is that the Governor-in-Council is the Government. That is part of the Government. So with all due respect I think the Learned Leader of the Opposition is wrong in his submission that the Governor-in-Council is not part of the Government.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

I didn't say that. When they speak of the Government in this House I take it that it is the Government that we have here and not the Governor-in-Council and that therefore that was not a right description. I take your point, Mr Speaker, that this is a matter which is only on the question of the designation. As usual the Chief Minister is very hard ever to accept any suggestion that comes from this side and I will raise it in the general debate.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker, I will now deal with Item No.24, still on page 53. This is financial aid to Cultural and Sporting Societies - £2,600. This is the same as was approved last year and no additional estimate. Under current conditions where the cost of equipment to our sporting associations has risen, is this provision now adequate or should it be increased?

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, I do generally think that this provision is adequate. If I remember correctly about a year ago the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition himself said that there is a limit to how far we can go. Now, if we go back to 1970/71 where we show actual expenditure £3,062 there we find of course that we had £304 which went to the Victoria Stadium Control Board for the maintenance of the stadium alone. Much of that item now comes under another heading, but coming back to the same amount being spent or estimated for 1972/73 as in 1971/72 may I add that I found that even being somewhat liberal with the contributions that we made to the requests received that were fully justified there is still some money left over at this stage and without in any way suggesting that I like to throw money around I do think that I am liberal and in fact - I don't know the exact amount now but a few hundred pounds left over - are being given to those people whom we thought might have fallen short somewhat. If there is a genuine need for any supplementary estimates during the course of the year this will certainly be forthcoming but my experience is that by really being fair and giving the necessary amount to those people who deserve it and not to those clubs who just asked for it, that the amount of £2,600 has been sufficient and I trust it will be sufficient again this year.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

May I go now Mr Speaker to the last item on page 53. Freedom of the City to the Royal Engineers revised estimate 1971/72 £900. Yet this morning we were asked to approve a sum of £3,000 for this service. What is it going to cost £3,000 or £900?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, the actual amount is £3,000.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Is this revised estimate so much in arrear then?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

The expenditure, Sir, did not I think take place very long ago. I don't think that the supplementary estimate can be said to be very much in arrear.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Perhaps I have not made myself clear. The supplementary estimate approved this morning was for £3,000. The Revised Estimate shown here is £900. I am not saying that the supplementary is in arrear but whether the revised estimates 1971/72 is in arrear.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I think that the answer to the question is that the revised estimate was printed some considerable time ago but too recently for it to be altered.

HON A W SERFATY:

Mr Speaker, how long is a considerable time ago because I am not worried about the £3,000 but I am worried about the general study of the estimates of expenditure, particularly of Revenue.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

The answer is three months ago Sir.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, on item 25. This is the contribution to Gibraltar Broadcasting. This morning, Sir, the Hon Financial and Development Secretary commented that under the current agreement with the corporation the Government is required to compensate that body for increases in its expenditure which result from inflation. I trust Sir, the Government takes into account if that body has increased its advertising and is also getting an increased revenue before passing on fully all the expenses as such.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

The answer is yes, Sir.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

Am I right in assuming that if there is an increase of charges of whatever it may be the Government ought to make that good? Or wasn't the agreement that was made with GBC a sort of a fixed piece contract to put it that way, except for certain specific items of equipment.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

The Government contribution is certainly not of a nature of a fixed price contract. There is an understanding with the Corporation that we will review their expenditure. Those expenditures which are clearly due to rising costs and inflation, for these increases we are committed under the agreement to compensate, not for others. And the expenditure of their commitments are looked at closely Sir, in this way.

HON P J ISOLA:

The Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation is after all, as I understand it, 10 or 11 people put there by the Government and given certain instructions and whose duties in practical terms are in fact managed by a private firm which has to make it pay, well this is the understanding I have. The Broadcasting Corporation is just a Board of vulnerable people who give instructions, but the actual running of the station and so forth is in the hands of the managing agents who signed the fixed price contract with the Government. Presumably the Government is not going to pay any more money than it has to I would hope unless it was legally bound to do so. I would hope than since they are doing it I presume they have to do it and they have to pay this additional sum. But I notice that the Financial Secretary in his address to the House this morning links this increase on the part of Government liability towards the corporation with increases in the licence fees and licence charges. I understood him to say that he would be moving in the House later in the proceedings to take the necessary action on licences to cover this increase. This of course Sir, will bring it very close to the public how much they are concerned with the cost of the Broadcasting Services to Gibraltar because increases in cost which the Government has to meet are directly passed on to the public through increase in television licences and so forth. I was wondering, Sir, whether there should not be more greater public control or rather public participation in this enterprise. I am not suggesting the Consumers Association should be represented on the Board of the Broadcasting Corporation, although it might not be a bad idea, but I do suggest that if the public are going to be so intimately connected in the sense that they have got to pay, I would ask Government to consider putting on the Board some ordinary members of the public as opposed to cultured and learned people and so forth, for example, representatives of the union or something like that on the Board because the public which is being made to pay for this and pay for any increases in the Corporation should be more directly connected to it in the type of programme that is produced and so forth. I am not suggesting the Government should undertake this job at all, but I think that this is now costing quite a sizeable sum of money which undoubtedly is well spent, I would suggest to Government that they consider connecting the public up rather more intimately with broadcasting.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I think that this Government is only trying to fulfil a contract which was contracted with the Thompson Television long before we came into office and there is a clause there which says that any extra cost due of course by inflation must be met. We have no option but to do so. Not to comply with.

that clause would mean that we would be breaking the contract and at its best it would mean that perhaps the standard of the programmes would suffer, may be the hours of viewing could be reduced or they could perhaps take us to court legally, so I don't think having examined this and having passed through all the official departments of the Government and looked at the cost with a toothcomb I think the conclusion is that it is fair to meet this extra cost. I think this Government has got no option but to do so. Now one does hope that the commercial side of the undertaking could be more lucrative than it is today and perhaps, in time, they might be in a position to raise the advertising charges balanced of course with the amount of advertising they get. There is no point at all in raising the charges if at the end of the day it is going to be counter productive by bringing in a smaller Revenue. All this I think we have to leave to the management and also to a large extent to the Board. Now as to the Board itself I think it is as impartial as one can think of. I would not like to see the idea of having bodies represented in that board because it would be very, very difficult with all the respect to my Friend to try and get them to be impartial. All of us from time to time feel that we have been let down by the newscasters and perhaps there might be in some cases legitimate reasons to believe so, but one always has of course the right to appeal to the Governor-in-Council who issue directives to the Board. All I can say is that any grievances should be directed perhaps first to the Board itself and if you don't get satisfaction there is always an appeal to the Governor-in-Council. But I would hesitate to change the constitution of the Board at the moment.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

I would like to support the Chief Minister on this matter. Two things are essential. First of all that the Government is satisfied that any increases demanded by the Corporation are justified and they must no doubt present accounts to show their expenditure and once that is done, pay, and ensure that the Corporation is as independent as a body of that nature can be in a small community like Gibraltar. I say that because sometimes people are biased when in fact they get complaints from all sorts then it shows that they are doing their job properly. So this is vital beyond anything that in our free society GBC should be as impartial as we can make it and not by quibbling about small sums, I don't mean that £11,000 is a small sum, but quibbling about whether doing it another way might save a few pounds, might in any way tarnish this independence that from the very beginning we ensured that the corporation had, should in any way be effected.

