

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

HANSARD  
OF MEETING

HELD ON 3 MARCH 1976

VOL II

HON J BOSSANO:

Yes, Mr Speaker, that is what I am asking.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If he is under Morgan and if instead of £6580 he would have been entitled, as from the 1st October, to £7800, we would have to pay the difference if Morgan is accepted.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, I am afraid that the Honourable and Learned the Chief Minister has got completely the wrong end of the stick. I am not suggesting that you should give him more, I am concerned about how much you want to give him. What I am saying is, if Mr Morgan has said that the Chief Justice should get £x based on 70% of UK, then to me it is the difference between his wage and his gratuity, which can be quantified, as so much per annum, which has got to be paid, not the difference between the wage and the new sum, and he gets the gratuity gratuitously.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Chairman, the point of this is that Morgan recommended, irrespective of whether the officer concerned was entitled to a gratuity or a pension, and so, no account was taken of that whatsoever. The gratuity is in lieu of a pension.

HON J BOSSANO:

Well, Mr Speaker, I understand that the gratuities which are paid to expatriate officers take account not just of the fact that the post was pensionable but also of the fact that salaries in Gibraltar for these posts were considered unattractive, and the amount of .....

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

No.

This was agreed to and passed.

(c) Other Charges

HON M D XIBERRAS:

On jurors, I cannot remember, and the Honourable and Learned Member I hope will forgive me, if I raise this matter, but were the allowances of jurors increased or not,

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Yes, Mr Chairman, they were raised, I think, in May of last year to a maximum I think of £4.50. I am speaking off the cuff, but if a person is out of pocket by virtue of being a jurymen he can get a maximal £4.50 a day. There was a flat rate for jurymen before, I think it was £1 a day. If you do not lose by being a jurymen, if you are in salaried employment you get no allowance at all, but the man who is out of pocket does get an allowance.

HON M D XIBERRAS:

I thank the Honourable Member. There were a number of points which I raised with him and I did not remember whether this was in fact one of the ones that had been done or not. I thank the Honourable Member for that. I think my colleague has something else to add on this question.

HON MISS C ANES:

As regards jurors. Has the Government now changed its mind about having women jurors, not on a voluntary basis but on a compulsory basis, the same as we have men jurors.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Government sees no reason at the moment to change its thinking on this. There is always, as the Honourable Member knows, provision for any woman who wishes to be a juror between the relevant ages to volunteer. It is felt that if there is compulsory jury service for women, with power of course to ask for exemption, there will understandably be a lot of exemptions required. Put it this way, the women have children to look after and it would be much more difficult for them to leave their home and act as jurors than for a man to leave his job. And for that reason Government considers it preferable to give complete discretion to women to choose if they want to be jurors. But to make it compulsory, it is felt, would be counter-productive, may I put it that way: there would be so many women who could not act as jurors because of their home commitments.

HON MISS C ANES:

I don't agree, there. I think that quite a number of women would serve as jurors if it were required of them by law rather than voluntary because of other commitments. I myself for one, because I am in full employment, it would be difficult for me to ask for time off to serve as a juror, even if I wanted to; but if I had to do like my male colleagues who are required to serve, time would be given to serve as jurors. I find that there are quite a number of women who are prepared to serve but it must be in accordance with legislation.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If I remember rightly, the Chairman of the International Women's Year Committee's suggestion to the Government was not complete equality. Now if we are going to go for equality we might as well have equality. They wanted a privilege position of saying, put us on unless we ask for exemption without reason. Now that doesn't seem to me to be complete equality. If as the Honourable the Attorney-General has said we have to put them there, then they would have to show cause, and that would be in our view be a very great inconvenience to them. It remains to be seen whether in fact, if I may say so with the greatest respects to the Woman's Lib, whether that in fact that reflects the desire of the bulk of the women, though I appreciate that quite a number of pioneers would serve that are not serving now, and, therefore, we are losing that contribution. But that was the difficulty in which, as far as I was concerned, I found myself, that the request was for a privileged position within the jury system.

HON MISS C ANES:

I still feel that if there were enough applications, or if we could produce a petition, would the Government change its views? The Attorney-General has said that because women, particularly married women I supposed he referred to mostly having families and so on, but then when today they go out to work and still have a family to look after, and a house to look after, and do a full time job. I see no difference there to serving as jurors. It would be a job too. I think women in some instances, perhaps in juvenile courts, would be able to help a lot with regard to delinquents. I don't mean that women might serve in high courts, perhaps because they would need more information than in juvenile courts. I think a woman's point of view might help a lot with cases before them.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

It wouldn't really relate to juvenile courts because there are no jurors in such courts.

There are one or two points I would make: the Honourable Member said that certain women in employment might be dubious of asking to go onto the list because employers might not give them leave. An employer has absolutely no right at all not to give leave. A person who is a juror must go to court, and if the employer should attempt to stop the person, or perhaps even dismiss them by virtue of the fact that they obeyed the summons of the court to serve as a juror, the employer would be in very serious trouble indeed.

The second point, I am not quite sure how valid it is. There is one lady who is on the jury panel at the moment, and she has told me herself that every time she has in fact gone and been drawn for the jury there has been an objection and it seems that persons in Gibraltar generally do not like a lady trying them. I think that that is not a valid reason at all for there not being women jurors, but I think the Chief Minister has given an undertaking that the matter will be kept under close consideration. We haven't shut our minds to this.

HON MISS C ANES:

I think I know why the lady has been objected to: not so much for herself but because of her husband. Being related to him I think it rather petty of people thinking that she might have any connection with him, because I am sure she could do very well there. I hope that the Government will look into it further.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I think, Mr Chairman, that whilst the Honourable and Learned Attorney-General has said that there is provision in the law to ensure that an employer does not impede one of its employees participating in a jury I still believe that any employee today who knows that may in fact affect his attendance to the job, will be reluctant to come forward and volunteer, thinking at the back of his mind that this would not be received very favourably by the employer. I fully agree on the other hand that there are a lot of women in Gibraltar who would find it very inconvenient to find themselves in the jury list and then to have to go and say, I want to be excluded. Some people in fact would be scared stiff just to know that they were going to be put in the jury list. So I think that the system as it stands perhaps needs some change, but not include everybody just like that, because I think it would be perhaps an administrative problem. On the other hand I believe that it is very important to encourage women to come forward, and what I think is required is a good public relations exercise to make it known to the women of Gibraltar, who feel capable and eager in fact to exercise their civic duties, to come forward and do so. And I think that the

intervention of my Honourable Friend Conchita Anes today has been a very welcomed one. I think already we can feel the spirit of having a skirt in this House again, and I would say I hope the Government will take this very seriously because it is an important duty. And the mere fact, I think, the mere fact that they are always thrown out of the jury shows how important it is that they should be there.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The point that we made I think, and that is that if there were sufficient volunteers we would change the law.

HON P J ISOLA:

What I would like to say is that when we have an "International Man's Year" the men will ask for this piece of discrimination against them to be done away with!! Because listening to the Honourable Members speak it would appear that everybody wants to serve on juries, and my experience is, whenever I am in court, I have lots of applications to challenge, and, therefore, this may well be a piece of discrimination against the man and not against the woman. What I think might be looked at is a system under which rather than give women the right to serve by volunteering, initially when you are doing a woman's panel, or a panel of jurors, to write a letter to women saying: we proposed to put in a panel unless you should object. At least you would get a panel of women to serve in the jury. I think it would be a good think to get women to serve because after all we have got equal pay and no discrimination, we are not even masters of our own homes today. Mr Chairman, I think they ought to be invited to share more realistically our responsibilities. But I think it might be done that way, that could be a sort of compromise.

This was agreed to and passed.

MR SPEAKER:

I think this is as good a time as any to recess until this afternoon at 3.15.

The Committee recessed at 12.50 pm.

The Committee resumed at 3.25 pm.

Magistrates and Coroners Courts - (a) Personal Emoluments were agreed to and passed.

(b) Other Charges

MR SPEAKER:

You will notice that there is a mistake in the printing: it has got (b) Personal Emoluments, it is "Other Charges" Page 31.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Chairman, the only comment I think I need make on the particular estimates is that Members will see that there is a provision for a training course - Item 11. It is proposed to send either the Clerk or the Deputy Clerk of the Magistrates' Court back to the United Kingdom to be attached to a Court there to specialise in the recovery of fines. It is a problem which we have faced in Gibraltar, the recovery of fines is not easy and it is hoped in the coming year that one of the Clerks will go back to do a short course to assist in this matter.

HON MAJOR PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, legal aid. I notice that there are just £200 more than last year. I wonder if first of all I could be given an explanation as to why the rise; and also in fact perhaps this has contradicted itself, is the amount enough? The people who cannot afford it get legal aid. I think it is very important. I am just talking perhaps without much foundation and unable to substantiate it, but the impression I had once upon a time was that solicitors and lawyers were not very keen in fact in taking over this because the amount was so ridiculously low, and although I hold no brief for the profession - I am not standing up here because I am defending them in any way - I am thinking more of the individual. This I think is very much part of democracy. It is alright to have the vote, but I think it is also necessary that the individual should be able to defend himself in court even if he hasn't got the means to do so. And I wonder whether someone could stand up on the other side of the House and explain what the position is today, whether in fact the Government is absolutely satisfied that the situation <sup>is</sup> alright as it is today.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

The position, Mr Chairman, is no different from what it has always been. The conditions governing legal aid are contained in the Legal Aid Ordinance. If the Court, certainly as far as the Magistrates

Court is concerned, is satisfied that the accused is not able to pay for legal representation then he will be entitled to that representation. Now, as the Honourable and Gallant Member will be aware, it is not compulsory for a lawyer to be on the legal aid panel, it is up to him. There is now, I am pleased to say, quite a healthy panel because of the influx of lawyers into Gibraltar, particularly young lawyers, I am much obliged, and I think there is no problem posed to the accused who wants legal aid.

The scale of fees were increased reasonably recently to act perhaps as persuasion to lawyers to join the panel. I think it is fair to say this that if they are on the panel and they are going to be out of pocket because of having to appear in court, because of the low fees, it a disincentive, and for that reason it was considered fair that the fee should be increased. Now the reason that we have increased here the amount from £800 to £1,000 we are of course not tied to this, because there is a statutory duty to grant legal aid in proper case. And the court could not refuse legal aid because the amount already granted had to be above £1,000. They are compelled to grant legal aid, and for this reason £1,000 is the fair estimates made by the Magistrates' Court as the amount required for legal aid in a year. But it will not be refused, as I say, because there is no money; there must be more money, it is almost a Consolidated Fund vote, if I may put it that way, there has to be money if a person is entitled to his legal aid.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Chairman, I am certainly satisfied with half of the answer, and that is that this is only a token amount there, that if more is required of course it is found, the money is found, and then perhaps I suppose a supplementary estimates is approved by the House. But the other half I am not quite happy about. Perhaps the Learned Attorney-General might be able to explain a few things to me.

First of all the fact that he said that we are now just about beginning to recruit new members, particularly the young lawyers, gives me the impression that perhaps the type of counsellors that individuals would like to have representing them are not so easily available; and also, I would like to know the amount of the fees, because as he says the fees have been increased. How much is the fee, and does that fee compare with the ordinary fee paid by a client when he is represented not under legal aid but as an individual. I wonder if he can give me those two answers.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

The second one I certainly cannot give him because I have absolutely no idea at all what a lawyer in private practice would charge a particular client. It can vary from lawyer to lawyer. I have



absolutely no idea whatsoever. I think it is possible that the Honourable and Learned Chief Minister may give some guidance on it, but I can only say he can speak from his own experience. I have no experience in this at all. I do not know what charges are made, but it has always been I think accepted and appreciated by members of the legal profession that they have a duty, if they can, to be on the legal aid panel, and certainly as far as the Supreme Court is concerned, I think the majority of practitioners are on the panel. I am not certain what the position is as far as the Magistrates' Court is concerned, how many of these members of the bar in Gibraltar are on the panel, but I think it is a goodly proportion.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would just like to add one or two things. First of all I would like to say that I am not personally concerned with this because I do not practice in the Magistrates Court any more unless it is absolutely essential or in a very serious case where I am briefed to do so. But I have experience I have a number of young people in my Chambers who work and do that.

In the first place it is always the case, as the Honourable Attorney-General said in a question earlier in this meeting, which I commended to the Honourable Member, question No 57 because it was a question of the way of selection.

MR SPEAKER:

Was this a question in this particular sitting?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Earlier in these proceedings.

"On application for legal aid of the Supreme Court and the Magistrates Court there is a statutory provision that upon the grant of legal aid the body granting aid should take into account any representations made by the person granted aid as to who shall be representing him, and shall then assign a barrister or solicitor from the panel. If the body considers there is substance in the representations then effect is given to it." That is to say whether he has to take the next one on the panel or not. And the Attorney-General explained that if you are on a panel, but a person who is granted legal aid expresses the wish of being represented by a particular person on the panel, then he is given that facility so that he does not have to take who is assigned to him but he can take one who he may think is better, or more likely to meet his requirements. The fees that are

being paid now for normal small day to day cases in the Magistrates Court on legal aid is, I should say, about between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of what the particular barrister would take if he were briefed personally, particularly if the clients are not of means, and of course even though they may not be entitled to legal aid. That is about what the person who puts himself in the panel gives up: about a  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the fee that he would have if his client was a direct client of his and not a person who has chosen him out of the legal aid panel.

I think it is fair to say that the older juniors are not available on legal aid, but I imagine that there are quite a number of experienced, not all young, experienced lawyers, junior in practice, who are in the legal aid panel. And some are very keen to have work on legal aid. I heard it say, I think it was jokingly the other day, that some times, when a person is remanded in custody, somebody rushes up to the entrance of the Moorish Castle to see that he gets the legal aid - I think that is an exaggeration. But it shows that there is a keenness, particularly on the part of the young lawyers to have legal aid briefs. I would like to say this that the kind of work that is done is not beyond the means of a virtual beginner, and I think in fairness we should say that we have an Assistant Crown Counsel who is of the same vintage of all the latest young people who are now keen on the legal aid. He conducts the prosecution - which is in a way more difficult task than a defence in certain respects - he conducts the prosecution in cases where these people, and even older people, appear on legal aid.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I am grateful to the Chief Minister for his explanation. I think I have got some sort of ex gratia legal advice. Anyway, coming back to this, I think first of all that the operative word here is "panel," who is in the panel. The other, if I heard rightly, was  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the normal fees. What surprises me is that to obtain this information I have had to obtain it ex gratia, when in fact I think the quality of advice you are likely to get will depend of course on the fee. That's why the better the lawyer normally the more you have to pay. This is the impression I have had anyway from the outside. What I am surprised at is, isn't it possible for the Government first of all to obtain from the legal profession the sort of average charges that are made and then subsequently - I think it is only fair that anyone who applies for legal aid is assured that he will be getting service for about the same fee, not necessarily  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Because quite honestly the same as an individual suffering from any disease wants to be seen not by a beginner but by someone who has already been proved to have the knowledge, I think it is equally right to say that an individual who wants legal assistances does not want to get it from the keen new student who has just come out from University or Chambers, but from someone who he can himself consider will give

him the best possible advice. Therefore, I would encourage - it is only fair if we are going to have real democracy here in Gibraltar - I would encourage the Government to look into this matter very carefully, after all the amount that I can see is not going to be all that much. I notice that as a token it is £1,000, £200 more than last year. The revised amount here, as I can see in the revised estimates was £1,000. I am talking about the Magistrates' Court, it is just as much about the Magistrates Court as anything else who is going to appeal. It is not so easy to say, I am going to appeal. It is costly, it is difficult for an individual to say: I am going to appeal, having lost the case in the Magistrates Court.

So I think the first hurdle, which is just as important, if not more important than the second hurdle. In fact we could even save Government money because it may well present an appeal which would be more costly to the Government if it were likely to subsequently have to go to an appeal. So what I suggest therefore is that since the amount is so minimal, so insignificant, the extra couple of Pounds more or less in the fee cannot make all that difference, I would say, to a budget of £11m, I would advise, and I hope the Government will listen to my suggestions, to look into the matter, to see how these fees can be raised, to increase the number of the members of the panel, and if possible to at least pay a fee which is commensurate with the legal profession gets from an ordinary individual.

I personally am not happy. Of course I will vote the amount because this is better than nothing, but I do hope sincerely that something can be done in this respect. Unlike in England, where I think the opposite is happening, where I believe there is some objection at the moment on the amount of money being spent on legal aid - I think I am right, I think I have read something in the papers about this the exorbitant amount that is being paid in England on full legal assistance. Here I think it is the opposite. It seems to me to be the opposite because I am sure that lawyers must be making much more than £1,000 a year, individually, on this kind of thing. And here we have for all the lawyers of Gibraltar for legal advice - £1,000. It is so insignificant that I think it is something that could be looked at.

I am certain the individual concerned would not feel that he has had the best. At the moment I get the impression that the individual who may have to go to jail, or may have to pay a big fine, or get a black mark on his name, because he couldn't afford it gets the feeling that he didn't have a fair deal. And for such a small insignificant amount I think this could be easily overcome.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Chairman, the first point I would make is that the mere fact that it is only £1,000 which the Government is asking to be voted

it does not mean that the fees are particularly small. I cannot unfortunately give the number of cases in which legal aid is granted, but I think there are very many more cases in which the accused can afford to pay for aid himself and does not have to ask the Court. You cannot draw comparisons between the figure here and the figure that a normal lawyer makes.

The next point I would make, and I stand to be corrected by my Honourable and Learned friend Mr Isola, I think the fees for legal aid were put to the members of the Gibraltar Bar last year, at the suggestion of the Law Revision Committee, which consists of the Chief Justice, myself, and Mr Benady. They were asked whether they were agreeable to the new fees which were being proposed, and the answer was, yes.

The third point which I would make is that it is not just the newcomers to the Gibraltar Bar who are on the legal aid panel in the Magistrates Court. There are several members of the Bar with considerable experience who are either available to be selected by the accused concerned, or if the accused selects nobody in due course they come up on the rota.

Other charges was agreed to and passed.

Head 11 - Labour and Social Security, (a) Personal Emoluments.

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Chairman, the staffing position in the Department remains pretty well the same as last year. The vacancies that have existed for House Parents in the Homes have now been filled. There was no undue difficulty in the case of obtaining parents for the Boys' Home, but it was only at the fourth or fifth attempt that we were able to do so in the case of the Girls' Home. And even then it necessitated a change in the arrangements whereby in fact what we have done has been to employ a Housemother whilst her husband can continue with his normal employment, though in return for free board, lodging, etc etc he will be required to help with the care of the children and with the maintenance of the premises. That is why, Mr Chairman, the House will note that under Item 16, although the establishment shows 3 House Parents, there is an explanatory note. There ought to be a little (c) opposite House Parents, there is an explanatory note in the remarks column to the effect that there is only provision for 3 House Parents. So the staffing position, Mr Chairman, pretty well the same. In fact I am very happy to say that over the years the Department of Labour and Social Security is taking on more and more and more work as there is an increasing number of pensioners, as the insured population increases, and yet overall the staff has remained pretty well the same.

We had a great deal, Mr Chairman, this morning about "empires". Well, I can assure you that we have no empire builders in the Department of Labour and Social Security, beginning at the top with the Minister and the Director of Labour, we are not empire builders, and that is why some misinformed people think that we are no longer a major department of Government.

Personal Emoluments were agreed to and passed.

(b) Other Charges

HON A J CANEPA:

Sir, from a comparison of the Estimates of expenditure for the next financial year, as against previous years, the House will be able to ascertain that the Department of Labour and Social Security is, of the major Departments of Government - and let there be no doubt that it is still a major and a key department of Government - it is the one with the most significant rate of increase in expenditure. And this fact as I say can be confirmed by glancing over estimates of previous years, beginning, say, with 1972/73, when we came into office.

This fact fully reflects the improvements in social and welfare services, especially the statutory cash benefits which have been implemented over the last few years, and which it is intended should continue to be developed over the next twelve months.

Turning to some of specific items Sir, Item 2, Supplementary Benefits, the estimated expenditure for 1976/77 includes provision for a 20% increase in the rates of these benefits as from next January. The most important benefit; that payable to a couple, stood in 1972 at £6 a week, Mr Chairman, and the rate of this particular benefit will have been increased to over £14 by next year. In other words it has been increased by about 135%, and I think that that is well over the increase in the cost of living in the last few years. And thereby, of course, it has helped to raise substantially the real value of these benefits which are payable to the most needy members of the Community. So all the work of the last four years, Mr Chairman, whatever some Members opposite may say, has not been entirely misery. It could be said that we have helped to relieve the misery of the most needy members of the community.

Turning now Mr Chairman, to family allowances, Item 10, the House will recall that the Financial and Development Secretary last November, at the time of the amendment to the Income Tax Ordinance, gave notice of the Government's intention to increase family allowances. And I myself gave certain undertakings later on during both the second reading of the Bill and in Committee, and

these are being more than honoured by our avowed intentions to increase these allowances from the present 90 pence for the first entitled child and £1 to other entitled children, to £1.50 for all entitled children as from next July. Family allowances, Sir, stood at 50 pence up to 1974, so that I think the House would agree that the improvement is indeed significant.

Turning now, Mr Speaker, to Elderly Persons' Pension, Item 16, this is yet another of the really significant items of expenditure. The provision that is now being made covers all persons over the age of 65 who are drawing this non-contributory pension, and it includes also those who were formerly drawing the non-householders rate of benefit under Supplementary Benefits. Again, in line with Supplementary Benefits, there is provision for a 20% increase in the pension, and this will be done in connection with the general revision of social security benefits which is now in hand for implementation in January 1977, and about which I hope to have a great deal more to say at the next meeting of the House.

Item 3, Mr Speaker - the Sponsored Patients Scheme. There is no increase in this because it is really essentially very much of a token figure. But I would like to inform the House that the maximum maintenance allowance for both patients and relatives, where applicable, has been increased from £20 a week to £35 a week during the past year. As I promised Honourable Members last year sympathetic consideration has been given to the only request which the Department received for financial assistance in repatriating the remains of a patient. The assistance that was given was partly by way of a direct grant, over and above the expenses which the family would normally have incurred in Gibraltar, and partly by way of an advance.

Accommodation of Labour, Mr Speaker, Item 13. I think the House must have noted my determination over the last three years this item of expenditure should pay for itself. In fact 1975-76 was the first time since I took office that it did so. The financial year which is now ending really has been the first time that we have been able to balance the books, as it were, and, therefore, the taxpayer for the first time has not been subsidising the alien labour force residing in these hostels. It has been possible to achieve this by carrying out economies wherever possible, coupled with the fact that it has not been necessary during the last year to carry out any major work.

For 1976-77 it should be noted that the provision for the Interim Award in respect of the industrials employed in the hostels, and which accounts for the bulk of the expenditure under Item 18, that figure should also be added to the figure of £120,000, making a total of about £138,000. So the total expenditure really that we envisage for the running of the hostel is £138,000, and against this the estimated revenue should just about balance this figure.