HON P J ISOLA:

I think the Hon the Chief Minister and the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition have got me wrong. I don't think I mentioned the question of impartiality at all, the thought never entered my mind. On that particular issue of impartiality everybody has their own views, but I wasn't really thinking of that. I was thinking, Mr Speaker, of allowing the viewer to have some say in the sort of programme he gets, that's what I was thinking of. I wasn't thinking of having a corporation that was partial to somebody or another. I was thinking of the viewer, the ordinary member of the public who is after all being asked to pay for this inflated costs whatever they maybe. The other point, now that it has been raised, I wasn't going to raise it in respect of this Sir,

the other point is this question of advertising on the Broadcasting Corporation. I don't know what that means in terms of Revenue, I think it was something like £25,000 a year the last time I saw some figures on that, but I think it is a matter and it should be a matter of some concern to this House that most of that Revenue seems to be raised on cigarette and tobacco advertising which has been banned, as Hon Members know, in the United Kingdom as being hazardous to health, and the money is being raised mainly on that sort of thing. And I wonder whether it is not time for the Government to start considering if necessary running its own corporation, through Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation of course, but taking away the bad side of the advertising. I don't think anybody can like sitting through five minutes of solid advertising every night, and probably the same advertisements every night. I think that it is time that we started having a look as to the improvement of our Broadcasting service in the sense of doing away with the harmful sort of advertising i.e. cigarettes, smoking, health hazards and so forth, and doing away with too much advertising limiting it to only a particular period of time as is done, I think, by the independent television authority and the House if necessary from public funds making up the difference because I think this would result in a better and more efficient Broadcasting service to the public in those times when that is all they can look forward to for entertainment in the evening. I just throw that out as a thought since it has been mentioned, Mr Speaker, but on the other point I do think that if the public is going to be asked to pay for increased costs in this very direct manner through increased licences and radio I think there ought to be an attempt to get representation of a bigger cross section of the public in the sort of programme that they would like to have on television.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I'm glad that the Hon Member has clarified the point, the only reason why I have

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker on a point of order. I'm not clarifying anything, I have said that I never mentioned the question of impartiality. Don't make me say what I have not said. I mentioned the reasons why I raised this. I am not making any statement as to my own personal views on the impartiality of the corporation because I think it would neither be right or proper for me to say so in this House.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I'm very glad for that, Mr Speaker, I obviously misunderstood one part of what he said that is his suggestion that we should have a member of the trades union in it. This is why I draw attention to the question of impartiality that that might give the impression that it was not impartial. The other point he has now brought out in the wider argument. I think the Government is always open to suggestions from any quarter and very particularly from this House and perhaps the time has come when we should have a look. After all it has been functioning for some time. There are legitimate complaints. Perhaps the time may have come when we should have a look and see it should not only be impartial but appear to be impartial more than it is today.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Mr Speaker, I think perhaps some members may have overlooked the fact that there is a programme which deals with consumer likes and dislikes.

MR SPEAKER:

Again I think we are departing from the point before the House. We mustn't discuss the potential of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation on an item of the estimates expenditure.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Mr Speaker, in order to show our dissatisfaction at the replies of the Chief Minister on the Official Entertainment vote I move that the vote be reduced by £1.

MR SPEAKER:

I understand that you are proposing an amendment to this vote. Could I have the amendment in writing, please.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

That under Item 22 of Miscellaneous Services Head XVI, the item on official entertainment, the estimate of £3,500 be reduced by £1 to £3,499.

MR SPEAKER:

I will have to have an amendment in writing. The amendment will have to be that the total vote should be reduced by the alteration of any particular item by whatever amount you feel that you should do so.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

If Mr Speaker will give me three minutes I will do so.

MR SPEAKER:

The amendment being proposed by the Hon the Leader of the Opposition, reads as follows: "Head XVI. Miscellaneous Services. That subhead 22 Official Entertainment be reduced to £3,499 and that the vote of the total head be reduced by £1 to £361,509. That is the question before the House, the debate may now ensue on the matter if any Hon Member wishes to speak on it. I am now proposing this amendment.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Mr Speaker, I don't want to repeat or elaborate. I think in the exchanges we had earlier on I think the difference has been shown as clear as day. It was this Government that at the taking of office made it a point to say that the post of Mayor which had to be from one of the Members of this House should be made completely outside of politics by appointing the then Speaker.....

MR SPEAKER:

May I say that we are debating an amendment to a vote. We must not in any manner or form fall again into the temptation of going into extraneous matters.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Mr Speaker, it is essential to say why we are not satisfied with the answer given by the Government and that is because they themselves said that the post of Mayor should be outside political influences and your late predecessor was appointed and then yourself, Mr Speaker, as Mayor. Now the point is that nothing that has arisen out of the merger because last year's estimates did not show any change and at page 43 of the approved estimates for last year, the note at the bottom said what this one said except that after the reference to Government £1,800, it said Government £1,050, Municipal Department £750, Contingencies £90. Now, Mr Speaker, the point is very simple. The Mayor has got to carry out certain functions and they are defined as I understand it according to the constitution in writing set out by the Governor-in-Council and this is the charter for the responsibilities and civic duties of the Mayor.

Now the Mayor

must carry out those civic duties in the way that he thinks best having regard to his position as the civic head of the City. If in fact he has very little money he just has to make do with that because that is all the House votes for him and he will have to either do that or put it out of his own pocket or not have any receptions or any functions. Fair enough, but if in fact he has to carry out some duties I think it is only fair that he should know what amount of money he has available to carry out that duty. No doubt if he was given insufficient or unreasonably insufficient funds he could make representations which the Governor-in-Council could consider as to whether he was right or wrong. That is another matter or whether the Government could bring it to the House to vote it, which is ultimately the result of what we are here for and what this House is all about. But it is essential in my view, whether political or not it doesn't matter, it is essential in my view that the functions in Municipal Entertainment, the civic functions, should be allotted certain funds in order to carry them out so that the Mayor hasn't got to be cap in hand going to the Government asking: "May I have this reception "or" may I have £35 for that, £45 for that or £100 or £150". Anything very special and very expensive such as we had the other day, we voted the money we haven't said a word we voted £3,000 for the Bicentenary Celebrations, no doubt part of that is included in some of the civic duties that were performed by the Mayor in that respect but I think it is essential that it be £750, be it £500 be it £250, that the Mayor should start his financial year knowing exactly what amount of money he has for his official entertainment so that he can decide what is the best way of administering such amount as may be voted by this House. In the way it has been done it is left entirely in the hands of the Government to decide how much money is allocated to the Mayor for Municipal Entertainment. This I think is contrary to the spirit and to the way in which the civic head of Gibraltar should carry out his duties. And in order to show our dissatisfaction I move that the vote be reduced by £1 in order that it will be known that we are not satisfied with the way the Government has dealt with this matter and we can only show our dissatisfaction by making a token reduction.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I think that there is a certain amount of confusion if the Hon Leader of the Opposition thinks that there has been any ulterior motive for changing the whole thing. The fact is that there is a lot of entertainment going on in Gibraltar in which we must all at one time or another act as host because if we are to be considered hospitable by visitors to Gibraltar this is necessary and inevitable. And the object is not to go and have another party as has been suggested on a number of occasions by the opposite side, but only to act hospitably to friends of Gibraltar who come to visit us. As to the functions of the Mayor, I think I ought to make it quite clear that the functions are civic functions, nothing to do with social functions. However, I think that certainly the Government side agree and support the Mayor holding civic functions and, indeed I wouldn't like to go into figures but as an individual of the House of Assembly he probably at this stage carries the higher proportion of the spending. It would therefore not be in the interest of anybody to try and limit the Mayor to any particular sum but leave it as it should be to the elected members of the Government - after all it used to be that way in the City Council - to limit to the elected members of the Government to decide which are the social functions that he should perform. In practice usually most of the Regiments that come to Gibraltar and go from Gibraltar are hosted by the Mayor and I think that in most cases this side of the House have supported and will always support functions that are of a civic nature to be carried out by the Mayor. Now, the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition started by saying that it was I who suggested that the Mayor should be an independent member of this House and so you see that there cannot be any ulterior motive behind me, in changing the actual designation of the fund. It so happens that in practice it is much more flexible to have it this way than the other way. In any case the Municipal money before used to be spent for other functions other than Mayor so it doesn't follow that because there's been a change of designation there has been a change of attitude at all, that I can guarantee. But it proves my point by the fact that it was me who suggested that he should be an independent member. If I remember rightly and it is in writing it was you who suggested that he should not be an independent member or at least that you did not necessarily agree. And furthermore when the Mayor was elected in this House you said you voted for him because you rather see him than a member of the Government as Mayor. So you see when you talk about the independence of the Mayor, I feel sometimes it is all hollow because if the Mayor was a member of this side of the Government you should respect him just as much, but you don't. And so, Mr Speaker, this side of the House will have to vote against the amendment because we see no sincerity at all in the proposition.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, can I offer some constructive suggestions on this. I can't quite see the argument in the Opposition side to divide this vote. As I see the vote before the Government and Municipal Department, as I understand it the Municipal Department is a department for which my Learned and Honourable Brother the Minister for Tourism and Municipal Services is responsible. I think the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition should remember that the Mayor that emerged after 1969, quite apart from being a different person, was also a very different animal, because the Mayor that we have in Gibraltar today is a creature of the Constitution of 1969 and there it is laid down quite clearly what person elected to the office of Mayor should be. "78(2) - Shall hold office

upon such terms and conditions and shall perform such functions (being ceremonial functions of a civic character) **as may be determined by** the Governor acting after consultation with the Gibraltar Council." So quite apart of what we would like or each side of the House would like the Mayor to be or to do, his authority or his standing arrives from Section 78 of the Constitution and from nowhere else. The Constitution has not vested him with a department, in fact has not vested him with anything at all, unfortunately. I think you, Mr Speaker, as Speaker have a much vaster staff than the Mayor has and I'm sure you are grateful for that, but it does seem to me that there is an attempt here to produce an issue where I don't think it exists. As I understand it I have been entertained royally by Ministers and by the Mayor. I don't know who entertains better let me say I enjoy them all very much, but I certainly can't discard any reluctance on the part of the Government or indeed on the part of the Opposition to reduce the official entertainment vote so may I suggest in a constructive spirit that we all continue to enjoy this official entertainment and not try and show dissension where it doesn't exist or create problems where they ought not to exist.

HON L DEVINCENZI:

Mr Speaker, may I say a few words on this one. I will not go into the constitutional side of the Mayor. Perhaps if I may say so this must be perhaps a source of embarrassment to you that this should be gone into at length, I hope it isn't. Anyhow it is strange that whilst we have been questioned on why this **vote** has not been increased, I've just been asked about the financial aid to Cultural and Sporting Societies and others. We find that on the entertainment side this has not been increased for some time and it doesn't occur to the opposition to enquire why in spite of increasing costs and of more entertainment which has to be done by the nature of things that they should not perhaps suggest how about increasing the Entertainment vote, perhaps by £1, as a gesture of their good will. Perhaps there is no good will.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

I think that is rather surprising since the estimate shows quite clearly that there has been a decrease of £50. Why should we ask if there should be an increase? The estimate shows £3,500 this year. Approved estimate, £3,550 last year. So there is in fact, a decrease. Why should we want to increase? I think the point at issue here and I raised this point and I certainly did not expect it to develop into this - was merely why we were being deprived of certain information. These footnotes have nothing to do with the figures of the estimate, they are just explanatory notes and all I wanted to know was what amount had been set aside for the Municipal Services. If they have changed there policy then I think we should have been told of this. And this is the only reason why the question was asked, there was no question of insinuation whether one gets better entertainment than the other or anything else. I was merely after information and that I think was my original question.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, I owe the House a comment in respect of my responsibility for the drawing up and drafting of the estimates and so I can assure the House that there was nothing deeper in the amendment that we made than to reflect my understanding that the term Municipal Department that we used last year was no longer appropriate.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Honourable and Gallant Member said that the vote had been reduced. Well, it hasn't been reduced. What happened was that 1971/72 was a five quarter year

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, the Chief Minister as Harold Macmillan said of the Russians, once he has got an idea in his head he deals with it like a dog with a bone. He won't surrender one little bit of it if any of it is in any way to his advantage. On this issue Sir, he was very vociferous against his friend the Hon Mr Peter Isola that Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation should not only.....

MR SPEAKER:

We must stick to the question.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

It is to the question Sir, that it should be completely apolitical and should be seen to be. Here Sir, is exactly the same opportunity with the Office of Mayor. Obviously from what the Hon Financial and Development Secretary has said, this was not done by him with any misintention. It simply was put to him that the Municipal Department was now part of the Government and he accepted it as such. I will not apologise for him, Sir, he can do that very well on his own but we must accept he is rather new in Gibraltar. He possibly hasn't understood all the ramifications that the merger has brought about. He possibly hasn't followed completely that the merger, in merging with Municipal Department did bring about the office of Mayor as something absolutely new. If, Sir, it is not unreasonable for the Chief Minister to accept that the Deputy Governor can have a vote of his own, how then can it be so unreasonable that the Mayor, another important person in our life.....

MR SPEAKER:

I must call your attention to the fact that we are not discussing whether the Mayor should have a vote of his own. We are discussing whether one particular item in the estimates should be defined in a particular way.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Then, Sir, that the Municipal Department as such can continue to have a vote as it used to before. This desire to merge, this desire to swamp anything that had to do with the Municipal Department is something very much evinced by Government although not by the public. It is astonishing Sir that even today when people go and pay their electricity they say: "I'm going to pay the City Council" not "I am going to pay the Chief Minister or the Government". There would be no difficulty, Sir, in the Chief Minister giving way for once, I know it is not a thing he usually does, and revert to the wording we have had before, Sir. I cannot see any reason whatsoever why we could not return to the wording of last year. If he will not do this then we must ask for the £1 reduction.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, I think it is a little impertinent on my part, perhaps, to speak at all but I do so only reluctantly on this motion, Sir. Reluctant, because as Hon Members will be aware, when the Mayor is elected my Hon Friend the Financial and Development Secretary and I do not vote on the matter of his election. So by this means the office of Mayor is kept remote from any official expression of opinion. But there is one point Sir, on which I think I shall have to request a ruling from you. Section 44(1) of the constitution has a proviso, which says: "The ex officio members of the Assembly shall not vote on any motion that in the opinion of the Speaker or other person presiding in the Assembly is a motion of confidence or of no confidence in the Council of Ministers or of any individual minister". And I feel constrained to draw your attention to that, Sir, by reason of the peculiar status of the ex officio members in relation to the office of Mayor.

MR SPEAKER:

I have no hesitation in ruling on this one to the extent that the ex officio members do have a vote because we are exclusively voting on an amendment to the complete vote of the estimates of expenditure exclusively and nothing to do with the office of Mayor.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, two good points were made from the other side. The first was the observation by the Hon and Gallant Member opposite that in fact the official entertainments vote for 1972/73 had been decreased in this estimate by £50. They are asking us to reduce it by £1 and I wonder with what motive and what reasons. The whole thing to me, the whole thing to me sounds absolutely absurd and reeking with political undertones and since it is of a political nature as I see it, I venture to say that how can one get more political than this by the Opposition since I wonder how many elections were won through the official entertainments vote of Mayor when he, the Learned Leader of the Opposition was both Mayor and Chief Minister.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

On a point of order Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

The point of order being?

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

That the Hon Minister in speaking is trying to throw an aspersion of having obtained votes improperly through entertainment and this is a charge which I resent very much and I would ask you Mr Speaker, to ask him to withdraw that suggestion.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, it is well known that at official functions a lot of photographs are taken and it is an absolute given opportunity that at these receptions people pose for photographs and what **have you** and in this context I think that a good public relations exercise can be carried out as I am sure that it was carried out in those days. Well there was no other motive except that Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

Order.

HON J CARUANA:

Mr Speaker, I will withdraw that.