In ending, Mr Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to Item 19 - Relief Payments Abroad. As indicated in the remarks this is not strictly a totally new item in that it includes £12,000 for Gibraltarians who are on relief in the Campo Area, and this was previously being met under Subhead 2 - Supplementary Benefits. And also it now includes the relief payments which are made elsewhere, such as in Morocco. They are now going to be controlled by the Department and paid out of this item instead of, as was done previously, I think it was being paid from under Miscellaneous.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, I am very pleased to see that there have been substantial increases in some of the votes which of course will bring a lot of happiness to lots of people in Gibraltar who need this very badly. I would say that this has been possible thanks to the economic policy which this Government has been forced by this side of the House - to follow. We will hear a bit more about that later on - and also thanks to the pressures brought from outside from other associations, and perhaps also the proximity of the general elections. In any case I am extremely glad to see that some of these votes have increased substantially, and one can only rejoice at this. However, I would like to find out one or two points.

I would like to find out something on one or two points which come under this Head, or possibly the Minister for Medical Services might tell me later. Under the Expenses of Sponsored Patients, treatment in the United Kingdom, has any provision been made for those individuals who seek a second medical specialist opinion. Is any provision made in this particular item; would this come under some other item or has the Government no intention whatsoever of looking at this matter. Could I have an answer to that one.

HON A J CANEPA

Mr Chairman, what the Department of Labour and Social Security is concerned with under this item of expenses of sponsored patients sent to the United Kingdom, and in particular the Family Care Unit within my Department, is for making the arrangements with regard to passages and maintenance of the patients and the accompanying relatives. We have got nothing to do with the medical aspect of the sponsored patients scheme.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

The Minister therefore cannot give me an answer to that one at the moment.

HON A J CANEPA

I regret that I cannot.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I wonder if the Minister for Medical Services thinks it opportune to answer that question now or whether he is likely to do so later.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Yes. Later.

Other Charges was agreed to and passed.



HEAD 12 LAW OFFICERS - (a) Personal Emoluments was agreed to and passed.

(b) OTHER CHARGES was agreed to and passed.

HEAD 13 - MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH - (a) Personal Emoluments, Medical.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Sir, on personal emoluments, the increase in round figures is £33,000, and I am sure that the one figure that will catch the eye of Honourable Members is Item 63 under the heading of Overtime and Allowances. This item has gone up by roughly £26,000 and the reason is mainly that last year no provision was made for certain allowances which some officers are getting. The breakdown of that particular item, which is the major one in this particular Head, is as follows -

£24,000 for overtime;  
 £26 for acting allowances;  
 On call and long hours gratuity, £4,000;  
 Geriatric, Psychiatric and VD Allowances, £3,700;  
 Sunday Working, £2,000; and  
 Night Duty Allowance, £7,000.

That makes up the figure of I think it is £69,939.

Item 57 now provides for two Public Health Inspectors who have completed their training and I will have more to say about training in the general debate. The decrease, however, under Item 50 is due to the fact that as we get more trained staff we need less Assistant Public Health Inspectors. But I think that the figures in this particular vote also need an explanation.

The establishment of Assistant Public Health Inspectors as such is seven, but actually we are paying for eight this year as against nine last year because those who are training in the United Kingdom still continue to receive their salary so whilst they are not part of the establishment their salary comes out of this particular vote. So in fact though the establishment is described there as seven, we are paying for eight because one of them is a

student in the United Kingdom.

I would like also to offer some explanation on a decrease which I think is item 15. There is a decrease of £3,371 and that is because at the time of compiling the estimates we had 2 vacancies more than we had last year. I would also like to draw attention to Item 59, Temporary Assistance. This particular vote provides for the recruitment of two supernumerary midwives from the United Kingdom to cover the gap whilst our own people are training in the United Kingdom. We badly need these two midwives, but we are providing for them under Temporary Assistance, which is a flexible vote, because if during the year there should happen to be any members of the local nursing staff who are suitably qualified to be promoted and because the establishment is full of these midwives we would not be able to promote the local members of staff. That is why we are bringing these two midwives on a temporary establishment.

That is all I have got to say: the rest of the changes are basically due to normal incremental increases.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Mr Speaker, I would just like to say a word of praise to that Department. I know that when something goes wrong we all tend to hit it very hard. I have been lucky enough not to have had to go to hospital for inpatient treatment but have had the necessity to visit people there. I think, last year, I had the necessity to go there twice and one cannot comment favourably on the impression received of the kind attention given by the staff of the hospital to those who are there. And as far as the people that I know who have been there they have only had kind words about all those who are working there. So whatever criticism this House may have made in the past about other things, and whatever criticism I may make later in connection with the health services on the points that I have already raised, this should not detract whatsoever from the admiration that I personally have, and I think people on this side have, for those who are working in the hospital. And I think it is perhaps appropriate at this stage to say so.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, the doctors working at the Health Centre - The Group Practise Medical Scheme doctors. Item 7. I would like some further clarification as to what the terms of employment of these doctors are at the moment.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Since the Health Centre came into operation they have had to look after all the insured population, plus the Districts Services.

HON M D XIBERRAS

How do they get paid?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

They get a salary of £2,250 and they also collect the fees that this House voted that they should be allowed to charge.

HON M D XIBERRAS

They have a contract I gather with the Government by which the Government gives them a certain amount, which was, I did not catch the figure . . . .

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

£2,250, plus the fees that this House voted.

HON M D XIBERRAS

And those fees on a per capita basis or on the basis on the number of patients that they see.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Sir, I am very surprised! This House voted the fees that they can charge to each patient. It was under the Group Practice Medical Scheme Ordinance which this House voted.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The Honourable Minister need not feel so surprised. I mean there are certain questions which have not been answered on the other side and he should bear with us if I ask a question occasionally about certain matters. Does the Honourable Member feel that this system is still satisfactory, that the doctors in the Health Centre get on a capital basis for the patients that they see.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Certainly they have not complained about it, and I think it is something that has been praised by the Chairman of the Practitioners Consultants Committee from London who came to Gibraltar and said that a deterrant fee was something that they would like to consider introducing in Britain itself. I think they praised it very much.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The Honourable Member is no doubt aware of the possibility of the dangers that might exist of people being paid on the number of patients that they see outside.

MR SPEAKER

You must be very careful. We must not question a decision which has already been taken by the House, and these fees were approved by the House. Do you follow what I am trying to say?

HON M D XIBERRAS

My question is going to be whether the Honourable Member is considering at all changing the system.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I am not changing the system but I am under pressure to increase the fees. I am resisting that.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The Honourable Member is aware of certain criticisms that can be levied in respect of this.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I am not aware of this. If he cares to air it himself I am prepared to take him up on that.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The criticism is based not so much on the payment per head of the patients that doctors see as to the facilities that if they do get paid per patient that they see then they are in open competition with private doctors.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

They are not. In fact if they were to be paid as in Britain there would be no private practise left in Gibraltar. Because then everybody would go free to the Health Centre.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Sir, one thing does not follow from the other. I am not saying whether there should be private practise or whether there should not be private practise. I am just pointing out to the member that there is a criticism that the Government, having established a system of competition whereby private doctors and doctors at the Health Centre get paid per patient, then reinforces the position of the doctors at the Health Centre by giving them certain advantages.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I am giving no advantages to the doctors at the Health Centre. The doctors work under a scheme approved by this House, fully debated and fully supported by the House, and nothing more and nothing less is being done. I am satisfied that they are not in competition with anybody. They could argue the other way. I can quite appreciate the private practitioners saying that they are in competition. Of course, they would claim that by being

paid a fee per patient as they do in the UK . . . .

MR SPEAKER

I am not prepared to analyse under this vote the benefits or detriments of a particular system which has been approved by the House. I will not allow it.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Perhaps it is a matter to be taken up in the general debate and I think I shall Mr Speaker.

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS were agreed to and passed.

OTHER CHARGES

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Mr Speaker the increase again in round figures is about £66,000. The bulk is mainly taken up by £9,000 under Provision (Item 2); over £6,000 under Laundering Expenses, Item 3, due to higher contract prices over which I myself have no say, this comes under the Tender Board; £35,000 on the Drugs, Dressings and Pharmaceutical Sundries, due to increases in the Drug Bill for the Group Practice Medical Scheme - the reasons for this increase is due basically to more patients attending the Centre and increases in the price of medicines, but equally so to unprecedented increases in the price of Oxygen amounting to 100%. Item 6, Medical Services Surgical Appliances goes up to by £1,300. A further big increase is Under Item 11, £25,000, which now includes the Interim Award, which was previously under a separate vote. Item 1<sup>0</sup> provides for Disinfection and Other Services and has increased by £5,700, which again includes Biennial Review and higher cost of insecticides. The increase under Item 19, £3,190 extra, is also due to Interim Award, which as I have mentioned before was last year included under a separate vote.

New Equipment has also gone up due to the policy followed year by year of trying to equip our hospitals with the

latest equipment available in the context of the requirements of the population of our size. Let me say that this is the one vote that even the Treasury respects. Whatever equipment is asked for we usually get. So far in my years of experience this particular item is seldom touched upon.

The rest of the increases are taken up by small amounts such as electricity and this is under Item 17, Cost of Utilities. We have now included water and telephones which were in a separate vote last year.

I would like to add, Sir, that under Item 5, going back to Drugs and Medicines, it is of course proposed, as I said at question time that as the first Monday of January 1977 the Scheme will extend to patients in hospital. So that all fees in hospital presently paid under the Hospital (Fees and Charges) Rules: will be waived.

All the fees under the Hospitals (Fees and Charges) Rules for entitled persons and members of the Group Practice Medical Scheme - and they all are today. When they enter hospital today they pay according to means, in future all Gibraltarians and Common Market Nationals going into hospital - members of the Scheme and Common Market Nationals going into the hospital will not pay anything, in lieu they will be paying 4p more in contributions, they will not have to pay any fees at all.

HON P J ISOLA

On that last point. Does this mean that anybody who goes to hospital into the public ward, as opposed to the private corridor, does that mean any Gibraltarians who go to the hospital into the public would not pay any fees or will there still be a distinction?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

There is no distinction at all; even today there is no distinction. Any body going into the hospital today, a Gibraltarian, pays according to means, there is no distinction. The only distinction that there will be is that they will pay nothing at all as from the beginning of the year, except that non-entitled persons who would pay today - not economic price I think they pay £4 a day -

something like a merchant seaman and people like that.

HON P J ISOLA

Does this mean that people go and stay and no Gibraltarian will pay? What about in respect of the use of hospital services, whether it is consultants, X-Rays, you know, actual service given by the hospital?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

If you are not an in patient you do not pay a penny.

HON P J ISOLA

But if you are an out patient, that is what I mean. If a person is sent to hospital for X-Ray, at the moment there is a distinction. Will that disappear or will that stay? Some people who go pay some people who go do not.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Of course anybody who is sent by a private doctor pays, and that will continue, that has nothing to do with the Scheme.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I have a few questions, Mr Chairman.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

May I answer this point, I think it is only fair.

On the sponsored patients Scheme we have got to go to the National Health Service in the UK, there is no other way of doing this. Some of them go privately and this the Government of course will not accept. This was debated at length at the first leg of this meeting. It must be done on the recommendation of a consultant in Gibraltar. Consultants in Gibraltar of course can get a second opinion within Gibraltar or send them to the UK. About



40 to 45 patients are sent every year, but what we cannot have is patients of their own volition saying, I want a second opinion, send me to UK. That cannot be done.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The Honourable the Chief Minister said that he would have the scheme reviewed. Now, does the review of the scheme envisage no extra expenditure.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

The review of the scheme will only involve procedures to make sure that the assessment is properly made. I presume they are looking into this; it is a professional matter and I do not want to tread on other people's toes but I have given instructions following the undertaking given by the Chief Minister, and I think I am right in saying that the Consultants are meeting this Sunday.

HON M D XIBERRAS

What I am asking is, is there no extra expenditure?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Not at all. We do not pay to send patients to the UK.

HON M D XIBERRAS

In fact most of the trouble all along has been the question of reviewing the procedure rather than extra expense because I think I seem to recall the Honourable Member saying that this might very well lead to extra expenditure.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

If we allow the patient to be the deciding factor in deciding whether he should go or should not go here or there.

HON M D XIBERRAS

This was never the contention of anybody, that the patient

should decide what doctor he should go to and when he should go, but simply a review of the procedure. I am very glad to hear this, that the Minister does not expect any increased expenditure, in spite of the fact, Sir, that the Chief Minister's undertaking is being complied with and that the procedure is being reviewed.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

The procedure is being looked into and if there is any review of course I will inform the House.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Did I understand from the Honourable Minister that the main constraint is the National Health Service in England: did I understand that?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

All Common Market countries have reciprocal agreements with each other and one cannot go except by using the National Health Service in each particular country. What the Government is not prepared to do is to go on the private channel. If what you are asking me is that if a patient wants a second opinion and wants to see a particular doctor in London or in China, that the Government should pay for it, I am sorry but the Government is not prepared to accept that. The Government is prepared to accept the assessment of their own consultants in Gibraltar, look at the procedures and ensure that it is a reasonable procedure if what we have now is unreasonable, but within the limitations that it has got to be done under the National Health Service of all these countries which we deal with.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Of course I think that the main country that we have always been dealing with, and I hope it seems to me that we could carry on dealing with, is the United Kingdom. In fact, if I remember rightly, the word that was mentioned was the National Health Service in England, before. What I want to know is, is there any constraint at all on the procedure adopted in Gibraltar? Is our procedure at the moment

constrained by the National Health Service in England? Is that the impediment?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

If that is not so therefore, and there is no financial constraint because obviously it would be minimal, it seems to me that the only difficulty at the moment is whether the consultant in Gibraltar is prepared to allow the patient to see another Specialist in the United Kingdom at the expense of the Government. In other words the Government is not prepared to pay unless the Consultants here in Gibraltar agree to the patient going to England.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, he has got it all wrong. If the Consultant in Gibraltar decides that the patient must go to the UK he goes to the UK; there is no question of expense. There is of course an invisible expense in that under the reciprocal agreement we also look after their own nationals.

MR SPEAKER

May I clear this matter because I know what he is trying to say. What the Honourable Member is trying to find out is that the only occasion when a sponsored patient can go to the United Kingdom is when the local doctor has advised that he should go.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

But if he does not advise that he should go and the patient feels that he should, in fact I think the word used has been "reasonable" - I am not using the exact word but something not unreasonable. If therefore a patient feels that he is not completely satisfied, the disease is a serious one, is there not any other authority that can go above the consultants, taking all the things into consideration, say a Board of doctors or something like that, and decide that the patient should go to England. Has it got to be left

in the hands of one individual, because it seems to me that in the past the procedure has been unreasonable and could we change the procedure so that it is reasonable.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I have repeated this in the last two or three months . . .

MR SPEAKER

May I say that I am not going to re-open the debate we had at the earlier session of this particular sitting for the benefit of Major Peliza. We have had all this out at this particular sitting and we are not going to have it all out again.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Obviously I was going to suggest that we should have some money in for this, if there was no provision, but it appears that money is not the question, it is a question of procedure. All I am trying to find out is, can the procedure be so arranged that no one has to go through the experience that three individuals in Gibraltar have already gone through.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Well, I do not want to reopen the debate, Mr Speaker, but all we are doing with this sort of thing is encouraging this sort of confusion carrying on. The consultant that looks for patient - I will repeat it once again and if needs to be repeated I will carry on doing so but I hope it will not be necessary. The consultant who is looking after the patient is the one that makes the recommendation. That recommendation is vetted by another Consultant and eventually it goes to the Director of Medical Services. This is what happens today. And not only that, when the case goes to the UK from there they must also say, and they do say so at times: please do not.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

In the light, therefore, that that procedure has obviously not worked recently on three occasions, could the Government

look into another way of tackling this problem. That is what we are saying.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

That is what we are doing at the moment, seeing whether or not the procedure is a bad one or whether it needs improving. We have been given an undertaking and we are carrying it out.

HON P J ISOLA

What I would like to ask the Minister is it possible to relieve the consultant the misapprehension which I have found. And that is that they seriously feel that the Government is involved in enormous expense if they are too liberal in allowing somebody to have a second opinion. This is something I have come across very, very recently; since the debate in this House. They feel that Government is going to be put in enormous expense and that of course is absolute nonsense, because in actual fact, there is no specialist being paid for at all from what I can see from this vote; there is no medical provision required, the only provision is under the Sponsored Patients Scheme . . . .

MR SPEAKER

We are not going to re open the debate.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, I do not wish to re-open the debate but obviously this is something which is of very serious concern because of the cases, known cases, that we know about, and it is no use repeating then, there would be no useful purpose served. It would be crazy to close our eyes to what has in fact happened within recent memory in

this House in the last six months, but the point I wish to make is that will the Minister ensure that the Consultants who are reviewing this procedure, who in fact, let us be frank about it, are the people who have been really under criticism I suppose in what has happened. I do not know whether it is them or it is the Director of Medical and Health Services who it is, but they should be told that the consideration that the Government, or the public, or the taxpayer, has not been involved in additional expense should be removed from their minds. Because if the consultant is saying, because "X" can afford it I will tell you: "Look be on the safe side, go and see a Specialist in England, because after all this is a matter of life and death, so why not go, I may be wrong", but with somebody whom the taxpayer has to pay: "Well, he is going to die anyway, so let us not." That should not be a consideration in mind if we are trying to provide a service. So could the Minister assure us that he will communicate to those who are considering the procedure that the expense involved to the Government is in fact minimal in these cases.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

There is no expense at all, we do not even . . . .

HON P J ISOLA

The air fares.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

That does not come into the picture, the air fare is nothing. I do not even see the forms myself. They are the ones who send them and we do not interfere at all and I do not want to interfere. The comebacks have come from the other side because the pressures are - I am sorry, Mr Speaker, but I have to repeat myself. The comebacks have come from the other end because as a result of the pressures the Consultants have been subjected to they are tempted to send people they should not send, and we have have had two cases sent back. Because the National Health . . . .

MR SPEAKER

I must stop this. You can make your comments in the general debate.

HON P J ISOLA

It is better to have two people sent back and the Specialists complaining than two people staying here and dying.

MR SPEAKER

Order, order.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, which is in fact the vote under which sponsored patients are sent to the United Kingdom. My concern is that the Honourable Member opposite seems to adopt a different attitude to this every time he speaks. What I am not prepared to do, Mr Speaker, is to allow this particular vote should go through if I am not assured that more money in this particular vote would not put right what we have been saying is wrong all along.

Now I have heard the Minister say in this House that there are financial constraints because if a lot of people were to be sent then there would be no room for those who really deserve it.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, Sir, there is no constraint in that respect. If we were to go over the 40 or 42 or 43, which in any case they have not even bothered, Government would tell the Consultants that that person had got to go. There is absolutely no constraint whatsoever. The constraint we are talking about, and if he will look at Hansard he will find out, is that if we cannot obtain a second opinion through the National Health, then we would have . . . .

HON M D XIBERRAS

The usual tactic, Mr Chairman, of exaggeration. We are not talking about that. What we want to make absolutely sure is that there are no financial constraints for people who might profit from a second opinion when the procedure is reviewed, when the doctors here advise them, we want to

make absolutely certain that there is no financial constraint. And we do not want any ambiguous postures from the Minister, we want to be absolutely certain.

MR SPEAKER

Being the Chairman I have to make sure that we return to an even keel. The assurances that the Minister has given the House is that provided the consultant advises that the patient should be sent to the United Kingdom and there is a procedure whereby not only the consultant but a second consultant, and then the Director of Medical and Health Services is also consulted, in that case if it is so decided, there is no financial constraint. That assurance has been given.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well, they are looking at the procedure Mr Chairman. The procedure has still not been decided, but we want to make sure that in arriving at this decision they are not going to be under any financial constraints. In other words the doctors are not going to be told by the Minister: "Look, you can recommend A, B and C but do not recommend D because that is going to cost too much money".

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, Mr Speaker, I am ashamed at that statement!! This is an allegation that there may be any member of this House capable of saying "A, B and C, yes, but D, no, because there is no money". I am ashamed that he could ever think that one single member on either side of the House could think on those lines. I have told him that there is no financial constraint at all provided the consultants recommend it. If they were to recommend one hundred, one hundred would be sent. There has been no financial constraint at all, or has ever been, either during the term of this Government, or in fairness to them, in their own time in Government.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well, we can speak for ourselves, Mr Chairman. When the



Minister gets over his "shame" then perhaps he will give us a clear picture of what is actually taking place. I want to be absolutely certain. I take the assurance of the Minister, and if he means that, that is the first time he has made the matter absolutely clear in the House. The other thing I want to raise, Mr Speaker, is are there any constraints in respect of the National Health Service over there, any monetary constraint. What are the terms of the agreement.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I have said so. I have said so on two occasions in this particular debate - because it is a debate now - that the numbers are 40, but if there are 43 or 44 or 45, we will pay. The numbers are placed at 40 because hardly 40 go, but if there were to be, like last year, 43, 43 went. There is no constraint whatsoever or has there ever been at any time. Anybody wanting to go to the UK on the advice of the consultant, because there is no other way of doing it, they will be sent.

This is nothing new, I do not want to say that I have discovered the moon! It has been done in the past, it is being done in the present, and I am sure it will be done in the future. But it will take the hell of a long time before I get over my "shame" at the Honourable Members statement.

HON P J ISOLA

Can the Minister say why there is not even token provision now, in view of this constraint of 40 patients per annum, why there is not even token provision in the Estimates for specialist treatment for patients outside Government hospitals. I notice that there was £1,000 last year, presumably this was in respect of the extra 3 that were sent, I do not know, but there is no item under which this can be done now.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

The £1,000 last year was to pay the outstanding bill before the Reciprocal Agreement came into being. We sent 35 patients last year, so in estimating we assumed, even if we reached 40, we still would be within the agreement. On the

first year we sent 43 and no charge was made. And if a charge had been made we would have come to this House and asked for the money. There is no question of financial constraint.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, I would ask the Minister this question. Why was he so against the terms of the motion brought here, if there are no financial implications.

MR SPEAKER

No, order, I will not allow that under any circumstances.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well, Mr Speaker, I want to assure the people of Gibraltar since the Minister has got on his high horse of "shame" and all the rest of it, that there is enough money for anybody according to the terms of that motion.

MR SPEAKER

No, no, I am not prepared to allow that.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, with all due respect, if we feel that the medical services must provide for a second opinion when there is a serious case and if that money is not there, then these Estimates are absolutely incomplete.

MR SPEAKER

No. With all due respect, we are not going under any guise whatsoever to re-open the debate that we had last time. We have as a matter of fact done a lot of retracing but you are being asked to vote this money, and if you do not want to vote it you are entitled to vote against the motion.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Absolutely, Mr Chairman, I know my rights in that respect and I am grateful to you for reminding me of them, but what I am saying is that the Minister must assure this House that there are no financial constraints, and I am not sure this is the case.

The Minister has told me in this House: "What would we do if everybody wanted to go at the patients whim". How would we pay for it.

MR SPEAKER

Order, order.

Whether the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition is prepared to accept the assurances given by the Government or not, it is his prerogative to decide one way or the other, but an assurance has been given and you can take it at its face value. The assurance has been given without a shadow of a doubt.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Under what item, Mr Speaker, do we pay for the other part of the Agreement, that is UK persons being treated here.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

We do not pay, it is a book entry.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Could the Honourable Member give an idea of the balance of payments.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I am afraid no. They accepted that it was not necessary for us to keep records and I think it is a good thing they did.