HON M XIBERRAS:

Mr Speaker, I think that if there had been specific mention of the Mayor in last year's estimates and if there had been a vote for the Mayor specifically and if the Government had said that this specific vote for the Mayor should be changed and should be put into a general vote, there might have been some foundation for the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition to come up with the idea that the Government was trying to make it appear that the Mayor was under the thumb of the Government. Sir, the point I make, even through the interruptions, is that in last year's estimates the Mayor is not mentioned. It is the Municipal Department that is mentioned and the Municipal Department as I see it, is run for the moment by our Hon and Learned Friend the Minister for Tourism and Municipal Services. Furthermore Sir, if the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition is prepared to accept just for the moment that there is no mention of the word Mayor on page 43 of last year's estimates - I hope that he is willing to accept this - and that in the practice the vote was specifically that of my Hon and Learned Friend the Minister for Municipal Services. Sir, I shall read out on page 43: "His Excellency the Governor £1200, Deputy Governor £460, Government £1050; Municipal Department £750, Contingencies £90." Now if the Hon Mr Abecasis wishes to shake his head about something else then of course but if he implies that this is not the case - I see he is now consulting his book - perhaps he will agree. In any case Sir, we also have a statement by my Hon Friend the Financial and Development Secretary that this was done as I interpreted what he said without any knowledge or prompting of the elected members of this side and simply as a tidying-up exercise by, if I may call them so, the Treasury. They put this together. Therefore if there is anybody who should feel aggrieved about this it should be my Hon and Learned Friend the Minister for Municipal Services. But my Hon and Learned Friend the Minister for Municipal Services has not yet spoken on the motion and I doubt very much whether in fact he feels that he is being pressured not to give as much entertainment as he would like to. I think, Sir, as I understand this, that in fact the functions which are held by the Mayor can be paid out of the entertainment vote generally and if this is the case, and I see no one contradicting me, then, Sir, what this side of the House resents is the dragging in of a political issue totally without notice on this matter which has really no bearing on the question of the Mayor. Nor, Sir, if this side were to accept the contention of the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition will this help the Mayor because the argument is that we should retain the

subheading of Municipal Services. We have had no proposition that the subheading should include the word Mayor, and I think it is clear as daylight that this is simply opportunism for something that most by lying in the mind, capacious mind, of the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition. Because to smell a rat when it is not sensible or even sane to smell a rat, I think is more than this House should take. Sir, if the proposition had been, straight away, that the wording should be changed in any way then fair enough, let the matter be considered in this way and let the issue be debated at the proper time when one is free to discuss the issue freely. But in fact it is brought out, out of the blue. The motion will give no indication of what the issue that may or may not be in ~~the~~ the mind of the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition is, and what we have is dissent on the entertainment vote by the Opposition. Well, Sir, that is misleading if I may say so, to the public and misleading to the House. Sir, I think that it is obviously not the £1 that is at stake and this may sound a naive statement to make in this House, and I'm sure it is a naive statement. But I hope that this is also the feeling that the public at large will get. It is not a question of the £1. If there is another point to be made then let the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition come forward clearly and put in a motion at the appropriate time to the effect that he thinks that the Government is pressuring the Mayor on social functions. But let him not make an amendment of £1 down as my Hon Friend Mr Devincenzi has stated rather than £1 up. So I cannot see, Sir, how this side of the House in rejecting entirely what the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition has to say, can reject the amendment just the same as the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition suggested the amendment in the first place because he did not like the Chief Minister's answer.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

On a point of clarification, Mr Speaker. Is it that the Hon Minister for Municipal Services was not a part of the Government last year?

HON M XIBERRAS:

A direct question has been asked of me by the Hon and Gallant Member opposite but perhaps he could make the question and I shall reply to it.

MR SPEAKER:

I am ruling that it is not a point of clarification.

HON A W SERFATY:

Mr Speaker, is it not a bit of a red herring to bring the Hon Minister for Tourism and Municipal Services into this? The Minister for Municipal Services and Tourism who entertains on the Tourist side and not as a Mayor has a vote here of over £4,000 for entertainment. So I think it's bit of a red herring to bring this gentleman into it.

HON W M ISOLA:

It is extraordinary Mr Speaker, that Mr Serfaty should talk about £4,000. It is correct, but does he recollect that in 1969 he had £4,500?

HON A W SERFATY:

We shall discuss that matter later on.

HON W M ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, since my name has been mentioned about Municipal Services, I sort of feel I should really come to light and show that I'm alive and well.

Surely the position was originally that the Government had an entertainment vote, the City Council had also an entertainment vote. When the 1969 Constitution came along the question of functions of the City Council ceased to exist, and the functions of the City Council were then taken up by the Minister for Municipal Services. The Mayor became solely a figure-head whose responsibilities we have already heard about today and there is no need to talk about it again. Quite rightly, when the Council and the Government merged, there was no point for a separate vote for the Minister for Municipal Services as such, because the entertainment that the City Council was at that time doing was taken over, not merely by the Minister for Municipal Services, but by the Minister for Labour and various other Ministers. Now, I would agree that if on this particular heading it had said that it was a particular vote for the Mayor, and then we were taking it away and putting it for the use of Government, I think I would go a long way with what the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition has said. But that is not the fact, what is actually happening is that before it was the City Council, then it became Municipal Services, and we said there is no point in having a Municipal Vote as such - which was really the old City Council - and the Government vote. Let us have that one vote together and that is what has been done, and I assume, should be continued to be done. I won't talk about my Minister for Tourism's vote, at this stage.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO:

I cannot follow the arguments from the other side. They talk about one having merged, now the Municipal Department or the City Council or the Municipality as such disappears. This is no argument why we should not have here an indication of what the Municipal Department is spending in this particular field. After all if one looks at the estimates you will find towards the end that we've got the notional accounts of the Municipal Department, and following that particular procedure, I don't see any reason why, in the same way they spelt out how that money is being spent on entertainment. After all, one assumes that up to a point the Governor or the Governor in Council is part of the Government, he is described as such in the footnote of this particular page, so I see no reason why. There is nothing sinister in our request why the people shouldn't know how much this Municipal Department is spending on entertainment. I don't see any reason why it shouldn't. After all, as I said before, the notional account of the Council is spelt out in detail towards the end of the estimate.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Mr Speaker, I will reply briefly just one or two points. In the first place the Chief Minister was wrong in his statement to say that this was done before in the City Council. The entertainment vote of the City Council was statutory, was provided for in the City Council Ordinance, and stood at something like

£350 or £400 from 1920 or 1921. Then it was increased with the increased responsibility of the Council. In fact accounts will show that they were scarcely touched and certainly never reached anything like the full amount. It was statutory provision and there it was, and the Council empowered to draw on that up to the extent of the amount provided in the statute, so in that respect it is not exactly the same. What has happened was that this £750 was taken over and put into the Estimates and I accept fully the explanation given by the Hon Financial and Development Secretary insofar as he was concerned. But having regard to the answers given when I first requested that this matter be replaced as it was before, I am sorry to say that I have no trust or confidence in the bona fides of the Government in this respect. The Chief Minister may doubt my sincerity, I doubt his, and therefore I cannot accept what he said at all.

Now, it is true that the vote said Municipal Department and it is true that there is a Minister for Municipal Services. It is equally true that there would be nothing wrong if that was allotted like that, the part of the functions carried out by the Minister for Municipal Services, the Minister for Municipal Services could also draw on that amount if that was allocated, whatever he may do with the amount of money that he voted for on the Tourist side purely from the promotional side of tourism.

Insofar that the Hon Minister for Public Works should see undertones and so on because there is a reduction of £1 I can understand, but I really cannot understand why the Minister of Labour should feel that way. That I should have voted without notice; well, surely, this is the essence of parliamentary procedure, to avail yourself of the rules as they are, in order to make the best in debating basic matters. And if I say £1, it is because it is notional; I said so at the beginning this is to show our dissatisfaction. We know that even if the vote was carried that was not going to bring the Government down; God forbid that, on this issue; and we know that in any case, even if it was carried, the Government could also come to the House for the provision of additional expenditure of £1 during the course of the year. Somewhere around some corner or other, allotted to something else, can easily be arranged and so on. Really it is just a matter of making a point, and if in doing this we have lost a little time I think it's quite healthy that people should know that the budget is the time for reckoning, and that anything is important if the House considers it important, or if part of the House, under the rules, can make it look important. This is the object of the exercise, we have voted all the money that the Government has asked us to vote since half past ten this morning but now we feel that it is important that we should show our dissatisfaction.

Before I finish I would like to answer just one question put by the Hon the Minister for Education who suggested that I should move an increase in the entertainment vote. To be quite frank I don't consider it necessary, but if the Government does, because of the wide use that they make of entertainment generally, despite the statements made in the course of the elections about the previous Government having too many parties - which is well known in places of Gibraltar now - and they want to they will have to justify it productivity wise and so on, and we will consider it. But no increase in expenditure, may I also remind the Hon Minister, no increase in expenditure can emanate from this part of the House. That is the privilege of the Government and far be it for us to suggest to the Government that they should have more parties.

Mr Speaker then put the question in the terms of the motion proposed by the Hon Leader of the Opposition.

On a vote being taken the following Hon Members voted in favour:

The Hon Sir Joshua Hassan
The Hon A W Serfaty
The Hon A P Montegriffo
The Hon E J Alvarez
The Hon M K Featherstone
The Hon I Abecasis
The Hon Lt Col J L Hoare

The following Hon Members voted against:

The Hon Major R J Peliza
The Hon M Xiberras
The Hon Major A J Gache
The Hon J Caruana
The Hon W M Isola
The Hon Miss C Anes
The Hon L Devincenzi
The Hon R H Hickling
The Hon A Mackay
The Hon P J Isola

The motion was accordingly defeated.

Head XVI. Miscellaneous Services was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head XVII. Pensions was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head XVIII. Police

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

On a question of elucidation, please, Mr Speaker. Item 12. Traffic Control footnote (f). "Additional work to be carried out in two parking sites." Why should this be charged to the Police Head.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I understand that this refers to marking of roads for traffic control.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

Is that additional work? I thought that was normal work. They're doing this all the time.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, the marking of roads is charged to this vote and the footnote explains that additional work is carried out in two new parking sites.

HON LT COL J L HOARE:

That means that the word work means "construction work" not just painting of road.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I beg your pardon. I apologise for the loose wording Sir of the footnote.

Head XVIII. Police was agreed to and passed without amendment.

Head XIX. Port - Personal Emoluments

HON MAJOR A J GACHE:

Mr Speaker, I would like to make some remarks and comments on some of the sub-heads and I might start with subhead 10.

Admiralty Rent and Berthing Charges of £18,250. This is made up of rent of £15,000 and Berthing Fees of £3,250. Insofar as the rent is concerned we have been seeking a review - and in fact it was due for review and I have mentioned it before the House - from the 1 January 1970. We hope that this will be reduced to something in the region of £11,000 which will give us a refund of something like £12,000. The House may rest assured that we have been pressing this matter, in fact I have been pressing it now for the last two years, and when these Estimates of Expenditure came up we stressed it again and my Hon Friend the Financial and Development Secretary sent telegrams, held discussions, conversations and so forth to try and get some answer from the Ministry of Defence. We had hoped to have been able to inform the House that the Ministry of Defence had agreed to the reduction and we would have then had something like £8,000 refunded. Of course this has gone down by £4,000 too making in all £12,000 on credit. However, this has not been possible and we shall continue pressing nevertheless.

The other big item is the installation of the new lighting columns at the Western Arm. The installation and maintenance of lighting at the Western Arm is carried out by the Department of the Environment on a repayment basis. As long ago as 1969 it was intended to renew the deteriorated wiring of the street lighting in this area but owing to the withdrawal of Spanish labour this scheme was postponed. Now that it is possible to proceed with the necessary renovation it is considered impracticable to just merely rewire the area in view of the substandard lighting which currently exists. As you know the area is used extensively by tourists embarking and disembarking from ships

and by the public in general and it is necessary, in view of the public amenity, to proceed with this. This is why we have got these £2,500.

The next item, which is a very new item, in the port is subhead 15: the promotion of Cruises Conferences etc., of £9,500. Mr Speaker, this is indeed a new subhead in the Port, and in asking the House to approve the Expenditure of £9,500 I am only too conscious that what I am seeking authority to spend is public money, quite a lot of it as far as I am concerned. Later on in this meeting, after the House has voted expenditure on the Estimates, the Financial and Development Secretary will announce measures so that the estimated expenditure is covered by estimated revenue, and later still he will be presenting a Bill the 1972/73 Appropriation Bill 1972, which appropriates the money to specific heads. "Appropriation" means that money granted shall be so spent, that at any time during the financial year

1. no money shall have been spent for any purpose in excess of the amount granted for that purpose by a Bill, and
2. no money shall have been spent on any purpose which has not been authorized by a Resolution of the House of Assembly (Campion 3rd Edition, page 261)

I would go further than this. In my opinion, it is not sufficient that money voted is kept within its ceiling, but that it is our duty to question whether the money need be spent at all, and then when it is spent whether the results achieved justified the expenditure in the first place. It is for these reasons that I wish to report fully to the House why and how I wish to spend this money.

On 19th November Mr Speaker on the advice of the Chief Minister, His Excellency the Governor designated me Minister for Commercial Economic Development with continued responsibilities for the Port, Trade and Industries including Cruise Liners, Conferences, Seminars and Special Trade Promotion.

The main objectives in the promotion, advertising and selling of Gibraltar for Cruises, Conferences, Group Incentives, Special Trade promotions, Regimental reunions and other group activities are seen by me as follows:

- to increase awareness of Gibraltar as a conference or meeting centre amongst all potential users;
- to sell Gibraltar conference and group travel facilities and amenities to prime potential users;
- to increase traffic of visitors to Gibraltar, particularly during the shoulder months - October to April, the quietest time of the year. This is help the Hoteliers to cover the overheads of keeping a hotel open in the off-season, with no diminution of staff or service, so that the summer profits are not swallowed up by a winter deficit. The same applies, of course to the Airlines and to the Trade generally in Gibraltar;

the next directive is to inform Travel Agents of Gibraltar 's Group facilities and potential;

to encourage more cruise ships to call and to stay longer;

to encourage cruise ships to call to embark and disembark passengers who join a cruise originating and/or terminating in another port;

to encourage fly cruise holidays; and

to encourage fly cruise and stay holidays.

For general success Gibraltar must be thought to be attractive in all other normal criteria such as weather, cleanliness, accommodation, shopping etc. Over weather we have little control but we certainly have control over the other factors and not only the Government but all sectors of the community have a responsibility and a part to play.

Having decided on the objectives the next consideration was the selection of Prime Target Audiences - or Target Market, and in this respect my target audience seems to be

Marketing and Sales Directors of companies employing over 25 salesmen - particularly those who regularly hold Sales Conferences in the UK or Overseas.

Then of course there are the Chairmen, Secretaries, Committee Members of Clubs, Sports Clubs and other group organisations;

The Chairman, Secretaries, Committee Members of Regimental and ex-Forces Associations;

Large Travel Agencies;

Professional Conference Organisers; and

Cruise and Passenger Shipping Lines.

I then considered how best to advertise and get the matter through and there are no willing advertisers. Each time a decision is made to spend money on advertising it is only because we do not know of a more efficient, more economical way to help the sale of the product. The object of advertising is to create and satisfy a demand for the product.

In the United Kingdom, at present our main target area there is a wide range of media choices available including Press, Television, Cinema, Radio, Posters and Direct Mail.

The chosen medium must reach the greatest proportion of the target audience, which I have defined above. It must be cost efficient also - it must reach them cheaply. This sometimes requires high capital expenditure to reach the largest audience. For example the Sunday Times costs very much more than the Director, but it reaches more people per thousand for less.

Then of course there is the question of frequency - it must reach the required audience as often as possible, and lastly communication efficiencies it must reach the target audience in the most ideal and relevant editorial circumstances.