HON M D XIBERRAS

So the Minister is not aware of what are our financial obligations under this agreement.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Our obligations under this agreement, and I have said so time and time again, are that if any person going to the UK in the same way as any person comes to Gibraltar, or any person going to Germany, the obligations entered upon in all Common Market Countries. Anybody needing emergency who happens to be in a Common Market Country gets the emergency treatment. As far as Gibraltar is concerned we send up to 40 patients to the UK. They have stretched the point and we have had forty-three and have not charged it. And if it were to be 100 we would pay for the sixty that they did not want to pay, it is as clear as that.

HON M D XIBERRAS

It is awfully magnanimous and quixotic of the Minister!! But what I am saying is, Mr. Speaker, what are our obligations. Does the Minister have any idea whether we get 40, 60, 80 in return?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, no, I do not think they send everybody for special treatment to Gibraltar!

HON M D XIBERRAS

It is not a question of not knowing, I imagine that there could be a time when this might be the case, but not I would imagine now. The Minister should not be so down-hearted that we might not get one or two cases.

What I am asking is does he know, surely if he has a limitation of 40, the others are ex gratia, how many do we take in, do we have any limits.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

We have got no limits as to the number we deal with for emergency treatment, a tourist with, say, a perforated ulcer we would treat, what we do not take is anybody coming specially to Gibraltar to be treated in Gibraltar, they do not place that burden on us; they take that burden from us but do not place it on us, otherwise any Gibraltarian who goes to the UK and happens to fall sick there he gets treatment there: any Englishman, Scot or Welsh or Irishman who comes to Gibraltar and happens to fall sick here, we treat them.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The number of 40, I am very glad to see that the UK authorities are co-operating in this way, that they would take 40 or whatever it is necessary because this might make the new procedure much more reasonable. But is the limitation of 40 a financial one in any respect?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

It was in a way taken into account considering the number of tourists etc. that came to Gibraltar, and taking into account that we were sending about 32 or 33 patients. We said 40 in order to allow ourselves some elbow room. Despite the fact that in the first year of operation when we sent 43 they have not raised the question, and last year of course we sent less, we sent about 35 or 34 but certainly not 40.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, but the limitation was a financial one at one time, obviously it must have been.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

We could have said 33 or 35. We did not actually relate it to pounds and pence.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I am not talking about that, Mr Speaker, I am talking about whether it was a financial one or not.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, there is no financial constraint.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, then why do we not send fifty, why do we not have a right to send fifty. It must have been a financial one surely.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

There were two factors involved in this, we said: OK, we spend in dealing with your people £60,000 a year; and they said: OK £60,000 = 35, make it 40.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well, that is a financial one, Mr Speaker. Why does the Minister say yes there was a number based on a reasonable sum of money.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I am not going to allow myself to be tricked by the Leader of the Opposition. When I said financial constraint I meant from this end; that even if we had to send instead of 40 and if they said 40 and no more, if 50 had to be sent, we would pay for it. He knows that too well because he is clever enough to understand what I am saying.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, Mr Speaker, and the Minister is clever enough not to understand what I am saying. What I am saying is, and perhaps the Honourable Member will understand what I am saying, what I am saying is, if there are financial constraints on the part of the United Kingdom in respect of this agreement which conditions the number of persons to be sent over.

MR SPEAKER

What the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition is trying to ascertain is whether when the figure of 40 sponsored patients was arrived at, was that figure computed on a financial premise as to the amount that 40 patients that had to be sent to be treated to London would cost?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I have said in the last three minutes on two occasions that there was a combination of both factors. They took into account, I will repeat myself again and I hope this time he will understand it, they took into account the number of people we were supposed to be looking after and then they say how many are there in Gibraltar that you are likely to send, and we arrived at the formula within our requirements, this is the reality of life. They stretched themselves to the extent that would not place us in any predicament. If he asks if it was related to pounds and pence, yes, it was, but it was a devised formula in order to suit Gibraltar. I have already given an undertaking, and I have repeated it . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but there is no need for that.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

. . . . financial constraint of sending anybody to the UK, agreement or no agreement, does not exist.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well, let us drop the word "constraint", let us talk about limitations or a line drawn. There must be terms to this agreement, Mr Speaker, and the number of patients to be sent as of right in accordance with this agreement might or might not be a financial one. Now what I want to be assured of is that there is no provision necessary. The Minister does not have to come to this House for supplementary provision or must not think that he must come to this House especially for supplementary provisions,

that there is a sum of money in case they go over the 40 or over the so many thousands pounds. Now that is what I am talking about.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I am afraid there is no money here because we seldom reach over 40 but if we were to reach over 40 of course I shall have to come and ask for money from this House.

MR. SPEAKER

I must put this right, What the Minister has really stated is simple. He has said: We are now, under the existing agreement, entitled to send, I think it is, 40 patients. If we send more, and on one particular occasion we sent 43 no extra charge was made by the United Kingdom. Now, we would send as many as we need, and as many people who require to be sent in any given year. If by any chance the United Kingdom Health Services make a charge we will come to the House and ask for the money, but if we do not then we do not have to ask for the money. That is what the Minister has said.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, I can appreciate that, but if the Minister were less emotional about it then perhaps we might get exactly how the system works, and there one big sums of money; the Minister has a right and an obligation to tell us how it is working, he does not show these things. You must not veil them.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I do not think he has understood what I have said.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Now can I refer, Mr Speaker, just as an example, a particular case. If there is a particular case in which there might have been a recommendation for a person to go to the United Kingdom and then that person is not sent by the Committee or the Administrator or the doctors and so



forth, and decides to go over.

MR SPEAKER

He does not qualify.

HON M D XIBERRAS

He does not qualify. Mr Speaker, I have at least two such cases where it has been sent it would cost a lot of money to send them over and those cases have been serious.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but that is the part I am not prepared to allow.

HON M D XIBERRAS

What I am saying, Mr Speaker, is that the Minister may be prepared to assure me that there is no financial constraint and I am prepared to believe him.

MR SPEAKER

No, you are talking at cross purposes and we must be clear in this. There is no financial constraint, and it has been said over and over again, provided it is within the policy set up by the Government. There is financial constraint to the extent that if a patient - and I know from what I have heard here - there is financial constraint if a patient who has been turned down by the local Health Authorities and has not been sponsored, if that person goes to the United Kingdom there is a financial constraint and he will not be aided. That is what has been stated.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Speaker, what springs to my mind is, because you remember I was mentioning that I had talked to some people since the debate, that obviously there is a financial constraint in the minds of those - I do not know whether it was the Minister, a Head of a Department or consultant -

who agreed the limits of 40, because those must - I think, Mr Chairman, the Minister we have listened to him patiently - in those persons mind is the thought that they who agreed 40 as a limit would now be the cause of expenditure if they agree more than 40, in their minds. I am not saying that I am right or wrong, all I am asking the Minister is that instead of telling the House, because he knows we are going to vote the money, that those who gave that figure should be told not to worry about it, the fact that they have given that limit does not in any way inhibit their choice. That is what they should be told. That at least would put our minds more at rest.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Well in the first place I have said that in the first year we sent 43, and I do not know whether even they know . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Let us make this clear because we are going round in circles. What you are being asked now is, will you please assure the powers that be who are supposed to sponsor that the 40 limit should not constrain them from sending more. That is all.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Of course.

HON M D XIBERRAS

May I ask the Minister if he has them available and he must because this has been a subject which has been debated at length in this House, how many patients in the last three years have been sent, is it around 40 all the time? Is it two above or two below all the time? The Minister does not know?

MR SPEAKER

Give him a chance to answer.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I do not know their names of what sort of disease they have or when they were born but it varies from 30 to 35.

HON M D XIBERRAS

It has been in the last two years 30 to 35 and once it was 43, is that it?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Yes.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, then we have 30, 35 and 43. Mr Speaker, we are talking to a man who is in his department . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, no, we must not cross examine. Members are not here to be cross-examined under any manner or form. What you are entitled to do is to seek information. If the answer is not satisfactory you can do what you like, but we must not cross examine.

HON M D XIBERRAS

One problem is that I do have complaints about this, and I am still talking to people who have still not been refunded the money, and I am being told here that there are no financial constraint. I am willing to give the Honourable Member opposite names of people, not here of course because that would be wasting the time of the House.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Mr Chairman, I do not know what you would say if I asked you to explain this again. You have explained what I have said before that I thought that after that he would have understood. What we cannot do is that if anybody is not recommended to go, as you very rightly put it, by a

consultant in Gibraltar and if they go on their own they cannot come back and claim the expenses afterwards.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Unless of course, Mr Speaker, the journey was really justified. In which case I am sure the Government would foot the bill in all justice. Therefore, since finance is not an inhibition on the part of the consultants, the only thing that remains now is the procedure. Would it be possible rather than leaving it to one individual for there to be a sort of Board of Appeal of doctors?

MR SPEAKER

No, I will not allow it, since there is no financial constraint it is completely out of order, because we are not voting money. That is the end of the subject.

HON J BOSSANO

What in fact is the situation when a patient, for example, goes to the hospital thinking he requires treatment in UK, the professionals here consider that he does not, the patient goes privately and it appears subsequently that an error of judgement was made here initially. If money is refunded to a patient as a result of an error where does it come from, what vote is it: and if not is it Government's policy that it should not be refunded?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Well it has not arisen so far because were there to be a case we would be able to get them through the National Health.

HON J BOSSANO

I am not necessarily thinking about the cost of treatment, there are individuals who go privately and still get National Health treatment in the UK, I can give the Minister examples of that if he wants.

MR SPEAKER

Not now.

HON J BOSSANO

Not now, but I mean the cost of going to UK for example, if a person going to UK at his own expense and he gets National Health treatment in UK, and he comes back cured, and it was impossible to get the cure here and it was considered unnecessary to send him, what is that persons position. Is he entitled to a refund and if so - you know for the expenses - would it come under a vote here or not.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Well, Sir, I would say that if a claim were to be made - and no claim has come forward that I know of in any case - the claim would have to be considered. If he has been sponsored after finding out that there has been an error of judgement at this end.

MR SPEAKER

It is a hypothetical question, it has been answered.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Speaker, I think the element of sponsoring that the Minister has spoken about is perhaps . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Order, order.

HON J BOSSANO

It is a fact that I could go tomorrow to UK on a holiday for example, or I could go tomorrow knowing that I was ill and get treatment under the National Health Service, with the Minister Reciprocal Agreement, without being sent.

MR SPEAKER

No, you cannot.

HON J BOSSANO

I can, yes.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I am sorry, if you are taken ill in UK, as I said before, an appendix, a perforated ulcer or whatever it may be, you are treated under the National Health there whether on holiday or what it may be.

MR SPEAKER

That is enough now. Any other items under this head?

HON M D XIBERRAS

Did I hear the Minister correctly to say that there had been no case where a mistake might have been made here? The Honourable Mr Bossano asked him where does the money come from where a mistake might have taken place in the eyes of the patient, and then the patient goes at his or her own expense to the United Kingdom.

MR SPEAKER

The answer to that one was that if that was the case he would be converted into a sponsored patient and the money would be paid.

HON M D XIBERRAS

But out of the sponsored patient vote?

MR SPEAKER

Out of the sponsored patient vote.

HON M D XIBERRAS

But what I had heard the Minister say was that there had been no case so far.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Not that I know of. If a person has been seen in Gibraltar and he is not satisfied; he goes to the UK and there has been an error of judgement - but let me tell you we get it the other way too, there was a chap who was diagnosed as suffering from digestive trouble and when he came back to Gibraltar it was found that he had a perforated ulcer. If they go on their own steam because the consultants do not feel that they should sponsor them, because they feel that in their judgement, rightly or wrongly they should not be sponsored, but the patient does go to the UK and there is something serious that was not diagnosed in Gibraltar, and which could not be treated in Gibraltar and could only be treated in the UK, as the case we have discussed in this House, then we have got a case to say that she should be sponsored, as she was sponsored. And as far as the Medical Department is concerned we sponsored that patient and there was no money restraint.

HON M D XIBERRAS

She was sponsored retrospectively.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, no, from the moment she went into hospital - in fact before she went into hospital.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I am glad that at last the Minister and I are now on the same wavelength.

Mr Speaker, we look forward to the review of the procedure and we are grateful for the assurances extracted from the Minister that there are no financial constraints and that he will pass this on to the doctors involved and perhaps we might get a fluctuation in the number of patients who are sent or we may not have this uniform pattern which happens by chance around the number 40 which is the number allowed.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

He is making an insinuation . . . .

MR SPEAKER

I beg your pardon, what is the insinuation.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I do not know, Mr Chairman.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

He is insinuating that we are keeping the numbers conveniently under 40. I said that in one year it was 30, another year 35, last year 43 - there is no pattern, of course there is not. It depends on the number of people who need to be sent.

MR SPEAKER

That is the end of the matter completely and utterly, I will not allow another question on it.

HON M D XIBERRAS

On Item 5, Mr Speaker, there is an increase of £35,200.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I explained that.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The Minister has offered some comment. How is the money paid out, is it paid out to the Chemists, or how is this money spent.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

This money is not exclusively for the Chemists, that is what they would like. I will give you a breakdown. It is made up of £175,000 for the Group Practice Medical Scheme, £35,000 for other drugs, bandages, X-Ray materials, Oxygen and laboratory equipment. All that is covered in that particular vote. It amounts to £253,500.



HON M D XIBERRAS

£175,000 is for the medicine at the Health Centre, the Group Practise Medical Scheme. Is it the Minister's experience that most of this, because we asked a question earlier on about the number of patients attending the Health Centre. Now in the Minister's experience are these the ordinary sort of aspirin type of medicines, there is a technical name for it, the across the counter medicines, has the Minister any idea how much of this is . .

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, no it involves medicines ranging from 60p to £30.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I am sure of that, Mr Speaker, and there might be one or two items which even go above £30. I am not going to ask him for a breakdown of all that, but I am talking about the ordinary - what is the name of this - the proprietary drugs. Is there a very big proportion of that in the Minister's experience.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

There is not a very big proportion, there is a very big abuse, and I think I mentioned that at Question Time on the previous occasion.

MR SPEAKER

It has been ventilated already.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Yes, Mr Chairman, but I do not mind ventilating it again. People go with a shopping list, they go for the basic drugs and it is very difficult for doctors to refuse the Panadols, the laxatives, the sleeping pills, and other sorts of pills, and they find it very difficult as I explained. I was hoping, not as a fiscal measure - I have explained that before.

HON M D XIBERRAS

That is what I am driving at, Mr Chairman, but the Honourable Member must allow me to ask him some questions occasionally. Now if the £35,000 extra aimed at catering for the abuse in medicines?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, only the £175,000 of those £253,000 is catering for the abuse.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The whole £175,000.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

It covers part of the abuse.

HON M D XIBERRAS

It covers part of the abuse. The Minister says that there is an abuse, it is very difficult to stop, and we should vote another £35,000 more.

MR SPEAKER

The Minister has not said anything of the sort. If you want to ask something you are entitled to do so.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Let me ask the Minister what is he doing to try to put that right. Am I wrong in assuming that he is voting £35,000 for all this.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, Sir, I am not, I will repeat it again; it is difficult, there seems to be some sort of invisible wall and my answers do not seem to get across.

I said at the beginning, I said two minutes ago, and I will repeat again, that the increase of £25,000 is attributable to two accounts - on abuse and increased numbers as I said before. The numbers were 1,200 at the beginning of the year and they are now 1,600. So this is a combination of both factors. The abuse I would assume is £14/15,000.

HON M D XIBERRAS

£40,000?

MR SPEAKER

£14,000.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I am very glad; that is a very useful statistic that the Honourable Member has provided. Well, Mr Speaker, in this respect we are prepared in fact to accept as reasonable that there should be a hunch about this and nothing more.

Obviously people pay a contribution towards this, could the Minister - perhaps I will leave this question for a later occasion when other Honourable Members have had a chance of asking other questions.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I would like to continue on that point, because the amount is much greater than that if one compares 74/75 with 76/77. Now the rise is very very steep there, it is about 130%. Could the Minister . . .

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

There was no Group Practice then. The provision of medicine came into operation in 1975, there was none in 1974.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

There was a great increase in cost since the service was introduced . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, no, there was no expense at all. No, the Group Practise Medical Scheme did not exist therefore there were no medicines being granted.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Therefore this is an added expense obviously. I do not know whether the Minister can answer this question now: if not of course I will not accept it. Perhaps later on someone will say to what extent this amount is recovered by the contributions. Is there any significance at all.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

The contributions barely cover the cost of medicines. And of course this year it will be even worse because more people are going to the Centre, so it is a subsidised service.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

So whoever has joined the Scheme is on to something good, is he not?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

If people are doing good, that satisfies me.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask a question on the votes of the Head as a whole, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, most certainly.

HON J BOSSANO

I would like to ask the Minister whether he is planning to do anything to move towards a Comprehensive Health Service - there was a motion passed by the Gibraltar Trades Council which was subsequently discussed with him - and in fact whether he has any notion of the sort of money, for example, that places like the Isle of Man, whose estimates I brought back with me from London, spent on their Health Service, since the Isle of Man is a community of about twice our size and it may give an indication of the sort of money we would need to be thinking of. They have got parity of wages with UK and they have got a community of about twice our size.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

The figures I have are from Guernsey, which is more akin to our size, except that they have got a floating population of 5,000, and I would say with a certain amount of regret perhaps that we spent in medicine per head of the population more than they spend in Guernsey. People tend to go to the doctor much more frequently in Gibraltar than they do in the United Kingdom or in Guernsey. I would be very pleased to obtain the figures on the Isle of Man.

As regards a Comprehensive Health Service, I did mention at the beginning of my introduction to the expenditure of my vote that there was discussion again at the first part of this meeting two or three weeks ago, that it is the intention to introduce what I consider to be, and as I explained to the Gibraltar Trades Council, the second last phase of the final Comprehensive Scheme, and that is the hospital side, to cover which an extra contribution of 2p per insured person is to be introduced. And of course you do not need more staff to do that. I would very much welcome if the Honourable Member would allow me to ask for a few days after the budget because I would be interested in seeing those figures.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, under Operations, Anaesthetic and Consultation Fees, this is operational. What is that vote to do with Mr Chairman.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

That is basically in respect of the moieties on fees for the doctors. The House amended the rules a year or two ago whereby in respect of anyone going privately to doctors would receive the full fee. That is why the vote went from £10,000 to £1,000. We collect the fees, it goes into revenue and then we pay the doctors from this vote. It is the work that the doctors do privately and is shared amongst the consultants. It is off set by revenue. I am told that it has got to be done that way.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, let me see if I have got this right this time. The approved estimates 75/76 was £1,000, and for 76/77 it will be £1,000. Could the Honourable Member perhaps tell me why the figure for 74/75 was so low in comparison.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Yes, in those days they were not collecting the full fees from private patients, they were collecting half. We increase the price of the room - this was brought to the House- and in return they kept the full fee. Instead of our getting 50% of the fees and they getting the other 50%, that is why this has increased by almost 50%.

HON M D XIBERRAS

So now they get the full fee for that. What I am saying is they get the full fee for people they see in hospital as a private patient, and this is the book transaction to show the degree, the number of people more or less roughly who have been there.

Now, Mr Speaker, does that represent the sole work done in the hospital privately? Is that the only vote.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

It represents the private work where fees are collected. I do not think any private work is done for nothing.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, what I am saying is the actual expenditure, let us say, for last year. Does the Honourable Member have any idea of that, the actual expenditure?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Actual expenditure for what.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Under this Head, in other words this is expenditure of £1,000 and can he tell the House how much work is being done by private doctors inside the hospital, of course to the knowledge of . . . .

MR SPEAKER

I think this time it works the other way round, the expenditure is because it has to be paid out, but it has been collected. and therefore the expenditure is relative to the receipt, and must be all the time. Am I wrong?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Is what he is getting at that I should give him figures as to what it had cost the Government to have these private doctors doing this work?

MR SPEAKER

No, no. What the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition is trying to find out is whether this shows the complete receipt by private doctors doing work in the hospital, or whether there are other receipts by doctors which is not shown here.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I want to know whether this is the local doctors who do work in the hospital, they take in a private patient, or whether it is a question of the consultants.

HON P J ISOLA

I presume the Minister means that this is the hospital staff, receiving private patients.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Consultants of the hospital doing consultancy work.

HON M D XIBERRAS

But this has nothing to do with Consultants coming from the UK.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, no, I think that is under - if he looks at the Estimates - under Personal Emoluments. I think there are £7,000. Visiting Consultants - Item 1 - £7,000.

HON M D XIBERRAS

On personal emoluments?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

That is right

HON M D XIBERRAS

I see.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask the Minister: he said that this was recovered, that these fees that are paid to the Consultants are recovered from the patients by the Government.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, I must apologise, I misled the House on that one. What happens is that we collect on their behalf, it is the



Government who sends the bills. We collect the bills and then we pay the consultant. It is included in Revenue as collection of fees and as expenditure here.

MR SPEAKER

It is purely an accountancy entry in the Estimates. Money has been collected by Government not for their account but on account of other people, and since a payment has got to be made out, therefore it has to be shown as an expenditure. But as I said before one balances the other. Government will not pay out more than they have received on behalf of the other.

HON J BOSSANO

No, I think that would be the absolute limit, Mr Speaker, if we allowed them to use the hospital for private patients and gave them money on top. It is certainly too much for me as it is but I think it would be even too much for the other members of the House.

I wanted to find out more about this Mr Speaker because in fact I think it is incompatible with a National Health Service to have doctors using the hospital as a private clinic for their own patients. As the Minister is no doubt aware this is a feeling that is shared amongst supporters of the National Health Service in the UK. Now, is it in fact under Hospital Fees Head V that the in-coming funds is to be found? Because there the sum is impossible to detect since it is £260,000. Head V, page 7, under Revenue, Sir.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I think it is a figure of £200,000 odd - and it is included there.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask two further questions Mr Speaker.

One is, does the Consultant get paid by the Government first, and does the Government then get the job of getting their money from the patient, or does in fact the Consultant have to wait until the patient has paid the Government?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

If the patient does not pay the consultant does not get paid.

MR SPEAKER

No, no, if that were the case then the figures would not balance each other.

HON J BOSSANO

There is no way of knowing whether they balance because, Mr Speaker, one side we have got £250,000, and on the other we have got £1,000. But could I ask the Minister whether before the money is paid to the Consultant there is a deduction for PAYE made from that money.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I can look into it but I am afraid I cannot give the answer now.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, if I may just finish on this point. What I was trying to establish before was the volume of private work done in the hospital: that is why I asked about the £1,000 and why there had been no change and there had been a big change from £10/1,000 before.

Does the Honourable Member opposite know roughly what the volume is: whether the doctors are occupied a lot with their private patients or not? This is obviously of great interest to the House and will be when other matters are discussed.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, no, I do not think it would be fair to say that because they are doing private work the other patients are suffering. Certainly I would not say that.

HON M D XIBERRAS

What I am asking is more or less what the volume of work is, of course. What proportion of service they have, do they have ten patients a piece, really what the volume of work is?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

There are 17 private rooms; I would say on an average that there are about 10 to 11 a day. There may be occasions when there are 16 or there are 5, but on an average I think, 10 patients. I stand to be corrected, it may be slightly less, but I think 10 patients are the average number of patients, of course excepting maternity, where there are two private rooms.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, still on this . . . .

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

But you must remember one thing, will you please, that there are consultants who do not have patients in the private rooms. The Anaesthetist etc.

HON M D XIBERRAS

. . . . Mr Speaker, £1,000 seems to me a small amount in this respect.

HON MISS C ANES

Well, I was going to ask the Minister who pays the salaries and wages of the staff in attendance on doctors when private consultations are taking place. Do the doctors pay this or does the Government?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

We pay of course. This system of moieties is a bad system and perhaps when Morgan is accepted a lot of this will disappear.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, I would like to ask, in view of the fact of what has been said about the abolition of hospital fees, does that mean that this Head of Revenue of £260, 00 would have to be reduced by a considerable amount?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, what we collect is about £25,26,000 and this will be, not quite but more or less, what they will be paying in contribution.

HON P J ISOLA

Could I go now please to the question I wanted to ask. As I understand the position now, as from whenever it is, nobody going into the hospital as an in-patient, in a public word of course, I am not talking in the private corridor, will pay anything at all in that hospital.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, provided he is an entitled person, a Gibraltarian or a Common Market National.

HON P J ISOLA

Let me just say a Gibraltarian, that is easier. No Gibraltarian would pay any fees in that hospital if he goes in as an in-patient. I just want to get the facts right. If that Gibraltarian goes to obtain a service in that hospital but sent by a private doctor as opposed by a Group doctor, he pays the X-Ray fees, the full amount, is that the position, but if that private doctor thinks he needs an X-Ray he could tell him I suppose to go as an in-patient and then he will not pay to get his X-Ray if he sleeps the night in the hospital.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

No, before a patient is admitted into the hospital, a consultant theoretically must decide whether he should be admitted. This is not just the Rock Hotel where you can walk in as easily as that.

HON P J ISOLA

But, Mr Chairman, surely, if a doctor sends a patient to hospital he would be admitted, or does a consultant go round . . . .

MR SPEAKER

What the Minister is saying is that before you are entitled to free services in that hospital you must be sent by one of the Government doctors. Is that correct?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

What I am saying is that before anybody is admitted - theoretically because at two o'clock in the morning there is no Consultant and there may be no need to bring a consultant, the Houseman would admit the patient as an emergency. But if the following morning it is found that that patient has just come in in order to get an X-Ray, Group Practice or private he will go out.

HON P J ISOLA

I see, Sir. Well, the position is, is it, that everybody as I understand it pays social insurance and for the Group Practice, everybody does so in Gibraltar, as I see the position, and the Government is now spending £1,200,000 odd on the Medical Services, and it recognises that there is an abuse in the getting of medicine of £15,000 which the Government is not proposing to stop, even though it is an abuse. And yet, Mr Chairman, can the Minister explain why for example a person who prefers a private doctor, who is paying all the contributions to the Scheme, who is paying Insurance, who is not getting free medicine, who is contributing as a tax payer, cannot make use of the service in the hospital without having to pay.

MR SPEAKER

Provided we are not going to get bogged down. I will allow that.

HON P J ISOLA

I just want to find out.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I am going to tell him. In the first place we do not want second class citizens in specialised medicine. They either made use of the service Government provides or they do not; secondly, we are not going to have a hospital for the private doctors to charge whatever they like, over which we have no control, send a patient up there, get an X-Ray and charge for an opinion whilst we charge nothing. That I am afraid is not on whilst this Government is in office.

HON P J ISOLA

That is a matter of opinion surely. There is an awful lot of consultation done in the hospital with nobody paying £ a day. We are all aware of that.

MR SPEAKER

I am afraid we are getting beyond the point.

HON P J ISOLA

I do not know. Now the Minister had made me forget what I wanted to ask him. Could I ask the Minister this. He seems to be a bit obsessed about private doctors. He is not going to have a private doctor have an X-Ray done . . .

MR SPEAKER

May I ask which particular item you are asking about.

HON P J ISOLA

The whole lot Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER

No, Mr Isola, that is what is wrong.

HON P J ISOLA

Well I do not know where the X-Rays come. I am using that particular one, Mr Speaker, because it seems to me that it is not the private doctor who is getting the X-Ray . . . The Minister, in answering my question said: "I am not going to have private doctors getting X-Rays . . . ."

MR SPEAKER

Yes but I am not prepared to go into that.

HON P J ISOLA

Yes, but I am not asking about private doctors having X-Rays, what I am asking about is people who are contributors to the Scheme who are . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, no, I am ruling you out of order. We are now debating the Group Practice Medical Scheme and it is policies and I am not having it.

HON P J ISOLA

No, Sir, I am not debating the Group Practise Medical Scheme.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, you are debating it.

HON P J ISOLA

We are being asked to vote £1,200,000-odd for other charges in the Medical and Public Health and I am asking the Minister why some people, despite that amount being paid, have to pay for a service which others do not. That is the question, when we are already spending £1,200,000.

MR SPEAKER

Well, let him answer it then, let him answer the question.

HON P J ISOLA

Yes, but what I want to add to that, Mr Chairman, is that the hospital service, or the hospital whatever it was, existed long before the Group Practise Medical Scheme.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but we all know that.

HON P J ISOLA

Yes, but I cannot understand why somebody who chooses - I do not know, he mentioned the word second class . . .

MR SPEAKER

Well, let him answer the question. Order now. Will you answer the question.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I appreciate the Honourable Member not being able to understand, I appreciate that and I comiserate with him, but I can quite understand him very clearly in my mind. What we cannot have is people going - for example either you use a Government school and go free, or you go to a private school and pay. These patients really should be treated as private patients, and only because they were Gibraltarians and I did not want to be accused, perhaps stupidly, of wanting to do away with private practice, that this concession was given to the Gibraltar patient. Because if a patient who is not a Gibraltarian is sent by a private doctor he pays £3 consultation fee etc. etc. Because he was a Gibraltarian, and because this was a new scheme and people had to get used to this thing, I perpetuated what existed before. In the morning clinic they used to go for a fee of 20p and were seen free and everything was provided free, everybody who went in the afternoon on an appointment basis to the hospital to be



seen by any doctor, consultant or not, they used to pay 50p plus the cost of X-Rays. All we did was to increase the fees to take account of inflation nothing else, and we did it out of deference to those doctors who had been established for a long time and we did not want to do anything that might radically affect their practice. I could have done it but I did not despite the fact that I had been crucified by them. This is the contribution I have made to Gibraltar, and to the people of Gibraltar. I have been crucified by these gentlemen, I am proud to bear the scar with pride. But I am not going to give one iota on that.

HON P J ISOLA

Now, Mr Chairman, talking about the crucifixion, I do not think the Minister can be seriously saying that he has been crucified. I would like to ask the Minister, after his long speech, I still do not know why. I mean, I can understand a private patient going to a . . . .

MR SPEAKER

You are not going to be allowed to ask the question again. You have been given an answer and you should be satisfied. You are entitled to be dissatisfied.

HON P J ISOLA

I would like clarification . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, you are not going to get it.

HON P J ISOLA

Well, Mr Chairman, is it that I am out of order, or is it that you have decided that . . . .

MR SPEAKER

It is that I have decided that we have ventilated this matter as long as I consider it usefully that it can be

done and no more. It is as simple as that. It is my prerogative to do that and I am doing it.

HON P J ISOLA

Well, Mr Chairman, I am sorry I have not had the clarification I would have liked but anyway perhaps there will be another opportunity at another place at another time.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, the Honourable Member is not used to getting questions thrown at him, he usually has a very smooth time every year: perhaps that is why he gets so excited about this.

MR SPEAKER

Have you got something to ask on this Head?

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well, Mr Chairman, I was about to remark on what you had said. This is a substantial sum of money . . . .

MR SPEAKER

I am completely and utterly aware of what I have said.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I appreciate that and it is seldom that we get an opportunity to find out the ins and out of the hospital. For instance Mr Chairman I want to know under what head, if any, the question of the Consultant's fees from UK comes?

MR SPEAKER

You are entitled to ask that.

HON M D XIBERRAS

That is what I am asking, Mr Chairman.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

What again? For the third time I have answered that question, but I will do it again. There must be something going wrong over there!! Item 4, page 35, Personal Emoluments and the heading of that page reads Gibraltar Estimates 1975/76.

MR SPEAKER

Will you please give an answer, and that is the end of it.

HON M D XIBERRAS

There is no other expenditure connected with this, Mr Chairman: there is no assessment of for instance private consultations. I ask this because I want to come to the question of priorities for the consultants, the use of Government resources in relation to consultants from UK and what order of priorities is given (a) to private patients (b) to Government patients. That is what I am driving at.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

A short memory Mr Chairman!! I gave that answer about three or four months ago. I will repeat it again. These consultants come here for limited periods of time. No one who is referred to these consultants, as far as we are concerned in the hospital, who have not got any means, who are not private patients are left unseen, unless the workload of the people who have been referred to them, the non-private patients is such and they consider, after seeing all those patients, that one is not too seriously ill and can wait for the next time for an operation, they are all seen. I explained that about three or four months ago.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well, Mr Chairman, I am very glad to hear this because as you know there have been certain statements made by the Medical Department very recently about private doctors being told or not being told whether the consultants came or did not come and then the procedure had been changed and so forth. Therefore, the Minister will bear with me if I ask the question yet again, because there has been, as part of the passion of the Honourable Mr Montegriffo.

MR SPEAKER

I will not allow any acrimony whatsoever. You will ask questions which refer to the subject but let us come down to earth.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I am assured then that the order of priority is exactly the same for patients from the private sector as from the public sector still?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Yes. All the patients that are referred are seen, and we are mainly concerned with our patients. If we are talking about private patients we have no control whatsoever. We do not know how many they want to see, how many they have seen and how many they will not see. What we make sure is that they see the patients we send to them, and this is the purpose of their visits to Gibraltar. They fulfil their obligations to us. If they want to see before or after fulfilling this obligation any amount of private patients, that is not our concern.

HON M D XIBERRAS

On the Public Health, Mr Chairman, we had difficulty last year, I think it was, on the number of Public Health Inspectors.

HON M D XIBERRAS

We have had that?

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I am sorry, Mr Chairman, but I did not have the opportunity of standing up and speaking . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Fair enough, provided it is nothing that has been answered.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

No, no, no, it is a completely different head altogether. It is 3. Laundering Expenses. I see that there has been an increase between 74/75 and 76/77 of quite a handsome sum of £10,000 to £11,000.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

The increase in laundering expenses is £6,370.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

No, I was referring to the previous year. All I am going to say is, if I may be allowed to put the question, is that it is quite a substantial increase. The total figure now is coming up to £33,000 a year, is it not? And it is quite a high figure. Would it not be more economical, now that we are reaching that high figure, for the Government itself to run its own laundry?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Mr Chairman, I do not want to cause another explosion, but this was the reason why when we first put this out to tender I gave strict instructions that our own laundry should not be dismantled at all, in case this did not work. Unfortunately, for some reason that I do not know of, the laundry was dismantled when I came back into office. I

I still feel in fairness that it would cost us no less, I do not think it would cost us much less. The increase of course is based on contract prices over which I myself or anybody in the Medical Department have very little to do with, except that a member of the Medical Department attends the Tender Board when discussing this matter. This is beyond my province to decide what prices will be paid. I was concerned about this and I asked for very specific figure this year, and this was the answer I got. But at the moment there is no possibility of having our own laundry.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I am not saying that it would be more economical, I do not know, but I think that since the figure is rising, and is bound to rise even more, it might be a good idea to look into the matter of whether it might not be a saving to have your own laundry.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I think it is a good question and I think it is something that I will take up certainly and find out whether it is possible that this might be cheaper or not.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

The other one is Disinfection and Other Services, which is Item 1. Now, there again I see quite a big jump, about 50%, between 74 and 76. I am not looking at the increase on the other line because that is such a short period, but I think it is over the long period that one gets, I should say, a fairer view of how the thing is progressing.

MR SPEAKER

I think an explanation was given on this one.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I gave an explanation at the beginning but . . . .

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Yes, I know, but you might be able to amplify. I still believe the jump is quite considerable. I doubt whether the cost of the disinfectant could have risen as much.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Sir, on Item 1 I did say, and I repeat again, that this was due to the Interim Award which, as I mentioned before, was last year included under a separate item. I will give you a breakdown . . . .

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I just wanted to clarify the point.

HON MISS C ANES

Mr Speaker, under Item 7 - Patients' Appliances. Are these crutches, walking sticks and wheelchairs? We are asked to vote an extra £200. Item 7 Patients Appliances.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Yes, what does the Honourable Lady want to know?

HON MISS C ANES

What does it relate to, is it wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks or are they just apparatus . . . .

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

This is in respect of prosthetic appliances basically, very much of a token vote.

HON MISS C ANES

May I now ask on Item 9 - Funeral Expenses. Is this the amount paid to the undertakers under contract to the Government?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

This is again a token vote, we have no control over the number of deaths. At the moment the contract price is £45 per funeral.

HON MISS C ANES

You have no intention of raising the fee in view of the general costs of materials and so on after an inspection of all the problems that I have brought to the House.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I have undertaken that when we have a paupers funeral we shall inspect the quality of the coffin and so on. Please do not ask me to do it myself but it is going to be done. When you raised the matter of course I looked into the position myself: the items provided are a cushion; linen; a crucifix; handles and a varnished coffin and the appearance is not bad. I think the best thing for us to do is to check things the next time we have a paupers funeral and if the position is found to be unsatisfactory, when we come to agree on the next tender we shall add a few more frills to make the position more satisfactory.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Mr Chairman, in the maintenance of markets. This has gone up by about 50%. Item No 19, Maintenance and Running Expenses of Markets. There again there is a jump of about 50% between 1974 and 1976.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Again, as with Item 11, the sum of £25,000, you will see that it is in respect of the Biennial Review.

MR SPEAKER

This is the Biennial Review.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I shall give you a breakdown. The Maintenance of the



Markets, £12,000; cleaning materials £500.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I hope the same thing did not apply to disinfections and other services and that the Minister was right there when he said it was the Interim Award. I took his word for it and obviously I did not press any more, but I wonder if you could give me the breakdown now of No 1, Disinfection and Other Services. I said it had gone up by about 50% from £13,000 to £20,000 between 74 and 75, and you said that it was the Interim Award and quite honestly I was stogared when I heard that. So perhaps you could give me the breakdown for that if possible.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I will try and get it for you. I do not know whether I have got it here. You are talking now about Item 1?

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I am going back to 1.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Disinfection and Other Services. The breakdown is: Wages £17,750; Insecticide - this year as I said at the beginning this vote had been affected by an increase of £5, 70, which includes Biennial Review and higher prices of insecticide, which has gone up by over 70%, and also we are bringing food sampling equipment. The amount is made up £17,750 for wages; then we have got insecticide - I am giving you round figures - £2,000.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Insecticide £2,000. You said something about wages, Biennial Award.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

It says here, increase due to Interim Award . . . .

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

How much?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

That I cannot tell you.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

You see what happens is that the difference is so great. Is it that somebody else has been employed to do the work: is it lack of productivity, this is what I am driving at.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I am afraid I have not got the number of people involved there. I am sorry.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The Honourable Member is all the time drawing comparisons with 1974/75.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I do not think it matters what we compare to. As long as we see that there is an increase I think it is interesting to find out why the increase is there.

HON A J CANEPA

Every operative that is employed by Government, Mr Chairman, has since 1974 had an increase of £436 a year - Interim Award and COLA.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

There are 11 people there, including the Assistant Cat and Dog Impounder. We have got 11 people working there and they are basically getting a total of about £1,400 a year, plus overtime amounting to £2,345 . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Gentlemen, we are getting nowhere fast!

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

. . . . and that gives you a total of £17,75 as against 75/76 £14,616. So really the difference in wages as compared to last year is £3,142. On top of that the cost of insecticide has gone up. We are also bringing atmospheric pollution equipment totalling £400; Health Education Aids, another £400; Food Sampling equipment, another £100, and sundries, recruiting materials etc. £500.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

We should have fewer insects around! Going back then to the market.

MR SPEAKER

No, no, we are not going back .

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Mr Chairman, if I may. The costs have obviously gone up and is there any way of recovering this from the stalls there, because if the service of keeping the Markets clean has increased and this is a service given to the people who occupy this place, has the Government any intention of recovering this by people paying higher rents?

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

The rent for the stalls was increased - and I stand to be corrected - at the beginning of the last financial year. I think the fees, including the weighing of meals all sorts of things, was increased then.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

What worries me, Mr Chairman that other people might be

subsidising this sort of thing. It is obviously coming out of tax and I mean taxpayers. Other people in commerce have got to pay rises in rents and also face this subsidising of would-be competitors. I think it is only fair that if there are great rises, as there are here, it should be passed to the people who occupy the stalls.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

I will tell the Honourable Member what I will do was give them a copy of all the fees payable in the market and perhaps some suggestions might come out.

HON MISS C ANES

Mr Chairman, I shall send the Honourable Member a copy of the fees payable in the Market and perhaps he will be able to make some suggestions.

HON MISS C ANES

Mr Chairman, you said we should not go back to this item, but I would . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but I will sound a very stern warning. I have been calling Heads and sub-heads - I will most certainly allow you - but from now on, if we are going to go up and down what I must insist on calling is Item by Item. Anyone can say what he likes on that particular item and that will be the end of the matter as far as that item is concerned. Otherwise we will never ever get through. Yes Miss Anes?

HON MISS C ANES

Thank you, Mr Chairman. The Minister mentioned that they had employed an extra cleaner for the Market: is this a sweeper, because as far as the drains are concerned there is an obnoxious smell emanating from the markets, most particularly at the corner by Smith Dorrien Avenue which overlooks the Public Health Department. And it is disgusting: anyone going by there is put off by the horrible smell that comes up from that corner of the Market.

The Fish Market is on the other side but this corner of the market which you can see from the top of Smith Dorrein Avenue seems to be a cleaning place and this has a disgusting obnoxious smell always. You said you had employed an extra cleaner but I do not know whether the cleaner is to sweep the place. But what about the drains. The Fish Market is also in a very bad condition, people complain of the smell and the filthiness of the place and I wonder whether to justify this expense of an extra cleaner the smell and the cleanliness can be dealt with.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

This is a good point. It is not the Cleaner that will do away with the bad smell, the Cleaner is doing something else. That question has been put in under another item, General Repairs to Fish Market generally. So we have taken the drains of the Fish Market into account and we are dealing with that this year. We have got that down to be done.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, general queries on the vote. I do not know when the Honourable Member is prepared to answer it, and that is, taking the vote as a whole, and he said before that this was a heavily subsidised service. I would like the Honourable Minister to give some sort of indication, if not now at some stage, of what the overall finance of this department are, taking into account the contribution that comes from Insurance, the Government contributions and the expenditure.

MR SPEAKER

That must be done in the general debate.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

If you want I can answer that one. It is quite easy. If he looks at Item 5, he will see that we are collecting revenue from one thing and another of about £260,000.

HON M D XIBERRAS

We collect £260,000 and we spend . . . .

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

We spent £1.2m.

HON M D XIBERRAS

So the total income of the Medical Department is £260,000 and the total expenditure is £1.245m.

MR SPEAKER

£1,245,000.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I see the Honourable Chief Minister is in the moon!!

MR SPEAKER

May we please go on with this.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, Mr Chairman, it is a very important figure. I have no doubt that you, Mr Chairman, yourself will admit we now have £1,245,000 expenditure and £260,000 income. So this particular service is very heavily subsidised from general revenue unlike others.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

That money includes the Health Service which in the past a charge on revenue, so it is something which has always been subsidised. The Health Service has never been a paying service.

HON M D XIBERRAS

No, but it has not always, I think, been expanding at the same rate, and this I think is something to bear in mind.

I am not objecting to it but I think the figures are important.

OTHER CHARGES was agreed to and passed.

MR SPEAKER

We will now recess for approximately half an hour.

The Committee recessed at 5.45 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 6.25 p.m.

HON H J ZAMMITT

Mr Chairman, Sir, before we discuss the next item, I wonder if you would allow me to explain to Members opposite the £25,200 under Housing on page 06, I think that is Appendix I about which there was some queries this morning. It is under the Major Repairs and Improvements, Item 2. This appears, Sir, under Public Works Non-Recurrent, page 52 Item 11 to 14, that is the £1,000; £7,000; £4,000; and £1,500, and further down on the next page, 53, Item 52, Modifications and Overhaul to lifts £1,000; Item 60 Housing Department, Provision of Additional Offices, the Warden Structure Offices and one thing and the other; and 55 includes provision for Police Quarters £1,500: total £25,200. I would not wish to elaborate on that, we are coming to Public Works later on, I am sure the Gallant Colonel will. Thank you, Sir.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I am very grateful for that information, Mr Chairman. Perhaps the Honourable Member will pass on the piece of paper so that we can take down the items.

HEAD 14 POLICE (a) Personal Emoluments

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr Chairman, as members will see the overall established

number in the Force this year is the same as last year, 200. They will however see that there has been a restructuring, if I may put it that way, in the senior ranks of the Force. Now the reason for this is that towards the end of last year there was a re-organisation which was finally completed in December. Before the re-organisation there was the City Division and the Dockyard Division, and in addition there were various Departments: Accounts; Administration; CID; Immigration; Prosecution; Communication; and to a certain extent there were overlapping responsibilities. There are now two Divisions, the Territorial Division, which is responsible for all of Gibraltar, the Dockyard and the City, and the Headquarters Division, which is, I suppose you might put it this way, the support division.

Now the reason for what you might call the bumping up of the ranks is that certain officers who were head of various departments before and responsible to a Superintendent are now responsible directly to the Commissioner of Police. For that reason you will find that the number of Chief Inspectors has been increased to five, the number of Inspectors from 9 to 13. There has been a reduction in Sergeants, but of course the office of Station Sergeant has been done away with. Last year, though the Establishment did not show this, there was provision for 12 Station Sergeants and 20 Sergeants, and this year there is a provision for 26 Sergeants. The figure 32 given in Sub-head 6, is in fact an amalgamation of Sergeants and Station Sergeants.

There is an increase as can obviously be seen of some £5,500 in emoluments. To a certain extent this is due because there are now slightly more senior ranks.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, we are grateful for that explanation. It is probably a very good thing that there has been a re-organisation and streamlining and so forth in the Police Force but the streamlining seems to have been distinctly upwards. I have been making some computations and whereas the number of Constables to Sergeants and Inspectors, and above, the ratio in 75/76 was 2.729 Constables for every Sergeant, Inspector and above, in 1976 there was only a slight drop, it is now 2.71. But when you look at the proportion of Police Officers, other than Sergeants and Constables, to Inspectors and above, you find that in 75/76, for every Inspector and above there were 10.1 Constables and Sergeants, and in 1976/77, this has dropped to for



every Inspector and above there are only 6.91 Constables and Sergeants. So that every Inspector and above now has one third of junior ranks less below than they had last year. That to me seems to be an extraordinarily big and fundamental change, and I would have thought that just re-organising the Police Force into a Territorial Division than a Headquarters Division surely cannot justify such a big change.