After full consideration Mr Speaker of the nature and size of the target market and a limited budget, I decided that a combination of Press and Direct Mail would be most suitable.

The press medium allows a high degree of isolation of the target audience with little wastage and enables us to tell a reasonably detailed story, as well as allowing us to offer further information by means of a coupon. I would emphasise that the advert has a detailed story - the coupon is secondary and only the means whereby further information may be obtained.

Direct Mail can be aimed at any selected group and does not involve any wastage. The medium allows us to include brochures and other relevant material, or at least the provision of this extra information by completion of a reply \neq paid card.

Following this, the Media Planning as to which publication would be used, was based on Marplan Survey of British Businessmen's Reading Habits - this covers 37 publications, six newspapers and five journals selected as prime candidate list. The publications selected were, the Financial Times, where 53% coverage of those responsible for marketing would be reached. The next one was the Sunday Times, with 69% coverage, and then came "Management Today" another publication with 43% coverage. Business Administration with 25% coverage.

In some of these publications, our Advertising Agents were able to get a reduction in some cases up to 20%, which they have passed on to us.

Another publication that we selected was "Marketing". Marketing, although not included in Marplan Survey, was added because we believed it was highly suitable and only required a very small investment. The advertisement which was decided, and some Hon Members may have seen it, it appeared in the Financial Times on the 23rd and in the Sunday Times yesterday. In the Financial Times it was on the front page and in the Sunday Times it was in the centre page, below the editorial. The advertisement used solicits actual direct response, and will be checked for their relative performances. Poor response journals may be dropped for second or third insertion, as there is no commitment beyond the first. The response will be measured against the readership and circulation of the publication e.g. higher response should come from Financial Times than Marketing because it has a much higher circulation.

All insertions will be also measured in terms of cost efficiency i.e. number of replies received in relation to cost of the advertisement.

Bearing in mind the target audience, response rates for conference and group travel advertising are likely to be much lower than for general population tourist advertising. But each reply should be much more valuable e.g. ten good replies resulting in sales conference of about 50 people or a regimental reunion should field some £30,000 revenue to Gibraltar.

The House may like to know that of the Financial Times advertisement which appeared on the 23rd May, we have this morning received seven enquiries, and this includes the Medical Association, Stands Hotel, Allied Breweries which are all companies of some standard.

We based the advertisement to clearly show the main advantages and facilities in most easily readable and noticeable form. Not only are facilities included, but also other normal tourist attractions of Gibraltar. We considered that it was important to include these factors as well as details of conference and group travel facilities.

The main visual attention was aimed to present a strong headline, simple and noticeable.

As a support to press advertising, 11,500 letters and brochures are to be mailed to the main sectors of the target audience that I mentioned earlier and these will include some 300 Regimental Associations; 1000 Sports Clubs; 1000 Townswomen Guilds; 1000 Political Clubs; 7400 Companies with Sales Teams and 800 Young Farmers. I am told that young farmers have a considerable amount of money and do go on these group travels.

The brochure, as with the press advertising, not only illustrates Gibraltar facilities for conferences and other group activities, but also is self-supporting in that it includes other normal attractions.

The brochure can be used on its own, or as an integral part of the existing Tourism Brochure.

Direct Mail allows selection of certain groups and individuals which press cannot isolate. It is cheap and if used creatively, is effective.

The next one was the Travel Trade. In addition to convincing the potential users that Gibraltar is the ideal venue for a sales conference or a club meeting, it is important that Travel Agencies also consider Gibraltar in this light.

At present it is probable that if approached by a Sales Director or Personnel Director regarding the selection of location for a sales conference the travel agent is unlikely to think of Gibraltar.

It is therefore proposed that a small campaign be directed at Travel Agents - there are 3300 of them to inform them about Gibraltar's Conference and Group Travel facilities as well as informing them of forthcoming promotional activity. It is also proposed to reach the Travel Trade through advertisements in their own trade press, such as the Travel Trade Gazette; the Travel News and the Conference Magazine.

Next come Regimental Journals. This is to encourage regimental reunions in Gibraltar. It is also proposed to advertise in the following Journals of Regiments and Services which have or have had connection with Gibraltar:

The Gunner, the Sapper, Blackthorn (Royal Irish Rangers), Castle (Royal Anglian Regiment); Fusilier (Royal Fusiliers Regiment), Iron Duke (Duke of Wellington Regiment), Lion and Dragon (Kings Own Border Regiment), London and Scottish Gazette (London Scottish Regiment), Silver Bugle (light infantry), Stafford Knot (Staffordshire Regiment). Then of course the Navy News, Royal Air Force News, Globe and Laurel (Royal Marines), The Pennant (Officers Association).

It is also proposed to advertise in Club and Institute Journal and in Spot Light.

Next, if I may deal with them are the Cruise Liners and Fly Cruises. The House will recall the very successful Cruise Seminar which we held from 25th to 28th February with the help of Captain John Lancaster Smith, the Director of Ocean Travel Development which was attended by 12 Directors and Managers of Major Shipping Lines. I understand that this was the first of the kind in the world.

There were two subjects on which the seminar agreed unanimously and which the Government regarded as urgent priorities.

The first was the provision of a Cruise passenger private shuttle transport service from the North Mole to Market Place. On the 10th March I convened a meeting with the Gibraltar Taxi Association, PARODYTOURS, and other interested parties. As a result, the House I am sure will be pleased to know that representatives of the Gibraltar Taxi Association and Parody tours have guaranteed a private shuttle service between the North Mole and Market Place from the 1st April, whenever a cruise ship is in port and with enough capacity to meet varying demand. Thus through the cooperation of all parties we have overcome a problem which has been with us since 1969 and which had it remained unsolved could have affected us adversely through less cruise liners calling at Gibraltar.

The second matter of urgency was the need to coordinate cruise ship visits to avoid overcrowding shore amenities. A coordinating committee has been set up with representatives of the Port Department and the Shipping Association, to which it is my intention to invite to join representatives of the Gibraltar Taxi Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

Delegates made some suggestions in terms of expanding existing tourist attractions such as the installation of son et lumiere and the greater exploitation of St Michael's Cave, and I shall be seeking the cooperation of my colleague the Minister for Tourism in this connection.

Delegates from British India, P & O and Chandris spoke of the popularity of Gibraltar with their passengers, and the delegate from Union Castle said that Gibraltar offered more variety than many of them had realised.

We have also produced a "Port of Gibraltar Manual " which has become so popular that we have had to go into a second edition.

In connection with Fly Cruises, the success of the Seminar can already be measured. Following consultations, the Baltic Steamship Company have decided to go ahead with Fly Cruises from Gibraltar, commencing Christmas 1972, weekly to end of March 1973. Ten cruises in all each of 200 passengers i.e. 2,000 people.

Finally, with regard to the budget, following my appointment as Minister for Commercial Economic Development I invited advertising firms in the United Kingdom, including the present advertising agents for the Tourist Office, to submit proposals for the advertising and marketing of Gibraltar as a Conference Centre etc.

Their proposals were submitted anonymously for consideration to an ad hoc panel composed of a Bank Manager, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, a Hotel Proprietor and a Civil Servant.

They recommended the acceptance of the proposals put forward by RICKEY, TIBBLE & PARTNERS LTD which provide for an expenditure of approximately £9,000 in a full year. I accepted their recommendation. In addition to this Media Advertising Expenditure I propose to incur additional expenditure in respect of Public Relations - in the Region of £2000 -, Brochures and Field Sales - about £1000 - and Conference Bureau Expenses in London in all amounting in the year 1972/73 to £13,000.

I should say at this stage that the following have promised contributions:

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| BEA | £1500 |
| BCAL | 500 |
| Exchange Travel | 750 |
| Cadogan | 750 |
| | <hr/> |
| TOTAL | £3500 |
| | <hr/> |

Thus the £9,500 Budget which I am asking the House to approve.