I mean, what is the reason, for example before there was a Commissioner of Police, a Deputy Commissioner and three Superintendents, and instead of that we now have a Commissioner of Police, two Chief Superintendents and two Superintendents. So the right at the top you now have an additional senior officer even though you seem to have centralised at Central Police Station. And then one goes further down and you have two more Chief Inspectors. Now that is almost a 50% rise in the number of Chief Inspectors from one year to another. I tremble to think, Mr Chairman, if this sort of increases at the top of establishment occurred in other departments. I mean if this happened in other departments I think a lot of people would have quite a lot to say. I appreciate that this is not a defined domestic matter but on the other hand it is a matter on which we must vote money, and this seems to me a very high increase. Then Inspectors have increased from 9 to 13, again another 33 1/3% of Inspectors. Then I notice that following on the re-organisation we now have one new Clerical Assistant, new posts, an increase in the establishment of one Clerical Assistant. I also notice two Audio Typists, new posts.

So, Mr Chairman, this has been some re-organisation, if I may say so, without seeming to be sarcastic or anything else about it, it has been some re-organisation in that as a result of bringing everybody under one place in the Headquarters Division it has necessitated creating two Chief Superintendents; increasing the number of Superintendents by one third; increasing the number of Chief Inspectors by 50% and increasing the number of Inspectors by a third.

Now, I do not know whether there are any other reasons than the ones outlined by the Honourable Attorney General. If there are I think we ought to know, of course, but it does seem to us that the Police Force seems to have become considerably top heavy, and we would certainly like to know, on this side of the House, I am sure we would like to know what are the benefits that is thought that the

general public will get from this. And I would also like to know whether the effect of creating all these new posts, and high posts at this stage, and using for that purpose, as I understand has been used, comparatively young officers, will this not mean that for many years to come there will be very little chance of promotion in the Police Force, with all the new posts created and occupied by comparatively young people. Those are my comments generally on the personal emoluments of the Force.

The other point I would like to know is whether the creation of all these new posts will result in less or more Policemen on the beat in the streets looking after and protecting premises at night and other parts of the day. Can I be assured that the creation of all these new high posts will not create an office mentality in the Police whereby a great number of these senior officers will be in the Central Police Station looking after the re-organised Headquarters.

There are two questions I would ask on this, Mr Chairman; I would like to know if possible a little more of why it has been found necessary in this re-organisation to have created such a new number of senior posts; and the second point, assurances about the ordinary Constable on the beat, about the patrolling of the streets at night and so forth, for the protection of property.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

I can assure the Honourable and Learned Member that it was the intention of the Commissioner to in no way reduce the number of Constables on the beat, or indeed the number of patrols that are made. Let me say straight away that there are problems of recruitment for the Police; there are at the moment 23 under strength, a matter which I think is of great concern to all Honourable Members of this House and the public generally. The days of the press gang are gone but it is a matter to which attention is always being devoted and which is regarded with extreme concern.

Now, the creation of the more senior posts: with respect to the Honourable and Learned Member the figures he quoted as statistics can be very misleading in a very small Force. Now, if you look at it a little bit more closely, the office of Deputy Commissioner is not filled at the moment, but instead there are as will be seen two Chief Superintendents. The . . . .

HON J BOSSANO

It is that the office is not filled or that it does not exist any more?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

There is provision in the Police Ordinance for the office of Deputy Commissioner. It is not filled at the moment: it was the opinion of the previous Commissioner that the office should cease to exist. However, the matter was left in abeyance because it was considered unfair to his successor, the present Commissioner, that a decision should be taken on this shortly before he arrived and it would be treated as a fait accompli. The matter is still under consideration and as far as I am aware no decision has yet been taken on that particular point.

HON J BOSSANO

And was the re-organisation carried out by the previous Commissioner or was that the work of the present Commissioner?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

The re-organisation was carried out by the previous Commissioner.

To a certain extent the increase in the ranks of Inspector and above is because of the abolition of the rank of Station Sergeant. In fact that is the reason, as will be seen, why there are four more Inspectors and two more Chief Inspectors, one less Superintendent, but that is set off by the new Chief Superintendent and the non-filling of the office of Deputy Commissioner.

The of ranks will not in any way produce an office mentality, as I think was feared by my Honourable and Learned Friend: the particular post which has been raised were not officers which were concerned at the time with men on the beat. They Special Branch now has a Chief Inspector, the Administration now has a Chief Inspector, and Immigration as well. But it is in no way intended to make this, as I said this at the beginning, a chair-borne Force, and particular attention is always being given to the men on the beat. But in the increasing

of the seniority of the particular officers, it was the opinion of the Commissioner at the time that these particular posts did in fact deserve a more senior officer than had been the case in the past.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, may I ask the Honourable and Learned the Attorney General whether this decision of the Commissioner that the posts merited a more senior officer was carried out by looking at UK analogues?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

That I am afraid I do not know.

HON J BOSSANO

Does the Honourable and Learned Attorney General consider that the Scamp recommendations are going to be applied to Police Officers, as I understand they are; the UK analogues should be applied to Police Officers as well?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

They have been . . . .

HON J BOSSANO

Well, no, Mr Chairman, they have not been, because I assumed that unlike the bandings in the industrial structure nobody has questioned whether a Chief Inspector in Gibraltar is doing the same work as a Chief Inspector in the UK, and whether a force of 200 in Gibraltar needs as many Chief Inspectors as we have in Gibraltar. Has anybody done that?

HON A J CANEPA

That Mr Speaker, has been looked into by the working party of officials that was referred to in answer to the question that the Honourable Member put earlier in these proceedings. They have gone into that.

HON J BOSSANO

Is the Honourable Member then saying that these posts are equated with SCO and PTO I, because the answer to the question specifically stated that the post had been Scale 7 posts, and the Working Party had looked at Scale 7 posts and equated them with SCO in UK. Is that what has happened in the Police Force?

HON A J CANEPA

The comparison has been with the relevant Police grades.

HON J BOSSANO

I see. Is the Minister aware what is the normal proportion of Inspectors and Chief Inspectors in a Police Force of 200.

HON A J CANEPA

I know that they look at the smallest possible Police Authority in the United Kingdom and made appropriate comparisons on that basis, as near as we could get. But of course there is no provincial Authority commensurate with the size of Gibraltar, they are all a great deal bigger. But I think they looked at the smallest possible.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, is the Government aware that, for example, in the Isle of Man, which has got a Police Force of about 200, there is only one Commissioner of Police, one Superintendent - no Chief Superintendent - two Chief Inspectors and five Inspectors, for two hundred. Is Government aware of that, which is a considerable difference between what is being introduced in Gibraltar.

HON A J CANEPA

That may be the case. Of course no comparison has been made with the Isle of Man; it is not my understanding that the Unions were asking for parity with the Isle of Man, or that Scamp recommended any relationship with the Isle of Man. He did so with the United Kingdom. Obviously those factors have been looked at, but there are other

factors, other work which the Police Force undertake in Gibraltar which this Working Party, all things considered, nevertheless consider that they merited the gradings that have been agreed to in negotiation with the representatives of the men.

HON J BOSSANO

But when the Working Party looked at the situation the re-organisation had already been carried out previously, and in fact what the Working Party discovered then was that the previous Commissioner intuitively had arrived at the right analogues without having looked at the UK. Is that right?

HON A J CANEPA

I do not see how he could have done it without some reference to the set-up in the UK. Obviously if a man comes over as Commissioner from the UK he is bound to have very much in mind the set-up there.

HON H J ZAMMITT

Could I just clarify for the Honourable Member the first question I think he posed as to the comparison with a similar Force in the UK of equivalent number - the rank structure. May I say that I cannot think of any particular Force in UK, including the Isle of Man with 200, that would have to fulfill the duties that the Gibraltar Police Force have to fulfil, that is Immigration, Dockyard, Security; Internal Security; Ambulance; Harbour Patrol; and the like. I do not think you will find a Force of that size anywhere in the British Isle with which we could compare the appropriate rank structure required in Gibraltar.

HON J BOSSANO

Yes, Mr Chairman, it is very well to look at the additional responsibilities, but of course, against that surely the Honourable Member is aware that he will not find any Force in a City with a population of 26,000 which has got 200 bodies in it, nor will he find any Force with 2 square miles to look after. So there may be additional responsibilities but there are off-setting factors.

HON H J ZAMMITT

Yes Mr Chairman, the Honourable Member is very right, but what I am trying to say is that if there was a force of 200 catering for a given area, the specialise reinforcement would come from within the same Country, from the Headquarters Division. For instance, you may find that a small force of 200 may have a CID detachment of approximately a Sergeant and a Constable, but if there was a need they could call upon the reserves from County as I think the Isle of Man would do. They would call in additional support from another Force, but here in Gibraltar we could not do that. Hence you have to have a larger rank structure to cater for each individual subsection.

HON J BOSSANO

I cannot accept that. The problem of Gibraltar's size and not being able to call in outside help presumably has been with us a long time and the new structure is only with us this year. And Mr Chairman, the decision to implement the structure has been taken and the House has now been asked to vote the money. I am sorry that there was no opportunity to debate the matter before the promotions took place, because obviously once people get promoted the argument becomes largely academic.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, I cannot agree with the argument of the Honourable Mr Zammitt on this because the problem he talks about with regard to the Police Force, the variety of duties and the variety of callings as, it were, they have, is surely repeated with a lot of other Departments of Government. I will just give one example: the Registrar of the Supreme Court is also the Registrar of Companies; he is also the Admiralty Marshal; he is also the Registrar of Business Names; he is also the Chief Charity Commissioner; he is also something to do with the Rent Tribunal, Chairman of the Rent Tribunal under the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance; and performs a variety of functions. This I think is inevitable in Gibraltar, and if one were to start thinking in terms of remunerating or giving status for each particular function of a person I think this would land in tremendous trouble, because we would have to do virtually what has been done in the Police in every other

Department of Government. I tremble to think what the consequences and the results would be generally for the tax payer at the end of the day.

I thank the Honourable and Learned the Attorney-General for his explanation but there is something about this that is serious, I think somehow or other, between the same number of Sergeants and Inspectors, and Chief Inspectors and Superintendents, Chief Superintendents, and Commissioner of Police etc., the re-organisation has taken place in such a way that you have the same number in total of Sergeants, Inspectors, Chief Inspectors, Superintendents Chief Superintendents and Commissioner of Police in 1975/76 as in 1976/77, with the exception of one. There is in fact one more in 1976/77. And when one examines this the reason is there, it is obvious to see: and that is, that instead of one Deputy Commissioner of Police there are two Chief Superintendents. Hence the explanation of one additional body.

It seems to me that those who have been looking into this, or have been negotiating it or what not, have produced - presumably to keep somebody happy, I do not know who - but have said: "Well, alright, despite the fact that it is now necessary to have higher ranks etc., etc., we will not have any more than this number, except of course because there is no Deputy Commissioner, we will have two Chief Superintendents, one extra man." It is very curious that you should require - we are talking of the Police Force of 200 but we are not, you know, we are actually talking of 133 Constables, and 49 Sergeants and above. For every Sergeant and Police Officer above we have 2.71 Constables.

It is difficult to see how that requires such a high superstructure and this has not really been explained frankly because the duties of the Police appear to be no different in 1976-77 than they were in 1975 or 74: in fact all the way back I suppose since the security situation developed, if I may put it that way. Shall we say in the last 10 years. And it is very difficult, Mr Chairman, to accept the argument that suddenly at the end of 1975, a Commissioner of Police has come along and decided that we were hopelessly understaffed at the top of the Police Force.

Well, I do not know who was in the Working Party, obviously the Honourable Minister opposite was.



HON A J CANEPA

There is no politician in the Working Party.

HON P J ISOLA

I see.

I know that there is one thing from what the Honourable and Learned Attorney-General has said, and that is that the Police seems to have been divided in departments and that each department is headed by a Chief Inspector. That I suppose explains why now there are five Chief Inspectors. If there were three before, is the position that instead of having three departments in the Police Force we now have five? And then, if you have five departments how do the two Chief Superintendents fit in, instead of a Deputy Commissioner? Is there any particular reason for that?

HON A J CANEPA

Two Divisions.

HON P J ISOLA

Two divisions, the Territorial and the Headquarters.

Well all I can say, Mr Chairman is that it has been done, as my Honourable and Learned friend on my left, it has been done, but frankly it is difficult to understand how this has occurred. It seems to be just a little too tidy.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, does the Honourable and Learned the Attorney-General remember my question in January about this. It was just after the promotions had actually taken place, and I asked a question which if I remember rightly talked about the recent promotions in the Police Force, and what was the policy behind it. And the Honourable Member will correct me if I am wrong, answered that question by saying that he was not aware of the recent promotions, and that the policy was the normal Government policy of, I believe it was, - I wish I had the Hansard here - the right man for

the right job, I believe it was.

Now there has been considerable debate on this and the Honourable and Learned Member has now, when the matter is - well it was a fait accompli then and more of a fait accompli now. The promotions have taken place. But I wonder whether he recalls the statement that he made in reply to that question, with which I must admit I was not at all satisfied, and explain how he can now come to the House with what my Honourable and Learned Friend on my left has called not only a policy, but a very tidy policy of balancing numbers and talking about major re-organisation and so forth.

Now was the Honourable and Learned Member not aware then when he answered the question after the promotions had taken place, of the reasons for this policy, and if he was aware why was he not good enough to give it to us at that particular time in January.

#### HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

I well remember the occasion, I remember the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition getting extremely irascible. But with respect, the way that question was phrased I did not know, I did not understand what he was getting at, and I can assure him that if I had understood at that time the answer would have been prepared.

Now, when the question was answered it became clear from the Honourable Member's supplementary that he was meaning to ask what apparently his question asked but something different. Now I was aware, as I said, that there had been promotions, I could not give the numbers at the time because I do not carry them in my head. I had been aware at that time to what end the question had been directed then the question would have been answered.

I was put on notice by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition that the matter would be raised again in the Course of the debate on the Estimates, and of course for that reason I have now been able to give the House a considerably more detailed explanation. But let me reiterate this, Government does not attempt to dodge questions put by the Opposition, and it was the question put by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition - had no blame on this one side or the other. The genuine understanding of his question when it was delivered to Government to be answered was looked up, I prepared the answer, it was shown

to the Chief Minister and there was no inkling at all as far as anybody was concerned that that was what the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition question was aimed at.

He did not try and judge it, it just did not appear from the way the question was worded.

These things happen. I am not saying that that question was necessarily phrased badly. I am not saying that it was misunderstood but was phrased well. This is the luck of the game, put it that way.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, I was not for a moment surprised that the answers have been forthcoming now because I put the Honourable Member on notice that we would vote against these matters, and he would not have the money as far as the Opposition was concerned unless he produced the policy behind the promotion. Now that he has produced the policy he will find that it is in fact the policy which I suggested to him had in fact been implemented, the replacement of Station Sergeants by Inspectors and I gave him the answer in that very question. That may be as it may be, but I would like to ensure, and we have ensured, that matters concerning the Police are discussed in this House when funds are required to be voted.

Now leaving that aside, what about - CID is - Special Branch is it not?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

No.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well, I would like to ask the Honourable Member whether the CID, or who used to deal the CID in the old structure and who deals with the CID under the new structure, and whether there has been any increase in manpower there. As I gather there has been.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

The CID was originally a separate department. It was neither Dockyard nor City Division but it was neither one of the two main divisions. It certainly comes under the Territorial Division working to a Chief Superintendent, with a Superintendent under him and then a Chief Inspector.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I understood that the Deputy Commissioner used to head that division and now we are dealing with a Chief Superintendent for this particular thing, for CID, a Chief Superintendent overall, then a Superintendent who is directly in charge, who is exclusively in charge.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

No.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, the argument of the Honourable and Learned Member was that there was direct access to the Commissioner or direct responsibility to the Commissioner by the various new posts created.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

I said from certain Chief Inspectors.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Oh, I see, it does not work in this one.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

No. Special Branch works direct to the Commissioner; Special Branch, Immigration; those are the two. The prosecution does not, the administration does not, nor does the Chief Inspector in the Territorial Division.

HON M D XIBERRAS

In respect of CID, then, Mr Chairman, are there more bodies involved now or fewer.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

There are more CID at the moment, yes. I cannot give you exact numbers but there has been a slight increase in the CID.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I do not think, Mr Chairman, the Honourable Member, with respect, is right in calling it a slight one. I do not know, but perhaps the figures are not available, I believe there has been a substantial increase in the CID.

Mr Chairman, the other question I have is on who made the recommendations for this. Now, do I have it that in time the events were as follows:-

The Commissioner who left in December made certain recommendations; they were looked at by the Working Party; and they were implemented, or what was the order of events.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I would just like to say a few words on this which may be of help: it may help also the Honourable Mr Bossano. Insofar as this House is concerned it was mentioned that the Police is not a defined domestic matter. I hold that the structure of the Police, and the pay of the Police, and the welfare of the Police, is the responsibility of this House because we pay for it and we must have a say on what happens in the Police.

What the Police is used for is another matter: but that there is a Police Force and that we being responsible for the pay must be responsible for the structure and what happens there is as valid as it is for any other department which is a defined domestic matter.

I want to make that clear because that has always been my attitude, that the Police, though in terms of Security is

not our responsibility, not the responsibility of Ministers, we are responsible to provide the funds and we must have a say in the structure of the Police, in the welfare of the Police, and the conditions of the Police.

But I would like to say that when these recommendations brought by the previous Commissioner to Council of Ministers, at which he came to answer, they were looked at not Scamp-minded, if I may use the word. I mean, as far as we were concerned what effect Scamp would have on this was not looked at then, nor in fact was there any recommendation of that nature at that time looked at in that way. Whether it had certain repercussions on which the Honourable Member is interested is an incidental matter. As far as we were concerned, on the advice given and on the explanations made, we were satisfied - I do not want to shirk any responsibility - we were satisfied.

For many years we have been saying in Gibraltar that we have been blessed with a Commissioner of Police who came from various parts of the Old Empire, Africa and places like that, and that it was about time that we had a Commissioner who was a Commissioner in the United Kingdom. And I think this was the first time in the history of the Gibraltar Police that a Commissioner of Police came from a United Kingdom Force and not from a former Colonial or ex-Colonial Territory. After some little time here he thought of this structure, thought of the way in which he could re-organise the Police Force, waited until certain events took place, no doubt, that is on the occasion of the retirement of the Deputy Commissioner, and then it was that the recommendations came. We looked at them on their merits and on the explanation given, on the lines explained by the Honourable and Learned Attorney-General, with perhaps a little more detail since it was the Commissioner himself who answered the question. Now it was on that basis, on the basis of a new look by a new man from the United Kingdom looking at the efficiency of the Force, and on the basis of a re-structure of it: not on the basis of a Division for the town and a Division for the Dockyard.

The increase in cost as stated here is £5,500, which is 1.4% of last year's Personal Emoluments, and approximately 40% of the Force is required for the Admiralty, MOD, pay accordingly, \$255,000 in 76/77.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The Honourable and Learned Chief Minister has not answered

my question although I am grateful for all that information. But what was the order of events. There was a recommendation, he said, then it was considered by Council of Ministers. I would like to know when - as the Honourable Mr Canepa said - when the Working Party came into it.

HON A J CANEPA

The Working Party is constituted to look at the analogue of all departments and all staff involved in the current wage negotiations. It went to them afterwards. The new structure then went to them so that they would consider the salaries that were appropriate to these grades on the basis of UK analogues.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Speaker, is he saying that what the Working Party did - I assume this is a Working Party of people whose salaries are recommended by Morgan. Am I right?

HON A J CANEPA

Yes.

HON J BOSSANO

This Working Party, did they in fact say a Chief Superintendent in UK gets so much, therefore the one in Gibraltar should get 70% of that; and a Superintendent gets so much, or did they actually find out what are all the duties of a Chief Superintendent and see whether those duties were covered by the work actually being done by the Superintendent.

HON A J CANEPA

I think these were looked at and compared. And as my Honourable Friend who has more knowledge of the internal workings of the Police than I have has explained, there are compensating factors. Where perhaps on the basis of a ratio Constables to and Inspector, say, a certain number of Inspectors would be justified, there are these compensating factors because of these other duties which it is considered the Police Force are undertaking in Gibraltar over and above what they would be expected to do in the UK.

HON J BOSSANO

So that in fact what the Minister is saying is that if in fact the Commissioner, the old Commissioner, had not produced this structure the Working Party would have come up with the same conclusions as a result of looking at UK analogues, they would have discovered that the Station Sergeant was in fact doing an Inspector's work, and they would have suggested he should be paid an Inspectors wage.

HON A J CANEPA

Not necessarily, Mr Chairman. In any case a Station Sergeant is I understand in the UK an obsolescent grade, and what may have happened, and indeed what I imagine has happened, is that in having a man upgraded from Station Sergeant to Inspector, it could well be that the Working Party has approved that grade as it were on the basis of his taking on extra duties, a re-allocation of duties based on a new structure.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, can the Honourable the Attorney-General or the Minister say what re-allocation of duties has there been in this creation of four extra Inspectors from Station Sergeants doing before, who does it now, what are the Inspectors doing now, and who was doing that before.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

It is impossible to give a break down of what duties were previously being done by Station Sergeants and are now being done by Inspectors.

HON J BOSSANO

Would the Honourable and Learned Attorney-General agree there would be a very peculiar situation if in fact there are people who were Station Sergeants doing a particular job and are still doing the same job but now they are called Inspectors.



HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

I would not agree with this.

HON J BOSSANO

He would not agree that it would be a peculiar situation if that is what is happening.

MR SPEAKER

I think you are talking at cross purposes. Would you agree it would be a peculiar situation for a person to have been promoted Inspector doing exclusively the job of a Station Sergeant.

It may well be that it was a job which merited an Inspector beforehand.

HON J BOSSANO

It could well be, Mr Chairman, that is precisely what I postulated five minutes ago and I was told that that was not the case. I said that the implications were if the Working Party had looked at the existing structure and found everybody correctly graded, that if they had looked at the old structure they would have presumably re-graded everybody the same as the Commissioner. That the Commissioner has done nothing, you know, that requires very much. I mean on the basis of Scamp we would have come out with the existing structure. That is the implication.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I do not think that necessarily follows. It was a re-structure of the whole set-up of the Police, not in respect of particular individuals in order to benefit more by Scamp or anything like that. In removing it from an old set-up into two Divisions, Territorial and Headquarters and the

whole of the allocation of duties was re-shuffled, and it is against that factor, I imagine, that the Working Party has looked at it.

As far as we are concerned - this I want to make quite clear - as far as we were concerned, when the recommendations were made we looked at them on the basis of what the Commissioner of Police thought the best for Gibraltar and related in anyway to Scamp. This came later.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, this is precisely what puzzles me, Mr Chairman. Before Scamp we used to look at the posts and at the gradings of people according to internal relativities and internal needs: after Scamp we do it by using as a model UK relativities. Now it so happens that the people who did the exercise before Scamp came up with exactly the same answer as the people who looked at it after Scamp. And this is part of the pattern that applies to the 1,700 non-industrialists that we have got. We have 1,700 non-industrialists, and this Working Party that has looked at them have found that everyone of them is correctly graded on the basis of UK, and they have found that none of the industrialists are correctly graded.

HON A J CANEPA

No, Sir, that is not correct, and I can mention two cases. One of them was mentioned yesterday by my Honourable Friend and that was the Experienced Teachers who were down-graded to an Unqualified status because in the United Kingdom there is no such thing.