I should say at this stage that the shipping firms have asked for a film on Gibraltar, and I may be coming back to the House, after I discuss this matter with the Council of Ministers, to ask for supplementary funds for a film. Everybody seems to have a film and Gibraltar is the only one that hasn't.

Lastly, I would like to stress, and I would like to repeat, that all the visits to London, all my visits to London are at my own expense and I always pay my own fares.

HON A W SERFATY:

Mr Speaker, I must say I am very much impressed by the speech that the Minister has just delivered. It is really the best thing I have ever heard, even in my own time in this House or the previous Legislative Council, on this question of an expenditure of £9,500.

One thing that the Minister has not said was that his Shadow Minister was present at the Seminar on Cruises, so I was able to see with my own eyes the effort the Minister was making to promote this kind of tourism for Gibraltar. Mind you, and I will apologise now, if I say that perhaps I could have done it better myself. But this was something which was an eye opener to me and I think that it is high time that this side of tourism should be developed fully.

One thing that will come after this, and I will sound a note of warning to the Minister, and that is that one of these days if he's too successful we're going to need a Conference Hall in Gibraltar. I would advise him now to try and sort out the possibilities of the use of Mackintosh Hall as a Conference Hall because if he doesn't sort it out, I am afraid he's going to be in trouble.

I'm not going to speak very much on this. Of course I fully support this expenditure. On item 10 it is sometimes surprising that the Government that can be so generous with Gibraltar - I'm referring to the British Government - can be so difficult with the rent of a few thousand pounds on the Western Arm. I cannot understand it, I know that things have to be done in a certain way; that the Minister of Defence has to look after his own interests, it happens in the United Kingdom. But it is a real pity that this kind of impression should be given, where they are trying to get their £12,000 or £15,000 whilst on the other hand the British Government can be so generous with Gibraltar. I do wish the Minister all success in pressing for a reduction, or doing away with this rent and berthing charges.

There is one thing that is worrying me all along when I see item 15 in this expenditure on the Port Department. And I ask myself, does this mean that the Director of Tourism has been relieved of his duties - this is very important - has been relieved of his duties in the promotion of the conferences and cruises. This is very worrying and I am very concerned about this. I appreciate that the Minister is very enthusiastic on this and is expending a lot of energy, but it is only fair and proper that he should have the full support of the Tourist Office and I would enquire from him - because this is in the public interest-

whether he is having the full support of the tourist office on this most important aspect of the development of tourism.

HON MAJOR A J GACHE:

I thank the Hon^{Member} but I am afraid I cannot answer for the work of the Director of Tourism, this is a matter for the Minister for Tourism. My vote has been put into the Port Department, but since the Hon Member has mentioned that the Director of Tourism would appear to have been relieved of certain duties, and since the Director of Tourism is a Civil Servant who is not here to be defend himself, I would like to say that it is not through any action on my part that the Director of Tourism is not working for me in connection with my responsibilities. There may be other reasons, administrative reasons and so forth which may be decide, but I do want to make it clear for his own sake, in view of what the Hon Member said, that it is not through any action on my part that he is not working for me on this matter. I think that if he should want any other information I think this is a matter for the Minister.

HON A W SERFATY:

I must appeal, Mr Speaker, to the Hon Minister for Tourism and Municipal Service and to the Hon the Chief Minister, to put this matter right straight away. We have got a fully fledged department of Tourism, there is a Director; we have got all the expenses here and it is a great pity, a great pity - I have been Minister for Tourism myself and I know about these things - it is a great pity that the full force of this department cannot be put behind the Hon and Gallant Major Gache. So, I appeal to the Hon Mr William Isola and to the Chief Minister to put this matter right straightaway.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, there's nothing to be put right, everything is right. I know that the Hon Member would be delighted to see division in the Government but I don't think he's going to get it. On the real administrative aspect of this the Director of Tourism naturally works for the Minister for Tourism, but that doesn't mean to say that his heart and soul is not dedicated to the development of cruise liners in the same way as it used to be before. I separate the responsibilities of the Ministers and I know perfectly well that the Minister for Tourism will ensure that the Director of Tourism will also, when requested and when asked by the Minister for Commercial Development, give all the possible assistance. But the Director works to the Minister for Tourism, there is nothing to stop the Minister for Commercial Economic Development approaching the Minister for Tourism and work closely hand in glove with him in this direction.

If the Hon Member believes that there should be another Director of Tourism, or if he thinks that it is better administration for the Director to have two masters than I'm afraid I cannot agree with him. The Director must work to one master, his life would be absolutely impossible if he were to have two masters. There is nothing to stop - and I know the Minister for Tourism will give me full cooperation - if there is anything at all that the Minister for Commercial and Economic Development requires from the Director. I do sincerely hope that this will be so. I cannot see why it should not be so and therefore I think I can put the Hon Members mind at ease that this will be the case.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Mr Speaker, to pretend or to try to throw on this side of the House any suggestion that the Government is divided is absolutely childish. The Government is divided, we all know it. A group becomes two, a Minister says that he hasn't got a Director of Tourism: "Ask the other member about it". What is it all about, about bringing people to Gibraltar, to promote the economy of Gibraltar. All the efforts should be together, not even not only amongst Ministers but even the Opposition, civil servants, everybody. That there is no division and there is no bickering or confusion: to pretend that there is none is absolutely ridiculous. It is as clear as day and any exhortations by the Chief Minister to the contrary look absolutely farcical if I may say so with the greatest respect. This is clear, he's got a difficult situation, I really am sorry that he finds himself in the situation. I will not say I grieve for him, I wouldn't say that, but I know he must have a lot of bad nights, whatever he may say and however united he wants to present the Government that is divided amongst itself. At least within three there is a division so within eight, God knows.

In that connection I would like a specific question. We heard about the son et lumiere from two sources today; I think it was the Minister for Public Works who said he was doing this work for the Minister of Tourism. I would like to know - the Minister for Commercial Economic Development has also mentioned it. I would like to know whether there is going to be one son et lumiere, or one son et lumiere for the Minister for Commercial Economic Development and one son et lumiere for the Minister for Tourism? It might be possible to have the two for the same cave, even if the two Ministers cannot get on together.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think that I should answer that one too Mr Speaker. I think sometimes the suggestions made by the Leader of the Opposition sound childish. It is obvious that there is only one son et lumiere, but what happens is that someone is responsible for putting up - this would obviously be the Minister for Public Works - ~~someone~~ responsible to see that it is used - and that is the Minister for Tourism - and somebody else, who is the Minister for Commercial Economic Development, who understands that this is essential, will now ensure that his side of the responsibilities are attended to. I don't see any reason why we should have two and I think it is as simple as all that. Why try and make fun of something which on the whole I think we are trying to take seriously here. As for the so-called division, what we do have is a Government which is not made up of yes-men, what we do have is a Government which is truly democratic, and which is nowhere near, if I may say so, past administrations, who we know full well were a lot of yes-men.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Was your one and only backbencher a yes-man?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I doubt very much whether the backbencher would be that kind of person.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

Ah, there you are, he is a member of your Government.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

He certainly is not. Certainly I would say that not because there is effort, strong effort and dedication to achieve the aim and in the achievement there is so much zest put into it that from the outside it might seem that there is a division, but I'm sure that the aim is exactly the same one. The means perhaps may be different, but I have no doubt whatsoever that there is unity in the Government and the proof is that the Minister himself has made the declaration publicly. If there were any then obviously, I assure you that whoever would want to dissent could do so without any impediment, certainly on my part. Therefore, I think it's just a bit of a red herring, and I sensed it from the moment that the Hon Mr Serfaty stood up. I don't think that he was really interested in bringing tourism to Gibraltar, although he sounded very enthusiastic about it. What he was interested in trying to do was to divide the Government but I can assure him that he is very much mistaken. The Government will continue to function as effectively and efficiently as it has done up to now and as the estimates so clearly shows.