The other one that I can mention that comes to mind immediately are the Senior Titulars. That is another problem, where they have been down-graded to HEO, Higher Executive Officer. So the Honourable Gentleman is wrong.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, obviously this also applies, since the Working Party was, if I understand the sequence of events correctly, presented with a fait accompli. Here is an Inspector . . .

HON A J CANEPA

Mr Chairman, the Commissioner devised a structure and they looked at the grade. The only innovation here is that you have got a Chief Superintendent. Previously you . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, I think we must be careful about this. It so happens that the re-structuring of the Police took place very near Scamp it seems, by the sequence of events. If the re-structuring had taken place a year before perhaps this argument would not be taking place. The assurance that has been given by Government is that one bears no relation to the other. The Committee found itself with a structure which had been re-organised in the immediate past, and therefore they were now making the comparison. That is the way I understand it.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, I think you are absolutely right in clarifying the matter in that way, but the point I am making is that Sir, well, could I ask this question: has any other major restructuring in any other Government Department taken place since the formation of the Working Party? Because it was after all the decision of the Government which created the new structure.

MR SPEAKER

Perhaps I have to establish, before you answer that question, whether the re-structuring took place before or after the formation of the Working Party.

HON A J CANEPA

The re-structuring took place on the recommendation of the Commissioner.

MR SPEAKER

This was in December.

HON A J CANEPA

He left in December but he had left his recommendations . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, your question that was asked in November. Your question was asked in the meeting of the 25th of November 1975.

HON M D XIBERRAS

It may have been, Sir, because the Honourable and Learned the Attorney General mentioned December as the date of the . . . .

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

I said that the re-organisation had been completed in Defember.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Completed in December

Then, Mr Chairman, the Government agreed to this re-organisation which would have considerable implications as regards the way of Working Party shortly before the formation of the Working Party. Am I right in saying that?

HON A J CANEPA

I forget what the dates were, Mr Chairman, but my recollection is that the restructure was put to Council of Ministers sometime in December and the Working Party was later on, definitely because the Scamp Report was published in August.

HON J BOSSANO

The recommendations of Scamp, according to the Morgan Report, was made public in July 1975, and when Mr Morgan

came in October the Working Party had already equated Scale 7 posts with SCO's. So the Working Party had already taken some decisions. Well that is what Morgan said, it is not the only thing that is inaccurate in Morgan.

HON A J CANEPA

Morgan was here for about two months or ten weeks. I would not be certain that when Morgan arrived in Gibraltar already that equation had been made.

HON J BOSSANO

Well the equation with SCO's had already been made according to Morgan when he arrived.

HON A J CANEPA

Could be

HON J BOSSANO

Now if in fact . . . .

HON A J CANEPA

The SCO's were considered well before the Police.

HON J BOSSANO

But in fact the sequence of events is that then a policy decision to implement was taken by Council of Ministers in the Summer, but in fact before that decision was put into practise the Working Party looked at it. Is that right? So that in fact it was not a fait accompli for the Working Party.

HON A J CANEPA

Before the structure? The Working Party has nothing to do with any departmental structures involving non-industrials or industrials.

MR SPEAKER

No, no, no. What Mr Bossano has said is that the policy decision taken in June, the implementations of the restructure of the Police took place after the Working Party was formed.

HON J BOSSANO

That is what it appears to me Mr Chairman, that although the House has been presented with a fait accompli the Working Party fortunately was not. So that in fact the Working Party, had they found that one of these grades did not equate with a UK grade, it was in time to recommend to the Government their views before the promotions took place. That is what I am saying. Once the promotions took place there was little that one could do about it.

HON A J CANEPA

Oh well, a different salary could have applied to that particular post.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I would very much like to come into this, Mr Chairman, because we had been told - this is as I see it - a Commissioner of Police here in Gibraltar thought that perhaps there had to be a change to the structure, and, therefore, the changes were carried out and we had to accept it and pay for it.

The amount involved is £5,500 and in fact when Scamp comes in the figure will probably rise considerably and the difference may be much greater, but whether it is £5,000, £10,000, one penny, I think it is essential before I approve the vote to know why this was carried. What is Gibraltar going to gain from this re-structuring. This has not been told to us by the Honourable and Learned the Attorney-General. All he says is that the Commissioner of Police came here and said we want to change this. But he did not say what were the benefits. Are they going to catch more thieves? Is that the answer? Are we going to see more dogs without muzzles in the streets? What is going to be the gain out of this re-organisation. I would very much like to hear the Honourable and Learned the Attorney-General tell us in plain language, so that every-

body here as well as the man in the street knows what are the gains to be derived from this re-structuring, because as far as I know in the past few years, for many years back, the Police have given an excellent service to Gibraltar with the existing structure. Why suddenly the change. Is it not better to leave well alone, unless there is something wrong with it.

If there is something wrong with the Force then we want to hear about it, and when we hear about what is going wrong, and what is going to be put right, then I will most willingly vote the extra £5,000, or £10,000 if that is needed. But I am not prepared to say yes because one Commissioner of Police came here and said he wanted a change; "I want more Chiefs and less Indians". Although it is very difficult to find the Indians.

Could I have an answer, please.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

Yes. In the opinion of a competent Police Officer the re-organisation of the Force would act to the benefit of Gibraltar. As the Honourable and Gallant Member has said Gibraltar has a good Police Force, and on that I would second him every single time, but it is a Force that sometimes get more kicks than a . . . . . But it is no good sitting back complacently, and if an officer, an experienced officer, says: "I think we can do better out of the material we have got and produce a more effective Force, then one accepts his advice. Because he has been a Policeman all his life, and he knows what he is talking about.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Well, I am glad to hear that, but what I would like to know is what other results are we going to see. Are we going to see a decrease in the crime rate? What is it that we are going to see? That is what I would like the Attorney-General to tell us because surely, when the Commissioner of Police made his recommendations he could not possibly have said - I certainly could not have taken that for an answer": I am a competent officer. Therefore, I am going to make this restructure; this is going to produce certain results in Gibraltar." "Oh, no, Sir," I would have told him, "that is very good, but you tell me now where you think the improvements are going to be." If he had told me,

"If we do this we shall have fewer crimes here, we shall have fewer robberies", then I would have accepted his contentions. If he had convinced me I would have said: "Yes, I will vote the money, and we shall see the results" But just because this gentleman is a competent officer, in any other sense, however competent the person may be, I think the final decision must come from the people who vote the money, cannot just accept . . . .

With all due respect, Mr Chairman, the Honourable and Learned the Attorney General has made a very general statement. Of course I know that this was suggested by a competent officer, because if he had not been a competent officer who would not have been the Chief of Police, I hope he would not have been the Chief of Police! I do not know how long he was here, whether he was here for three months or three years, I accept that the man should make the recommendations is the competent officer, but what I do not agree is that this House must accept blindly a recommendation of a competent officer without stating where the improvements are going to be seen. If the Honourable and Learned the Attorney General can now stand up and tell me . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, no, I have called you to order. The sequence of events is very very clear. A competent officer made recommendations, the recommendations were put before the Council of Ministers, they must have asked the question, and it is their decision whether to follow the policy or not. What you are entitled to ask the Government is whether they are satisfied that they have taken the right decision. But we must not question farther than that. That would be out of order.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Mr Speaker, of course I know they have accepted it. If they had not accepted it I do not suppose they would have brought it here at all!



MR SPEAKER

No, no, what I am telling you is that you are entitled to question the Government as to whether they have followed the right policy in implementing the recommendations. What it is not pertinent to question in this particular context is the ability or the capability, or the right of the Commissioner of Police to have made the recommendations.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I am not questioning the competence of the Commissioner of Police at all: what I am questioning is the inability of the House to make a calculated, a reasonable decision without knowing what gains we were going to get from the money we are voting. This is a recommendation for the competent authority.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, that is why we are going round in circles. What you are entitled to ask the Government is to tell us what were their decisions and on what basis these decisions were taken.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

This is exactly what I am trying to extract from the Attorney-General, Mr Chairman, if he can tell me where are the benefits coming from, where we are going to see the improvements: for example these changes are going to be carried out because then there will be fewer drug addicts in the streets of Gibraltar; there will be fewer robberies in our shops.

MR SPEAKER

Let us not try and guess.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

If he could tell me how this is going to bring this about then of course I will willingly accept the change, but to accept changes which are costing us more money simply on a recommendation for which we do not know the reasons, then

I think this is not carrying out our proper job in this House.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Chairman, I said that when the matter came before Council of Ministers, we questioned the Commissioner at greater lengths than we are being questioned now. Even that did not include the question of how many more people are going to be had up for drugs, or how many more dogs without muzzles you are going to impound.

That did not seem to me the kind of question you ask a Commissioner when he suggests that there should be a new structure.

What the Council of Ministers was satisfied, in a rather specialised department, it is not an administrative department or a quasi-administrative department on which we have much more experienced advice from others, in addition to the head of the department, the Establishment Officer for example, who advises on these things, this is a more specialised matter. We were quite satisfied, having regard to the explanations given, that this was a re-structure that would look after various heads of crime prevention, and various heads of pursuing certain aspects of life which were rather neglected. And we, in our judgement were satisfied that this restructure, which spread out the power which had been previously exercised, concentrated in one building here, and would consequently be much more efficient than what was there before.

It remains to be seen whether that will be the case or not; it would have remained to be seen whether we had asked the question that the Honourable Major Peliza has suggested we might have asked. Whether the result of the restructure produced more arrests, and prevented more thefts remains to be seen. So in fact the questions that we put were not of that particular identifiable nature but they were directed towards crime prevention and the better use of the available material in the Force for the better use of the Police Force.

A satisfactory answer was given on that by the Commissioner after considerable amount of cross examination by members in Council of Ministers.

We may be wrong in our judgement, only time will tell, and

this may I say is not the first time that there has been re-shuffle and re-structure of ranks in the Forces. I remember three or four years ago there was something else done in which a number of people were promoted and there seemed to be more generals than soldiers and so on!

HON M D XIBERRAS

This time you have gone a step further.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

We may have gone a step further, but what I say is that this is not the first time that the Force has been restructured because mention was made before that we have had the Police Force for a long time and it has been working well. Of course it has been working well, we have had changes from time to time and this is one of them.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, could I ask when the new Commissioner arrived and when he started his study and how long he took to complete it, to arrive at these proposals.

MR SPEAKER

Not the new Commissioner, the last Commissioner.

HON J BOSSANO

The last Commissioner, yes.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

It is very difficult to speak from memory, Sir, but the Commissioner arrived in January 1975. He was here just over a year. He came for a longer period but for reasons of health and other reasons he had to go, particularly for reasons of his wife's health. She was not well in Gibraltar and had to leave.

He obviously started to look at the structure from the day

he arrived, I imagine. When he came he was certainly - whatever may have said of it, I am not here to defend him, his judgement seemed to me a considered judgement. When he came, he had already been here five or six months, enough time, if he had experience as a head of other Police Forces, to gauge what he thought, in his judgement, at the time when he was thinking of staying here for a longer period that he should implement the changes. That is as far as I can go.

HON J BOSSANO

The fact is, Mr Chairman, that we now find ourselves with a much more expensive Police Force as a result of the Government having accepted the recommendations of a Commissioner whose knowledge and experience of Gibraltar and its Police Force was, at the time when the Government took its decision, at the most six months.

They took their decision in the summer, the man arrived in January. The first thing he realised when he got off the place was that the Police was responsible for immigration because they must have checked his passport! And from then on he started studying them!!!

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Mr Chairman, I cannot accept the explanation given by the Chief Minister at all. I know we cannot go on for ever like this, but what I am trying to say is that it is no good generalising and saying: well he said it was alright, and, therefore, we accepted it. There are different departments obviously under which they thought they should have an Inspector, and if they thought they needed another Inspector in the CID it must have been because the number there could not cope with the crime rate at the time. And, therefore, it is reasonable to expect that if that has been added, that the answer will be that more thieves will be caught and that would deter others. That is the sort of explanation I want to hear.

HON M D XIBERRAS

There is one more point, Mr Chairman, and that is that obviously this is a major re-organisation that we have been talking about. I cannot recall, whatever the Chief Minister says, a similar or comparable re-organisation in

the Police Force in the last four or five years, and I was wondering . . . .

I asked a question, to illustrate it, about the House of Assembly earlier on, we were talking in terms of one Stenographer now, and here we are accepting a Criterion for the Police Force which I do not know whether it is going to be to other departments. Now I am sure every other departments can make a case for a similar order of promotions. So my question is . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but that will come in the general debate.

HON M D XIBERRAS

My question is, in taking this decision, did Honourable Members opposite, or Council of Ministers, or the Honourable and Learned the Attorney-General, bear in mind the repercussions and that claims which might be made on the Government from almost every department of Government. Do they think that this policy can be equitably applied throughout the other departments?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Well, when you take any decision you always consider whether it is going to have repercussions or not, and you have to carry the responsibility for doing so. It has had no repercussions from any other departments so far as claims for re-organisation is concerned at all. And insofar as the Stenographer for this House is concerned, Mr Chairman, you have not asked for one yet, otherwise you would have been given one, or we could find one for you.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, we were told that the appointment was made on the recommendations of a competent officer. Am I right in thinking that one of the reasons why the competent officer left was because other recommendations of his were not accepted by the Government.

MR SPEAKER

You do not have to answer if you do not want to.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Not at all.

HON W M ISOLA

I entirely echo the words of Her Majesty's Attorney-General when he says that we have a very good Police Force, and it is in this spirit that I would like to get an assurance from Her Majesty's Attorney-General that the Police are not being unduly overburdened working overtime. I say this because I note that under item 19 . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Just one moment, we have been talking and you are entitled to ask item by item now, but let us not jump from one to the other.

HON W M ISOLA

Mr Speaker, I thought we had finished with the other one.

MR SPEAKER

No, no, no. I am going to be very careful on this one.

HON W M ISOLA

I thought we had talked enough about the other one.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Speaker, the Honourable and Learned the Attorney-General said that the new Inspector had come up from the rank of Station Sergeant. Is that right?

MR SPEAKER

That is correct.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

And Sergeants.

HON J BOSSANO

He said the number of Station Sergeants that there were previously and he said that they were now abolished. Can he say the number that there were previously. Is it that some people have been made up to inspectors and others have been downgraded to Sergeants, or what?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Certainly there have been no downgradings.

HON J BOSSANO

Well can the Honourable Member say, for example, how many Station Sergeants we have got now.

MR SPEAKER

We have no Station Sergeants as a post: we have Station Sergeants doing the work of Sergeants.

HON J BOSSANO

But presumably we are paying them as Station Sergeants, even if we are not employing them as Station Sergeants.

MR SPEAKER

Right, we will go down to the other item.

HON M D XIBERRAS

One more question. Did the Commissioner not leave

Gibraltar before the promotions were actually came out?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

No.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Member comment on the fact that in January or February this year we have lost 7 members from the Police Force between Sergeants and Constables? Does he think that this is in any way connected with the re-organisation?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I do not know the reasons why these particular officers left. I believe that four left on medical grounds. I have no reason to believe that the others left because of the new structure. There is always quite a considerable turnover in the Police. Last year I think there were 33.

Yes 29 left the Force other than on retirement: either resignation, medically unfit, or had their service terminated.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask the Honourable Member whether he can give us a figure of the estimated cost based on the new rates of pay which I understand have already been put to the Police Force and accepted by the Police Force.

MR SPEAKER

That would be fortuitous. I will not object if the answer is available.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

The answer Mr Chairman is "No" Sir.



HON J BOSSANO

What, the Honourable Member does not know or he does not want to give the answer?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

The answer Mr Chairman is "No" Sir.

HON J BOSSANO

No, to which, Mr Chairman. I want to know whether he refuses to give me the answer.

MR SPEAKER

Well, ask the question again and then you will see.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, I would like the Financial and Development Secretary to say whether he is refusing to provide the House with what he knows the Police Force is going to cost us in 75/77, or whether in fact he does not know what the Police Force is going to cost in 76/77, in spite of the fact that new wages have been offered and accepted.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

I do not know, Sir.

HON J BOSSANO

I see. Will he be willing to give the answer when he finds the information out?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Yes, Sir, but he will be waiting a long time.

HON J BOSSANO

The answer is, yes.

MR SPEAKER

The answer is, yes, when he has it.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask the Honourable Member how it is that the revised Estimates he has produced for this year if no different from the approved estimates in spite of the fact that the promotions have already taken place?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

There are no revised estimates.

HON J BOSSANO

Yes there are Mr Chairman, they are at the bottom of the column: £392,170. Is it Mr Chairman, that when we approved the Estimates in March of last year we approved sufficient funds for the promotions that have already taken place. If we did not then the House should be told that it is going to cost more money. This is why they produce revised estimates.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Chairman, in all the other Heads of personal emoluments, if you look at page 40 Part, the revised estimate and the approved estimate is the same. It is just a repetition unless there is something . . . .

HON J BOSSANO

But there is something, Mr Chairman. In fact there are lots of things. There are four more Inspectors; there are two Chief Inspectors; there is one Superintendent; and there are two Chief Superintendents. It is the sort of things // not there this time last year.

that were

MR SPEAKER

No, no, the only difference is one Chief and two Chief Superintendents, but there is one Superintendent less,

and there are two Audio Typists more and one Clerical Assistant.

HON J BOSSANO

No, Mr Chairman, there are two Chief Superintendents and there was none in 75/76 establishment, but although . . .

MR SPEAKER

There is not a Deputy Commissioner.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, alright, there is a saving there of a Deputy Commissioner in the course of last year.

MR SPEAKER

Right, we will get down to itemise the thing. I would like to call items; Item 1, any questions from anyone? Item 2; Item 3; Item 4; 5; 6; 7; ; 9; 10; 11; 12.

HON P J ISOLA

Two Audio Typists. Is this to do with the new structuring and re-organisation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

One Stenographer left . . . .

HON P J ISOLA

Yes, I know but has the dropping of a Stenographer and his or her replacement by two Audio Typists is to do with the re-organisation as well.

HON ATTORNER-GENERAL

I imagine, Sir. I do not know what the exact duties of

the two Audio-Typists are.

MR SPEAKER

Item 13.

HON MISS C ANES

I see there were none last year and none this year. Is it that the Police are finding it difficult to recruit Police Cadets, either male or female in this respect? Is enough public relations carried out to try and find recruits.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

They are not on the establishment.

MR SPEAKER

Item 14; 15; 16; 17; 1. Mr Isola it is your turn now.

HON W M ISOLA

Mr Chairman, if I might repeat myself for the record. I echo the words of Her Majesty's Learned Attorney-General when he said we had a very efficient Police Force, and I might also add a very polite one at that too. What worries me, and I would like to get an assurance from Her Majesty's Learned Attorney-General under the overtime item for which we are being asked to vote £69,000 for a Police Force of 200 is that the Police Force are not being unduly overburdened with working overtime. It would appear to me that these men are being asked to work - I may be wrong and perhaps Her Majesty's Attorney-General might put my mind at rest - I say this because, to give an example, under the Medical and Health Department in a staff of 371 people, we were asked to vote £59,000-odd and in the Public Works sector where there are 100 in the establishment, we were asked to vote £13,000, and I am slightly worried, and no doubt the Honourable and Learned Attorney-General might ease my worries by telling me that they are not being overburdened with working overtime, in view of this enormous amount of money for the Police - it would appear

to be quite a substantial sum of money for such a small number of men. That is my first question.

MR SPEAKER

No, no. You have been long enough to enable him to give you an answer.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

All Police Constables do a minimum of eight hours guaranteed overtime a week. That is the normal 40-hour week, plus at least hours overtime. It would not be possible to carry out all these duties, patrolling, point duties etc., which have to be carried out unless there was this overtime. They want it and it is necessary for the running of the Police Force. If of course there were more Police Officers then perhaps it would not be necessary to have so much overtime, but it is a necessity with the numbers as they are at the moment.

I do not say that if there was a tremendous increase, a tremendous recruitment, it would necessarily drop significantly, but at the moment there is no doubt at all there must be eight hours overtime.

HON W M ISOLA

I appreciate that they have to do 40 hours and then an extra eight. What I am worried about is, if he cannot put my mind at rest now I do not mind if he tells me tomorrow, all I am asking is for an assurance that the Police Force are not overburdened with overtime working hours. I know that they have got to do a minimum of 4, but what I am worried about is that in view of the size of the Police Force they are working far too many hours than they would normally have if they had a lot of people working normal hours. That is all.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I do not think that the working of this particular amount of hours is unduly taxing on the members of the Police Force. They have in any event one clear day in seven, they must rest, and any overtime which they do work beyond the agreed eight hours is not in my opinion unnecessarily taxing their stamina.

HON W M ISOLA

I may be wrong I have heard that sometimes the Police are being asked to work something like 72 hours a week. I do not know, I just wanted an assurance from Her Majesty's Attorney-General.

MR SPEAKER

You have been given an assurance.

HON W M ISOLA

Yes, well that is all. My next question is, Mr Chairman, under Item 20 we talk about Long Hours Gratuity, and it has a note which says "reorganisation". Perhaps could Her Majesty's Attorney-General just expound on what that means, vis a vis the overtime.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Long Hours Gratuity is paid to Chief Superintendents and Superintendents. It is £52 per annum to each officer. However much overtime they do, if they work 24 hours a day, overtime does not count, they get their salary plus this Long Hours Gratuity. Now the increase, as the Honourable Member will see, is £52, which is one more body.

HON W M ISOLA

I am much obliged for that answer.

MR SPEAKER

Right; 22; 23; and, therefore, we go over the page to "other charges".

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

The Honourable I Abecasis  
 The Honourable Miss C Anes  
 The Honourable A J Canepa  
 The Honourable L Devicenzi  
 The Honourable M K Featherstone

The Honourable Sir Joshua Hassan  
 The Honourable Lt Col J L Hoare  
 The Honourable P J Isola  
 The Honourable W M Isola  
 The Honourable A P Montegriffo  
 The Honourable Major R J Peliza  
 The Honourable A W Serfaty  
 The Honourable M Xiberras  
 The Honourable H J Zammitt  
 The Honourable J K Havers  
 The Honourable A Collings

The following Honourable Members voted against:

The Honourable J Bossano

Personal Emoluments was accordingly passed.

#### OTHER CHARGES

#### HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Chairman, there are of course two major items which go to make up the increase of £37,694. The biggest is right at the bottom, 2, Special Expenditure, £17,045. £5,000 is going to be spent on two new ambulances, £10,045 are being spent on three new 17-seater mini buses. At the moment the Police have Land-rovers which are extremely expensive as far as petrol is concerned, they are beginning to get very old, and it is considered that the provision of these three new buses will produce a more effective means of transportation. If the Police are called to the scene of an incident or disaster the buses would get the requisite number of the Force to the place on time. Equally, when prisoners come down from the jail a bus is the most effective form of transport.

Now, the other increases: there is one particularly large one, 9 Training Expenses. That has been increased from £300 in 1975/76, to £4,100 in the year 76/77, and that is because we are making some more ambitious provisions for training of officers in the United Kingdom. I can give certain details of this. One officer is going on a finger print and photographic course; another officer is going on a CID course; an Inspector is going to Burnshill, to the Police College; and two officers are going to Hendon on the basic course. The cost of the courses in the United

Kingdom comes to some £3,200 and in addition it is hoped to give more training to the recruits in Gibraltar at the moment. It is very difficult to give very much training and it is hoped that this is going to be now increased, so the constables coming into the Police Force will receive training this year than he has been receiving in the past.