HON A W SERFATY:

It is most unfair, Mr Speaker, after the years I have dedicated to tourism, to say that I'm not interested in bringing tourism to Gibraltar. I have not got to divide the Government, the Government is divided already, and the whole of Gibraltar knows it. But can I get something practical, Mr Speaker, can I put a question, can I get.....

MR SPEAKER:

We must realise one thing, and that is that we are departing from the question before the House which is the expenditure, as the Hon Leader of the Opposition has quite rightly said, the Expenditure of £9,500 on Promotion of Cruises and Conferences.

HON A W SERFATY:

Mr Speaker, before we vote on this may we obtain an assurance from the Government that the full resources of the Gibraltar Tourist Office, and the Gibraltar Tourist Office in London, are placed at the disposal of the Minister for Commercial Economic Development for conferences and what not, at his request so that he may get the full benefit of the money we are voting for the Tourist Office.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I cannot give an undertaking that the whole thing is going to be placed at his disposal; of course not. The Minister responsible is the Minister for Tourism, but I can guarantee that the Minister for Tourism will give him all the facilities and cooperate with him to the full to see that more visitors come to Gibraltar.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, on this matter of the £9,500, may I, as the person who in political terms has been orphaned, make reply to the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition, who in political terms has lost his left arm, on these matters.

I think it is better not to talk about division and disunity. One side says there is disunity in the Government and the other side might say that the Opposition have lost half the people who voted for them with one stroke of the pen. We are not asking them to go. I think these are matters, surely, that must be left for a general election.

Coming to the £9,500 Mr Speaker, I must say that usually when I hear the Hon Mr Serfaty speak I say, he is really speaking from his heart, this man, he really means what he says. He has got up spoken in glowing terms, Mr Speaker, of these £9,500; has spoken in tones that the Minister for Commercial Economic Development is going to have his own Public Relations set-up - which, incidentally, the Minister for Tourism has, I haven't heard Mr Serfaty suggesting that he should work under the Minister for Tourism. He speaks in glowing terms about all these things to do with public relations and of advertising consultants, he is 100% in favour of the Minister for Commercial Economic Development having his own organisation. At the next step he says: "Why cannot the Director of Tourism be working under him". Why can't the Director of Public Works, anybody in the Government, be working under him? I suppose that is what the Hon Mr Serfaty might like but that is just not it Sir. Surely the Hon Mr Serfaty has sufficient experience of Government responsibility now that the Director of Tourism works for the Minister of Tourism; a Director of Education works for the Minister of Education; and a Director of Works works to the Minister of Works. I would imagine that the reason why this vote has been put in the Port Head is because the expenditure is under the particular Minister for Commercial Economic Development. The reason that I apparently have for the Commercial Economic Development, which embraces as the Hon Mr Serfaty must surely know a whole lot of little departments, I suppose this was found to be a convenient thing to do. But to go on from that and to suggest that a Head of Department with its own vote, with its own responsibilities, should work to another Minister is to try and create chaos where I am sure the Hon Mr Serfaty would not wish to do so, having regard to the very real interest that he has shown in the promotion of cruises and conferences, and having regard to the protestations he has made to the Chief Minister at any suggestion that he is seeking to divide the Government or seeking to bring things up that shouldn't have been brought up and so forth. It seems to be absolutely clear, as the Chief Minister has said, that if the Minister for Commercial Economic Development wants something from the Tourist Office - and I am sure the Hon Mr Serfaty would remember from his ministerial days - the proper thing to do in those cases is to seek, not the help of the civil servant, but the help of the Minister concerned. The Hon Minister for Commercial Economic Development having protested his allegiance to the Chief Minister and to the Government, there is reason to suppose that he would not follow the normal constitutional practice, and there is no reason to suppose that the Minister for Tourism would not give him any help he required, as I am sure any other Minister in the Government would. I really do not know why the Hon Mr Serfaty comes out with this extraordinary demand that the Head of a Department should hold an allegiance to the Minister to whom he is not responsible. This to me is extraordinary constitutional practice. Coming to the promotions

of cruises and conferences, I too have been impressed with the tremendous amount of work which has been done and the tremendous efforts that are being made to promote cruises and conferences. I cannot help saying Mr Speaker, that if all this brings fruition I only ask the Minister for Commercial Economic Development in what planes are they going to be brought having regard to the fact that planes are coming to Gibraltar full everyday. I sometimes wonder how all this can happen, how all this can be encouraged, and all the money that is being spent by the Minister of Tourism can be encouraged without an adequate air service that meets the needs of the community of Gibraltar. I think I have said enough.

HON MAJOR A J GACHE:

We are not debating the question of seats on the planes - it has been mentioned - but I certainly do not want to be drawn out at this stage. Sufficient perhaps tomorrow or later on Thursday. I hope it is tomorrow.

Mr Speaker, the Hon Member opposite has mentioned this question of cooperation and liaison with the Minister for Tourism, and whilst we are in Government that will certainly be the case. He has mentioned of course the London Tourist Office, where of course now there is a Title Conference Bureau, and it was decided that the Manager of the Office in London would work to me direct in matters for which I am responsible. However, there are matters which overlap and where they do overlap if I am the one who makes it overlap, or the Minister for Tourism, and then if we should not resolve the matter, then of course it would have to go to the Council of Ministers or the Chief Minister.

At the moment, insofar as London Tourist Office is concerned, the Manager of the London Office works direct to me in connection with those matters for which I am responsible as Minister for Commercial Economic Development. I find the arrangement suitable, and of course I should also mention that in Gibraltar, since I became Minister for Commercial Economic Development, I have had the assistance of Mr Eddie Power who has been a tremendous.....

MR SPEAKER:

We have a schedule to keep and we have debated this particular issue.

HON MAJOR A J GACHE:

Mr Speaker, I would like to mention that because he has been of tremendous help, tremendous assistance, and I am quite certain that I would have not been able to go as far as I have done without this. The provision is already with us and of course there are plenty of seats in the plane without his assistance.

HON A W SERFATY:

Mr Speaker, all I ask now is that the Government - I didn't say the Minister for Tourism or the Chief Minister before I asked for an assurance from the Government - that we should have this assurance that also the Gibraltar Tourist Office in Gibraltar, or the Minister will fully cooperate with the other Minister. Gibraltar is a small place, we know everything, let's face it, and all I ask these two nice

chaps to remember is that they are both serving Gibraltar and we are also trying to serve Gibraltar from this side of the House. This is all I ask. Show cooperation for the benefit of Gibraltar.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am very glad to hear that, Mr Speaker, but if they want them to cooperate, I think the last thing we want to do is to try and creat dissension between them.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

But that is already there.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

All I am saying is that certainly if you believe that this is so, the words spoken are really genuine, the things that we see in certain newspapers, things that we hear being said, the fuel that is being added to the fire, where is it coming from; why is it being done? Is it true then that the aim is to bring this coordinated effort, or is it the idea to break the Government at the cost of tourism if it is necessary. This is the big question. I know Mr Serfaty has got tourism at heart, I wonder though, if he has at heart the other one that I mentioned before as priority, Number one.

Sir, as I say if the whole intention is to try and get full cooperation, not just from these ministers but from the whole Government the last thing anyone should try and do is to create division.

HON SIR JOSHUA HASSAN:

I think there should be Mr Speaker, distinction made between trying to seek full cooperation from the Government in the way in which £9,500 is going to be spent, and in the ideal and the duty of the Opposition to bring the Government down. I mean this is not a question of lack of sincerity. Of course we want you out because we are sure we can do it better. You may laugh but we can do it better, and therefore it is our duty, and very properly our duty, to see that the Government goes down. And if the Government seek £9,500 for votes which are not going to be properly used, not because of lack of zeal on the part of the Ministers, but because of lack of cooperation through the political dissension in the Government, then this is a matter of public interest to be discussed. There is no lack of sincerity. Of course we want the Government down. Whilst they are there they might as well be in unity, if they are not, alright, let them go.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition has just proved my point.