HON J BOSSANO

I would like to ask the Honourable and Learned the Attorney-General whether Inspectors and similar senior ranks are provided with transport in the Police Force.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

No, there is one staff car which I think is used by the Commissioner, and I think it is used on the official police occasions if necessary, but otherwise there are no staff cars for Police Officers.

HON J BOSSANO

I was not thinking of staff cars, I think that would put the cost up astronomically if we provided each Inspector with a staff car. What I want to know Mr Chairman is whether in fact it is an established practice that senior ranks have got a right for example to request transport to and from their homes.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Not authorised.

HON MISS C ANES

I have a neighbour who is a Chief Inspector and he gets collected to and from work on a Land-rover. (Laughter).

MR SPEAKER

I am going to call items now.

2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11.



HON W M ISOLA

Last year we were asked to vote £9,500 for providing four Car Park Attendants, Purchase of Traffic Lights and additional work at parking sites. This year we are being asked to vote exactly the same amount. Can Her Majesty's Attorney-General give us a breakdown of how much of that £9,500 is being spent on the additional work at parking sites, and where are those situated; and what does he mean by purchase of Traffic Lights. What were they in 1975 when he bought them, where will they be, and what sort of additional traffic lights is he referring to?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

The amount to be spent on traffic lights this year is £1,500. I understand that these are mobile traffic lights and, therefore, it is impossible to say with any exactitude where they are going to be on any one of the 355 days through the year. The sum of £3,000 is for Car Park Attendants, a female Traffic Warden - that is a small sum, just under £200, - a certain amount of contract work, marking of the car park at Fish Market Road, and again the purchasing of traffic signs, mirrors and paint: that is another £2,000. The contract work is a sum of £2,300.

HON W M ISOLA

I am grateful for that answer. When the Honourable Attorney-General speaks about initial work at parking sites, can he expand a little on that. What does he mean by additional work at parking sites.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Painting bays, work of that nature.

HON W M ISOLA

Might I make a suggestion on this particular vote, Sir, that the traffic signs around Gibraltar are in a very very bad state and have not been painted for a long time. Perhaps out of this vote the Commissioner might consider giving a coat of paint to all the various signs that exist in Gibraltar which have not been painted for a considerable length of time.

MR SPEAKER

Right, any other item in the vote.

HON W M ISOLA

I have got one other item.

MR SPEAKER

Which is your other item.

HON W M ISOLA

I have got one other item which I think seems again to be rather excessive.

MR SPEAKER

No, no, give me the number.

HON W M ISOLA

Item 23.

MR SPEAKER

Item 23. Is there any item before that on which anyone would like to ask a question. Right, Mr Isola.

HON W M ISOLA

In 1975/76 Revised Estimates we were asked to vote the sum of £2,000 for telephones. This year we are being asked to vote £3,500 for Telephones. This seems to me to be an enormous increase in Telephones. Perhaps no doubt the Attorney-General has a perfectly valid answer but I would like to hear why we are being asked to vote 100% more than was used last year.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Yes, there is a new PBX service, that is £2,000;

instalation charge another £200. Those are the main reasons for the increase.

HON P J ISOLA

What is the rest. We voted last year for this: what is the rest in respect of.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

The installation charge £192; for 20 exchange £96; the rental for the exchange lines £126; the rental for ten automatic lines £420; the instalation of ten automatic lines £200. Now this all flows back into the economy. Trunk calls £120; repairs £60.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, is it intended to provide free telephones for Inspectors? If so where would the money come from, out of which vote?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I am sorry I do not know the answer to that question. There are certain officers who are, I do not think, entitled to a free telephone but entitled to half the rent: that is laid down in General Orders. I believe that it may be of different application to the Police Force where an Inspector, or a Sergeant has to be on call, but I cannot give an exact answer.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I was wondering where the money would come from, or whether there was a book entry for this service somewhere and whether the re-structuring had affected this book entry.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

No.

MR SPEAKER

Item 24, 10, 1, 2.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

The Honourable the Attorney-General said that the Police were going to be provided with three buses and I wonder if he could expand on that. Is it the intention of part of the re-organisation to run an official bus service in Gibraltar, or can he tell us what these three buses are for. I think he said . . . .

MR SPEAKER

He did explain

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Yes, I know. I think he said - what were the words - Oh yes. In case of a disaster.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but he gave several reasons.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Well, one of them was disasters.

MR SPEAKER

For the transportation of Police when they are needed in cases of disaster or incidents; for the purpose of bringing prisoners down from the Civil Prison; when they are required; and for any other purpose for which the Land-rovers are being used now which have to be phased out and are expensive to run.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

But there are three buses costing quite a substantial

sum of money. It seems to me an exaggeration that they are required for any of those purposes, and perhaps he could elaborate more on the sort of uses they are required for. I can see this as a very good thing for internal security if this is part of the re-organisation. But if it is so, we should be told, but if it is for the transportation of prisoners from Moorish Castle down to the Magistrates Court or anywhere else, it seems to me that they are estimating for a huge prison community.

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL

There are at the moment of course four Land-rovers, of which two are boarded, and two, although they have given us faithful service, are right at the end of their career. These are, as Member will obviously know, used for mobile patrols in Gibraltar, one will have seen them going around from time to time, and these four will soon be out of Commission; two are already on their last legs. And it is to replace these four that they are getting these three buses.

Now you have got to at least have some reserves. They will not all necessarily be on the road at the same time, but more often than not at least two will be on the road: patrolling, collecting prisoners etc. The Land-rovers are not going to be replaced. I think there is one long wheel base Land-rover which is not one of the four I have mentioned which will be kept because it is useful for transporting stores and supplies I understand, but it is felt, if one is off the road being serviced and maintained, and if you have only got one, you are in trouble. It is considered that three is the acceptable minimum number for the efficient running of the Force.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Well, I do not doubt that the number of vehicles may be required but to me it does not make sense that you have to use a bus to go round on patrol. I would have thought that the Patrol vehicle would be a rather small one, easy to negotiate the narrow lanes of Gibraltar, and not a van which not only might not be able to get through itself but might even obstruct the traffic coming after it. (Laughter).

MR SPEAKER

No, no, order, order. It is the mini-bus that they are

buying, not a bus.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

A mini-bus, Mr Chairman, of course. I hope it is not going to be one of those big buses like the Balck Marias used in England!!

MR SPEAKER

Any further questions?

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I would like to have an answer to that. I have not been given an answer.

MR SPEAKER

You have been given an answer.

MAJOR R J PELIZA

No. Whether he believes that it is more efficient to go on patrols with a bus than a proper patrol car?

MR SPEAKER

No, no, the Honourable Attorney-General . . . .

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Well, we are voting the money . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Order, order, I am ruling.

The Attorney-General has not got to answer that question. The Attorney-General has only got to answer as to whether he believes that the buses which are being obtained are suitable for the work required.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, if the House is going to vote £10,400, and we seem to be voting much more money for three buses for the Police Force than for two ambulances for the rest of Gibraltar. I think it is important that we should know precisely what these buses are intended for, because it might well be that to patrol Gibraltar they could do better with a mini which would cost £1,500.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

They are absolutely right, Mr Chairman, my Honourable Colleague is perfectly right. I would direct the House attention to page 2.

MR SPEAKER

It might perhaps help if you read page 2.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Yes, certainly, Mr Chairman. Four patrol cars.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

So we are getting four patrol cars on top of that. So this is not replacing the two obsolete Land-rovers!

This is the impression we were given originally. This was really misleading! The impression I got, Mr Chairman, was that the three buses were going to replace two obsolete Land-Rovers, but this is not the case now; we have four other vehicles being obtained.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, the Honourable and Learned the Attorney-General will correct me if he has the notes, but as I understand it, the three buses which are the subject of this discussion, are to replace two Land-rovers which have already been boarded and I am led to understand are no longer capable of being used. In addition, they are to replace two going Land-rovers which will be boarded when the three buses arrive. There is in addition this long wheelbase Land-

rover, the primary functions of which, or its most useful function at any rate the towing away of broken down cars, and the cars, naturally, of Honourable Members when they break down and they are in trouble.

Now, the point has been raised about patrolling. I think we all accept that a mini-bus is not a suitable vehicle for patrolling, but it is a suitable vehicle to give mobility to an otherwise pedestrian Force.

It is clearly in my view, and plain common sense, that a mini-bus is a lot more sensible in terms of the numbers that it will carry, the cost of operating it, and certainly the cost of spares as compared to the Land-Rover, and that is the reason why the two boarded ones and the two Land-rovers that exist on the police inventory at the moment are to be taken off the inventory and are to be replaced by the three buses. Basically the reason is to give the Force mobility.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Speaker, I am sure that after hearing the Honourable the Financial and Development Secretary the producers of Z-Cars and Hawaii 5-0 will give a sigh of relief, but I think the important point of principle that arises is that whereas before we had four Land-rovers, two of which have gone off and two are going to go, we are now having these 4 Land-rovers replaced by three buses and 4 patrol cars.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

If the Honourable Member will give way, that is not strictly correct although it might appear so. That is why there is no mention here under the item which has been called of the four patrol cars. The 4 patrol cars are not replacements, they are in addition to the vehicle strength of the Force, and as Honourable Members will see, it is hoped that they will be financed from Development Aid Funds for which an application will be made.

HON P J ISOLA

is that what the big R means.



MR SPEAKER

No, no, it is clear, and there is an asterisk. If you look at 86 - let us be very clear . . . .

HON P J ISOLA

Yes, Mr Chairman, I have seen it. It is a strange way to use the Improvement and Development Fund the source of funds I do not think is relevant to the situation, because, if for example you are lucky enough to get Her Majesty's Government to pay for four police patrol cars, one might consider whether it is necessary to have three mini buses at all. The position seems to be that - again we had the number we were talking about the establishment, how the numbers had gone up by 50%, the top establishment etc. now we find that the mobility of the Police Force is going to be increased by 50%.

Now, where, Mr Chairman, is the need for this. I think it is more sensible to have patrol cars than mini buses. I can understand having one or possibly two minibuses, one in reserve and one in use, but with four patrol cars it certainly seems to me that the need for three mini buses seems to be an unnecessary use of public funds, unless the police suspect a rapidly changing situation in Gibraltar necessitating creation of Chief Superintendents, Superintendents, Inspectors, more mobility . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Order, now Order.

HON P J ISOLA

Well, Mr Chairman, one is not trying to be fastidious about this or unduly critical, but it does seem to me that a Force that has been able to work apparently with four Landrovers, and two of them are already unserviceable, should now require four patrol cars and three buses. Has the Transport Commission been consulted!!

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, I think the story is unravelling slowly and

I think the hesitancy of Honourable Members on this side, who are going to ask a question on this particular vote is becoming clear. Basically the question is: why? Why? That is the question. And I am very glad to hear the rather more forthcoming and more credible, if I may say in the sense that it fits the Estimates better, explanation of the Financial and Development Secretary about mobility. I have also been accused of not doing my homework and I see that some of this is going to be paid from ODA.

Now, could I ask the Honourable and Learned the Attorney General whether this change in the fleet of vehicles available to the Policewas also a recommendation of the Commissioner that left, and whether Council of Ministers in fact consider a comprehensive paper involving not only the restructuring of the human element of the Force but also a somewhat definite restructuring of the mobility of the Police.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

This was a recommendation of the present Commissioner.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Not of the last Commissioner. So the restructuring, or the new approach is a continuing process. I mean, we have been concerned about policemen on the beat; there have been changes as regards Laguna Estate, having a Constable there working his own hours and so forth, and we are all very interested in these developments in the Police Force, and of course we are prepared to back to the hilt what is necessary in the interest of the community for the maintenance of law and order, for the prevention of crime, for social reasons, but what we are not prepared to do is to accept, for any reason that might not be the right one, the correct one, substantial changes in a sensitive area of Government's activities, which is the Police Force. Now could the Honourable Member tell us whether this new look of the Police Force is a continuing process or not?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

The Commissioner is always looking at means to improve the

working of the Police Force. Now, as the Honourable the Financial and Development Secretary said, this will give increased mobility. It is not much use in having a good Police Force if you cannot get them from point A to point B, and this is the recommendation: get them there by these particular buses instead of as in the past, getting them there by Land-rover, or not getting there at all.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Speaker, am I to understand that the buses have already been ordered by the Government or is the matter still being considered.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

The buses certainly have not been ordered but the matter is not being reconsidered by the Government, it appears here in the Estimates.

HON MISS C ANES

Has the Government considered converting the two present ambulances which will be taken away from service once the new ones are here, into buses and only purchasing one mini-bus, thus making a saving.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

It is proposed to cannibalise one of the ambulances in order to recondition the other. We are going to have two new ones, and we can have the other as a spare in case anything happens.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, is the purchase of the two ambulances in fact connected with the restructure of the Police as well?

After Gibraltar has been making do with a rather decrepid kind of ambulance, now we are going to have two ambulances, yes. I was wondering, Mr Chairman, whether it was necessary to militarise all departments in order to get

what one wants.

Now, is this connected with the restructuring, the new approach, the rushing to a particular scene?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

This is connected with the unfortunate incident when both ambulances have been out of action because they get rather rough treatment for a number of reasons. They are in the open and we are trying to see whether we can get them under cover; they are driven by different drivers; they go at a rush normally; other than when they are carrying other kind of passengers, and it is necessary to provide an efficient service. I would have hoped that this would have been welcomed by the House: that we should have the best possible kind of ambulance.

HON MISS CANES

May I come back to the question of the ambulances being bashed about. There was an occasion when one ambulance was used to transport furniture for somebody who had been accommodated at the Glacis Estate. This may have been done out of kindness. Perhaps on this occasion the ambulance might have been needed for a patient. This did happen. It may have been done out of kindness but it did.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Chairman, the Honourable Lady sees a lot of things from her little flat. (Laughter).

HON J BOSSANO

I am rather concerned at the possibility of the Police being immobile for a period of time. The situation now is that they have lost two Land-rovers, two Land-rovers in a very bad condition, and the new buses have not yet been ordered so they will take some time to arrive. So what is happening with the patrol cars, are they on their way.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Chairman, you can take advantage now. (Laughter).

HON J BOSSANO

That is what I was thinking about. (Laughter).

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Even better news for the Honourable Member: no, the patrol cars have not been ordered!

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, we think the Government and the Police are getting a good deal if they replace four Land-rovers with four patrol cars and two mini buses, we think that is increasing the capacity and mobility to a very large extent, and unless we are given good and compelling reason why their mobility should be further extended, and their capacity further increased, we must move that item 2 be reduced by £3,415, which is the approximate cost of one mini bus.

MR SPEAKER put the question, and on a vote being taken the following Honourable Members voted in favour:

The Honourable Miss C Anes  
 The Honourable J Bossano  
 The Honourable L Devicenzi  
 The Honourable P J Isola  
 The Honourable W M Isola  
 The Honourable Major R J Peliza  
 The Honourable M D Xiberras

The following Honourable Members voted against:

The Honourable I Abecasis  
 The Honourable A J Canepa  
 The Honourable M K Featherstone  
 The Honourable Sir Joshua Hassan  
 The Honourable Lt Col J L Hoare  
 The Honourable A P Montegriffo  
 The Honourable A W Serfaty  
 The Honourable H J Zammitt  
 The Honourable J K Havers  
 The Honourable A Collings

The amendment was accordingly defeated and Item 2 was passed.

On a vote being taken on the remaining items under Other Charges, the following Hon Members voted in favour:

Hon I Abecasis  
 Hon A J Canepa  
 Hon M K Featherstone  
 Hon Sir Joshua Hassan  
 Hon Lt Col J L Hoare  
 Hon A P Montegriffo  
 Hon A W Serfaty  
 Hon H J Zammitt  
 Hon J K Havers  
 Hon A Collings

The following Hon Members abstained:

Hon Miss C Anes  
 Hon J Bossano  
 Hon L Devincenzi  
 Hon P J Isola  
 Hon W M Isola  
 Major R J Peliza  
 Hon M Xiberras

Other Charges was accordingly passed.

MR SPEAKER:

We will now recess until tomorrow morning at 10.30 a.m.

I would remind members of the public that it is customary to stand when the Speaker stands and Members stand. If they do not wish to do so, I will sit down and ask them to retire upon which I will move.

Mr Clerk, you will take the names. Thank you very much.

The Committee recessed at 8.00 p.m.

THURSDAY THE 25TH MARCH 1976.

The Committee resumed at 10.40 a.m.

## HEAD 15 - PORT (a) PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS

HON A W SERFATY

Mr Chairman, on personal emoluments I would like to draw the attention of the House that there is an additional Engine Fitter, and a Cranes Officer, the latter because the cranes are going to come under the Port Department instead of under Revenue. I would also like to propose an alteration to marginal note (a) "Additional Fitter required for the maintenance of electric cranes", this should really refer to the new diesel crane.

That is all that is now under personal emoluments.

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS was agreed to and passed.

## (b) OTHER CHARGES

HON A W SERFATY

Sir, on Other Charges, I would like to draw the attention of the House to several items. The first one is Item 5, which includes £1,500 for oil dispersant, and £1,000 for an operator for what the Department likes to call the water witch, and that is the boat under Item 10, which will be used for cleaning up the surface of the water around the Port.

Then under Item 10, you will notice an increase of £6,090 and that is because a tanker came to the southern part of the Detached Mole: that is off-set by revenue because these £6,090 are for payment to the Admiralty. We pay 10% of the berthing charges on the southern part of the Detached Mole.

Then on Item 15 - this is a new item, Port Advertising. It has been considered that it was time that we started advertising the Port and I must say that since these advertisements started at the end of the year we have already had some very encouraging news about the effect of the advertising. In fact calls of merchant ships have increased by 14.6% in the first two months of this year as compared to the previous two months. We think this is due to the advertising.

Item 16 is new, Maintenance and Operation of Electric Cranes,

in fact of all cranes, because they now, as I have said before, come under the Port Department.

Item 10 is the purchase of the boat I mentioned before, and Item 12, which only shows £100, will be a commitment for £10/90,000 for the purchase of two new launches. I think I should draw the attention of the House to that one. £10/90,000 for the purchase of two new launches to replace the existing one which we purchased in 1949 and for some time now we have felt that they ought to be changed. That is why we are including the £100 so that we commit ourselves to the purchase of these two launches which in all probability will not be delivered in this new financial year.

HON W M ISOLA

I would like to put one question to the Minister and I do not know whether my colleagues will wish to ask on another item. I certainly welcome Item 15, on Port Advertising. We have always maintained that the Port should be advertised, but I would be grateful if the Minister could expand on what he is doing in the way of advertising the Port. Could he tell us a little more about it; where is it being published, how is it being done. Is it being done directly from Gibraltar or by our advertising agents?

HON A W SERFATY

It is being done through our advertising agents in London. We want this to be a professional job. It is really a monthly advertisement in an international magazine called "Fairplay International Shipping Weekly": we are not only aiming at British shipping but at international shipping. It is being done by Osborne Advertising, of course on the advice of the Captain of the Port.

HON W M ISOLA

When we say we are advertising the Port, what sort of things are we advertising, what are we telling the public or to whoever it may be, what is the Port offering?

HON A W SERFATY

We are saying that Gibraltar is the Port with the quickest



dispatch in the Mediterranean; we are calling attention to the prompt attention, it is ideally situated for all services, bunkers, lubricants, stores, water, rapid crew changes and repatriation, airway links direct to the United Kingdom, lowest port charges, 24-hour service, anchorage suitable for super-tankers, repairs and underwater hull cleaning, port formalities minimal, organised medical facilities, radio telephone ship-to-shore, transshipment; and we are not forgetting cruises either.

HON W M ISOLA

I am very grateful for that answer, and I certainly welcome the initiative that has been taken by the Port Department, and also by the Minister himself.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Mr Chairman, I am very glad to see that as in all other votes the purse strings havenot been too tight here either. This I think is a picture one can see holding as we look through the Estimates right from the beginning to the end. In fact the total vote of this is nearly 100% of what it was in 1974-75, and that I think is a clear indication of how well the finances of Gibraltar in fact are turning out to be after all the sort of gloom that I think was forecast in the past two months, and even I would say in the past two years. Not that I think the Opposition shared that view and of course we are being proved right once again. (Laughter).

Yes, you may laugh, perhaps it is an occasion for a bit of laughter and joy to see that in fact we have a mountain of gold, and there is perhaps another little mountain behind that which you cannot see, but which we shall all see as we go along. Anyway, looking at this now, I have one or two questions: conservancy for instance, I think the Jump is of £2,700. Is that wages or . . . . What is it?

HON A W SERFATY

I have drawn the attention of the House to the fact that this item includes £1,500 for oil dispersant and £1,000 for the operator of the water witch. That accounts for almost the whole of the increase.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Which is very good. That is a new item, obviously, the oil dispersant.

HON A W SERFATY

Oh, yes, it is.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

So we really have the funds to do all that sort of thing. The Minister looks very happy, and we are all very happy.

If we look down at the Admiralty Rents and Berthing Charges, that I think has gone considerably. Again it is 50% of what it was in 1974/75. I mean, not because we have money must we just throw it away. Remember that this money is coming from the public pocket: somebody is paying for this. I just wonder why this has risen so considerably. Where is that money going to? Is it money that we are paying some other Department, or what is it?

HON A W SERFATY

This includes the £11,000 rent that we pay for the Western Arm and Nos 1 and 2 Jetty, the northern side of the Detached Mole, but the more that that mounts up the better, because this means that more shipping is coming and more revenue is being collected, part of which, in the southern end of the Detached Mole and in the No 3 Jetty and the other one, are going to the Ministry of Defence, Navy. That is why the more money that is there the better. One day I think the North Mole will be passed on to the Government of Gibraltar. We may not have to pay any more rent, we will not have to pay any more rent, but we will have to pay more maintenance, and I would warn the House of this.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Well, I am very glad to see that this is a sign of better days but at the same time, what element of that is due to the increase in rates.

It is all very well to say that there is more shipping coming in but are we paying too much for that. Are we collecting as much as we should; how much are we giving away? Is it a fair proportion? Could the Minister enlarge on that please.

HON A W SERFATY

Well, there were recent increases passed in this House of berthing charges, but I do not quite follow the question. The more money that comes in the more we have to pass to MOD on those parts of the Mole that are not covered by the £11,000 rent.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I can see that. What I say is that the rate itself obviously must have been there for God knows how long certainly in 1974/75. Has there been an increase in those rates, and by how much?

MR SPEAKER

In other words you are being asked: do we pay a fixed rent and has that fixed rent been increased?

HON A W SERFATY

These rents were increased - I do not know whether I have the old rates here. May I read for example the berthing dues incurred by ships engaged in these activities: Group A berthing in 1974 was £2,000; 1975 was £41,000. These are the berths for which the Government retains all the revenue. No 3 extension was only £1,000 in 1974, and went up to £2,500 in 1975. And the Detached Mole South was only £1,291 in 1974, and £3,442 in 1975.

MR SPEAKER

Therefore, what you are being asked is the rental that you are paying for the Western Arm.

HON A W SERFATY

£11,000, that is all the rent we pay, a lump sum. It

used to be £19,000, then it was £15,000 and now it is £11,000.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Now, the other thing is the maintenance and the up-keep of electric crane. There was nothing here before: is this coming from another vote, and then the operation too.

MR SPEAKER

I think there is a vote. I think the Minister has just explained that the running of the cranes have been transferred to the Port Department.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

So this in fact is coming from another Department.

HON A W SERFATY

This is coming from the Revenue Department.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I looked at it but since I could see no remark, I just wanted to clarify that point. Usually it says that it is coming from another place. But it does not seem to have been shown there. It seems as if it is a new item.

Finally, and this perhaps is an important one, obviously the Government is contemplating spending about £70/90,000 - on two launches. I take it that it is the price of the two?

HON A W SERFATY

For the two.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

One point, and this is something that we took up in our time, the question of productivity. I think it might be

an opportune time to ensure that whatever launches are bought, taking other things into consideration of course, it will require the minimum number of men to man them. I think we tried to carry out an exercise to see how we could reduce the number in the crew, and at the time it was found that any alteration would be so costly that it just did not warrant it, and of course the idea was to buy new ones.

I would like to find out from the Honourable Minister whether in fact this is being taken into account, because I think in the long run of course this could be a big saving - perhaps even more efficient as well - more efficient and a big saving to the Government, and I hope that this question of productivity will be borne in mind when the new launches are bought.

HON A W SERFATY

I would like to explain that the existing launches have twin engines which are controlled manually, so, therefore, these launches require one Coxswain, two Seamen, and two Engine Drivers. We will not really need the two Engine Drivers because the more launches will be run by remote control, insofar as the engines are covered and the matter is in fact now being discussed between the Port Department and the Union, on whether these launches will have three or four men working on it.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I am very glad that the principle of productivity which we instituted in this House, and was so much the subject of laughter from the other side, is beginning to permeate into the minds of the present Government.

HON P J ISOLA

Sir, may I make one general comment on the Port. The increase of expenditure sought is of course extremely modest as far as the Port is concerned, and we all know that Gibraltar has got an extremely good reputation as an efficient Port. This is something, I think, a matter for congratulation.

What I would like the Minister to consider - perhaps it is a bit late in the day - is that some expenditure might now be considered by the Government in the Port area to possibly make it more attractive. It is a part of Gibraltar that the community frequent quite a bit over weekends and so forth, and I would have thought that, having regard to the revenue producing side of the Port, which I think is very substantial and very important from the point of view of the economy of Gibraltar, the Government should look to ways and means of improving the Port area in its amenities and in its attraction, not only for the local population, which I think is certainly worthwhile exercise, but also generally to visiting ships. This is the first impression ships, ships crews and so forth get of the Port of Gibraltar. In view of the fact that the increases suggested under this Head are extremely modest, we would welcome an indication from the Government of greater expenditure in this area.

HON A W SERFATY

I would like to say that one of the things that we are battling against is the number of lorries that use the Port area permanently for parking. The Government has been doing something about it and a lorry parking area will be created. In fact a decision has already been taken to take about 30 lorries in the industrial area. That is I believe a good thing. Of course there are little items like, if the Honourable and Learned Member went to the Port, he would see eleven new flag poles in the Western Arm and flags will be flying. That is the kind of thing that will contribute to beautifying the Port, but we must remove a lot of the machinery, lorries, all these long vehicles, and it is a tough job because we must really find alternative parking areas for them. We are already engaged in this, we have already decided on one at least.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, am I right in saying that the fee that we pay the Admiralty for cruise liners is not included in this vote.

HON A W SERFATY

No, not at all, that does not come through us at all when the Canberra berthes alongside the South Mole.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Is there any Government expenditure involved in this.

HON A W SERFATY

Not as far as I am aware, no, No Government expenditure.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Last time we discussed it and I got the impression that in fact the Government was paying.

MR SPEAKER

On the Detached Mole or the Admiralty side?

HON M D XIBERRAS

On that side of the . . . .

HON A W SERFATY

No, no, it does not go through our hands at all.

HON MISS C ANES

Mr Chairman, I am very glad to hear that a lorry park is going to be provided for large tonnage vehicles. Unfortunately it has become a custom in Gibraltar for people with lorries or who drive them as part-time jobs, not only using the Port to park their lorries but also residential areas, to the consternation of other car owners. These lorries, because of their size, take up two parking spaces, obviously taken away the space provided for a motor vehicle of a normal size, and also obstructing the views of motorists trying to come out from the bays because of the size of the lorries. I am very glad to hear that this is going to be provided.

HON A W SERFATY

This matter has been receiving my attention, very close attention.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, it is desirable to have as much tidiness as possible in the Port area; on the other hand I think the House should realise that the area in which people have to work there is an extremely reduced one, and that the amount of activity that goes on in that part of the Port which the commercial sector can use is great and the area very reduced. So I think undoubtedly, especially with this policy which I think, though Honourable Members opposite may laugh, I mentioned last year about having some sort of expansion in mentality as regards the Port, is being put into effect now in a small way with the advertising, and bearing in mind that we might very well have an expansion of traffic because the Port of Gibraltar I think is a very great asset which should be developed, the Government should plan to expand at the same time the facilities available and the area available. Otherwise they might have a bottleneck there if the Minister is very successful with his advertising.

Mr Chairman, I would like to ask a specific question of the Minister. I remembered some time ago, it must have been about a year ago, and I have remembered now, and I wonder if the Minister will give me the information. The Port Department employees rest area was in need of repair. It does look rather bare and I was wondering whether any money had been set aside for that.

HON A W SERFATY

Not in this vote: maybe in the Public Works Non-recurrent, which when we shall come to later on, which includes a vote for general improvements. I could not say right now whether a sum of money has actually been allocated for that.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well if it has not been done I would be satisfied with an assurance from the Minister that the necessary funds will be found from some vote to put the matter right.

HON A W SERFATY

I can give that assurance if we can get the labour to do it.



OTHER CHARGES was agreed to and passed.

HEAD 16 - POST OFFICE AND SAVINGS BAND (a) PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.

HON P J ISOLA

There is one point I would like to raise on the Post Office, but I suppose I could do that under Other Charges, but it could involve personal emoluments, so I do not know. But the answer might be personal emoluments. So perhaps I should raise it now.

Mr Chairman, last year at the consideration of the Estimates of the Post Office, I raised the point with the Minister with regard to the collection of mails and the transmission of mail to the United Kingdom. I do not know whether anything has been done about that, I do not think anything has been done, but I think the situation is now going to become worse by reason of the fact that according to the Airlines the Summer Schedule Air Services to Gibraltar from London will be at 7.40 in the morning, returning to London at 12 noon every day. There are some afternoon services but this does not apply to Fridays, so that on Fridays the plane will be leaving for London at noon, and presumably the latest pasting time on Friday morning will now be about 9 o'clock in the morning at the General Post Office. This will mean, Mr Chairman, on present arrangements that most people, if they wish to catch the mail on a Friday, will have to do their posting on Thursday. Now, if they miss the Thursday post it will mean that airmail will be lying in that Post Office until Sunday, leaving on a Sunday plane, arriving in London on a day where the British Post Office has ceased collections, which is a Sunday, so presuming that mail will not be moved until the Monday. So that an airmail letter posted in Gibraltar at 10 o'clock on Friday morning may not be delivered to a London destination until the following Tuesday, and outside London, in the provinces, until the Wednesday. And outside England, God knows when.

Now, Mr Chairman, I think you will agree that this is a most unsatisfactory position and one that I think, as a Government which is providing a service, a public service, as far as mail is concerned, should rectify. I hope that we can get assurances on this point, Mr Chairman. I think

is important. The revenues of the Post Office are substantial, the public give more than they get, there is more revenue than there is expenditure in the Post Office with all the various phylatelic issues and so forth, and we think on this side of the House the public should be given a proper service in this respect, especially with this new thing in the United Kingdom of no collections on a Sunday. That is the first point that I would like to make.

Mr Chairman, the second point I would like to make is the question of the opening of the Post Office, even on a limited scale, on a Saturday morning to the general public. Again here one wonders whether an important public service like the Post Office should remain closed on a Saturday morning. There are a great number of occasions when tourist ships come in, when a lot of people do their shopping on Saturday morning, you have only got to walk along Main Street and it is full of people shopping and so forth, and I think that the lack of a Post Office causes serious inconvenience to members of the public generally. And again, as I said before, the Post Office is a public service, an important service, and I think the Government should make arrangements, or so arrange its affairs that it gives a limited service of the Post Office on Saturday morning; and secondly that it makes better arrangements for the transmission of mails from Gibraltar outward over the weekend.

HON I ABECASIS

Sir, I will reply in due course to both the Honourable Mr Peter Isola's questions. I have not forgotten that I undertook last year to look into the question of deliveries on Saturdays. I know it has taken me one year to do something about it but that is not the only thing that needed to be looked into in the Post Office, there were other things to be looked into, and rather than go into one little aspect of the Post Office administration I wanted to go further and re-organise the whole of the set up for the benefit of Gibraltar as a whole, and especially to give a better service to the community.

I am sure the House is aware, Sir, that ever since I took the responsibility of the postal services I have been interested in expanding the sales of our phylatelic service.

And the first step which I took towards achieving this aim back in 1974, Sir, was to go to London and have a conference in Fleet Street to launch the first ever self adhesive stamp. This was a very successful campaign and we had worldwide publicity.

My second step towards the further expansion of the Post Office and the sales of the stamps, was a visit to New York. I visited New York accompanied by the Postmaster. We attended Intertec and there we appointed an agent in the USA to look after the sale of our stamps in the Western hemisphere and Japan, to increase further our sales. Now I propose to take another step further. I am not yet satisfied with the expansion so far, I think that there is money in stamps, and I propose to expand it further. So in order to achieve this, Sir, and I am sure the House is aware that we invited to Gibraltar a Mr Samuel Thomas, who is the Director of Postal Services in the Isle of Man. Because although we believe that there is money in the sale of stamps we cannot and we should not increase the revenue in this field irrespective. We must have a policy, a sound policy, and an ethical one.

Now, at the indication of the Gibraltar Government Mr Thomas came out here from the Isle of Man - may I say that Mr Thomas is one of the most knowledgeable persons in the United Kingdom on postal services, not only philately but postal service general - he came out here and submitted a report which the Government has accepted in principle. Now, this report is being looked into in detail, because it requires a complete overhaul covering all aspects of post office like stamps, production, accommodation, staffing, work flow, the two very good ideas put forward by the Honourable Mr Peter Isola, but I have made no provision in the Estimates before us because of the timing. This only happened a couple of months ago and we have not been able to put it.

So, therefore, Sir, I will give notice to this House that at a subsequent meeting of the House I will come forward to ask for supplementary fund in order to create this expansion of an already expanding Philatelic Bureau.

When this happens then the question of opening on Saturday mornings, the question of deliveries on Saturdays, will be considered in the light of the advice given to us by Mr Thomas, and also in the light of Scamp. That is a word I hate to mention because it is bound to bring complications. Scamp is not only money, Scamp means a little bit more than

that, and in the Post Office in England there are no Sorters, in Gibraltar there are; in Britain the Sorter is the Postman, he sorts out his letters, then goes out and delivers them. In Gibraltar we have Sorters and Postmen, that is why I say that Scamp may be involved to a great extent in the re-shaping of the organisation in the Post Office.

Now, if I may now turn to the expenditure on personal emoluments; Item 5, there we have a first indication of the aim of policy of the Government to expand the Philatelic Bureau. We have created a Supervisory Officer, as a starter. Then Item 7, here we have a sort of re-organisation of Clerical Officers and Clerical Assistants, the increase of £1,930 is off-set by the decrease of £2,201, because we have now three more Clerical Officers but we have three less Clerical Assistants.

Under Temporary Assistance, Sir, Item 16, that was due to the provision of three skilled Labourers to help us in the Parcel Post Office and in the Main Post Office, and also the provision temporarily of a further Postman to look after the delivery in the Alameda Estate. Where before the Carreta kers used to make the delivery now it is not done and, therefore, the Post Office has employed a person on a temporary basis to do the delivery on that particular area.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, we cannot really be satisfied with the explanation of the Minister. The point was raised a year ago and we are now told that we need an expert to tell us how we can get our letters out of Gibraltar in time to catch a plane.

HON I ABECASIS

I am sorry, if the Honourable Member would give way.

HON P J ISOLA

Yes, indeed, this is absurd.

HON I ABECASIS

That is not what I said, Sir. Mr Thomas is not coming here to tell us whether we can deliver on a Saturday or not, Mr Thomas is coming to overhaul the whole of the Post Office, the Philatelic side and administration of the Post Office, not just to open on a Saturday morning. I could make that decision myself without bringing a man from the Isle of Man.

HON P J ISOLA

Well, Mr Chairman, that is exactly the decision we want from this side of the House. I know we will not get it, we never get anything, but the fact is that everybody who posts a letter in Gibraltar on a Friday, unless he gets up bright and early and goes to the General Post Office, presumably it would be before 9.30 or 9 o'clock, anybody who posts his letter in the Post Office at 9.30 might as well do it on Sunday morning at 9.30 for all the movement that letter is going to get. To our way of thinking this is scandalous, when you look at the provision in the Post Office of expenditure of £260,000 for next year and a revenue of £405,000 and when you see that the greatest revenue to the Government comes from the sale of stamps. British Airways changes its schedule, puts the plane at 8.40 in the morning going back at 12, they are perfectly entitled to do it, nothing is done at this end to allow people to be able to get mail out from Gibraltar, Mr Chairman. And it means in effect for three days in a week virtually, three out of seven days, mail is lying in that Post Office. And if that is not a matter for concern of Honourable Members opposite, I do not know what can be. One appreciates and one gets used to delays in the postal services, one gets used to the time it takes to get answers to letters and so forth, in Gibraltar, from various people, considerable delay, but one cannot expect the rest of the world to apply the same standard. And, Mr Chairman, surely the Government recognises the need for mail to leave Gibraltar and to be put into the transmission machine, as it were, in London earlier. I mean if the mail were to leave on a Saturday morning, Mr Chairman, that mail would be sent to the different parts of the UK, to different destinations, and delivered on Monday morning. But because the Government refuses to supply a service to the public on a Saturday, that mail sits in the Gibraltar Post Office, although people have paid an airmail rate of 6p, it sits in that Post Office for two days without being moved and then sits in London for at least another 24 hours

without being moved.

So an airmail letter now posted on a Friday at say 11 o'clock in the morning, will take as long to arrive in the United Kingdom as in the old days in the P & O liner, (laughter) and people paying about three times as much as they paid then. And the Minister tells us that we have to wait still further for an improvement in that situation. Why does the Government not negotiate - I do not know what is involved but I should imagine this increases the payment of overtime. I think the public are entitled to that service. Why cannot the Government pay overtime in this sort of situation to give the public a service.

Really, Mr Chairman, one cannot understand why the Government does not wish to adapt itself or refuses to adapt itself to what is going on outside; changes of schedules of British Airways, no collections on Sundays in England; that makes no difference, that makes no difference. If a letter takes six days to reach its destination in England, what do we care, we collect our 6p stamps and that is it.

Well, Mr Chairman, I would respectfully urge the Minister to get on with putting this particular thing right, and before April 1st when the summer schedule starts and when people will be posting letters to relatives to business acquaintances, or whatever you like, on a Friday, and they do not know, the public does not know really - if they did they would kick up a bigger fuss - that letter is going to be sitting in that Post Office until it is sorted on a Sunday morning.

That is a highly inefficient way of running a Post Office, Mr Chairman.

HON I ABECASIS

Sir, it is very difficult to debate with a lawyer, he has ways and means of going round things. He has given us the impression that people only write on Fridays. Some do so on Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesdays and Thursdays, and of course there are people who write on Fridays!

MR SPEAKER

No, let us not go into the habits of letter writing. You

are being asked a simple question: are you prepared to do something to see that letters are delivered, otherwise we are going to have a debate on this.

HON I ABECASIS

I am doing something about it, Sir. The impression that was given across the House was that almost every letter was written on a Friday.

HON P J ISOLA

One sixth of the letters written during a week are written on a Friday.

HON I ABECASIS

The matter is not as simple as it looks, it is not only a question of overtime as the Honourable Mr Bossano said. No, because if you remember the lottery used to be held on a Saturday and it is now being held on a Monday because the people wanted to have a long weekend. They are not interested in the money, they are interested in having a long weekend and nothing else, so it is not as simple as it looks.

It is not only a question of money, there is more than meets the eye sometimes they refuse to do overtime and the Government cannot compel them to work overtime. So the Honourable Member opposite may rest assured that I can only say what I know, what I am trying to do and what I am satisfied will be done.

This man will come out in the very very near future and he will do a overhaul of the whole of the Post Office, not only on the deliveries but on the philatelic side also, on which, as I said earlier on, we are very much interested. And I am sure that he will look both into this question of delivering and opening the Post Office on a Saturday.

I know that when liners called here we find great difficulty in sending a man on board the liner to sell postage stamps to the tourists. We go round one by one in the Post Office asking them if they would like to go to the liner and sit there in the sun looking at the girls who may be swimming in the swimming pool - which I would do for nothing! But they do not want to go because it is

Saturday. They do not want to make extra money, they do not want to make extra all the time. So it is not as simple as it looks, but I can give them the assurance that when this gentleman comes out in the very very near future he will look specifically at these two points, besides all the others. When that happens the Honourable Mr Peter Isola will find out that something has been done.

HON MISS C ANES

We have been speaking about a letter from the United Kingdom that takes six days to reach there by the time they are collected here and then received at the other end. Local letters, Sir, are taking from eight to ten days to get from one end of Gibraltar to the other. People in Devil's Tower Road receive letters ten days after it has been postmarked, so I hope that the Minister will see that local mail is first attended to, and then we will look at all the other problems. Because I am surprised at this overtime item here. If they refuse to work overtime and take as long as eight to ten days to deliver local letters, why this item of overtime, if they refuse to work overtime.

HON I ABECASIS

I agree with the Honourable Lady that these things happen. I am more upset than she is, because she is only upset because a letter takes ten days to reach her, but I am upset because the people come to me and ask me to explain why a particular letter took three days to go from Fountain Ramp to Bell Lane;- no implications at all (laughter). I am concerned about that, but this does not happen regularly. Occasionally we have this sort of problem and we are as concerned, the Postmaster the administration and myself, are as much concerned as the Honourable Lady is and we hope to improve the situation when we look at the whole of the set up in the Post Office.

HON MISS C ANES

Have we got to wait for Mr Thomas to arrive for the local mail to reach its destination at least two days after it is posted?



HON I ABECASIS

No, there is no need to wait for Mr Thomas, but you know the Post Office, like any other office, has an establishment: you may have one person on leave, two persons may be ill, sometimes you find difficulties that certain areas have to be left unattended until the following day if there is no one willing to come forward to do that particular district. There are difficulties which I would like to see cleared up. I will do my best to improve this situation, but I can assure you it is not the fault of the Minister.

HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Speaker, as an ex Post Office man. It looks to me that we should have a block of flats called the "Experts Flats" Having said that, I think the reason why these letters take so long can be found in that we find that 1<sup>st</sup> Postmen get £1,900 a year, and if you divide that sum by 1<sup>st</sup> and then by 52, the basic pay seems to be, on average, £20 a week. Now, I do not know how much overtime they get and perhaps the Minister will enlighten me on that, and to find out at the end of the day how much a Postman really does get. How much he does get with the overtime, and then you might find that if the man is getting £24 or £25 a week, I do not know, that might not be the sort of pay which will induce efficiency by any means.

Perhaps that might be one of the reasons why there seems to be a turnover in the staff of the Post Office, people just do not stay.

I would also like to ask the Minister whether - and perhaps he can just give me a notion one way or another - whether the Mail Superintendent gets overtime or not, whether he is included there?

HON I ABECASIS

On the first question, Sir . . . .

HON L DEVICENZI

No, on the last one. Mail Superintendent only, Sir.

HON I ABECASIS

He does get overtime, yes, Sir.

HON L DEVICENZI

Anyhow, Mr Chairman, I do not know just how much overtime he gets, but again, the pay, Mr Chairman of the Mail Superintendent, with the responsibility he carries is only £29, basic.

HON I ABECASIS

I beg your pardon

HON L DEVICENZI

£29 a week. Just £4 more than a shop assistant.

HON I ABECASIS

How does the Honourable Member arrive at that figure, Sir.

HON L DEVICENZI

By dividing £1,512 by 52.

HON I ABECASIS

Yes, but what about other things?

HON L DEVICENZI

Well, about £35 a week for the Mail Superintendent. I have no axe to grind for the incumbent, but it does seem to me that a man who has those responsibilities, who has to look after 1 Postmen, plus. I am not surprised that things do not go as well as they should. I think this is ridiculous to my mind, especially coming from a Department that does make some money.

HON I ABECASIS

I am sure the Honourable Member opposite will not make me responsible for the wages or for the salaries earned by Civil Servants, that is completely outside my jurisdiction.

There is an Industrial Relations Officer, there is a Trade Union, and a very active Trade Union at that, and wages are negotiated between them. All I can say is that when he was asking how much a postman is getting I was inclined to say more than the Minister, but there you are. This is not within my province, whether the Mails Superintendent is not earning as much as he should is not for me to say, it is for the Union representing the Mails Superintendent and for the Establishment representing the Government.

HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Speaker, my words go to the Minister and the Unions.

HON I ABECASIS

The Minister has taken note!

HON J BOSSANO

I would like to ask the Minister several questions concerning both the visit of Mr Thomas as regards the structure of the Post Office, and the applicability of UK analogues to the post that are down here. If the Minister is not able to answer that then perhaps I can be told if there is anybody who would be able to answer that type of question.

HON I ABECASIS

No, I am not able to answer that. I know that he is coming, that he would look at the whole structure of the Post Office. Obviously, a man who has worked for over 40 years in this field who transferred the GPO from London to Edinburgh, who started the GPO in Jersey and in the Isle of Man, is a man of very wide experience. He will come out here and surely he will look at the whole aspect of the Post Office and compare obviously the work that is being done in the UK, vis a vis the work being done in Gibraltar by the respective grades.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, I am very glad to hear that, Mr Chairman, because it

would appear from what the Minister is saying that in the case of the Post Office there is going to be a direct comparison between the job content and the grade that are attached to particular jobs. If this is the case, is the Minister then saying that the question of the UK analogue in the case of the Post Office will wait until Mr Thomas comes, or will there be a restructuring first, as has happened in the Police Department, which will then be followed by somebody coming along and looking at what has already been decided.

HON I ABECASIS

Well, all I know is that . . . .

HON J BOSSANO

Well, I want the House to know, I am not concerned with the private knowledge he may have, Mr Chairman, unless the Honourable Member feels that I should keep the information to myself and keep the House in ignorance.

MR SPEAKER

Order.

HON A J CANEPA

What I think is that you are trying to trap one of my colleagues on the question of Scamp.

HON J BOSSANO

On the contrary

HON A J CANEPA

This is why I have had to stand up on practically every Head to answer questions on Scamp. That is what I think you are trying to do, to take advantage of the situation.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, I was very careful . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Order, order. The Opposition is entitled to take advantage of any set of circumstances to obtain information. It is up to the Government to see that they give no more or less than the circumstances warrant. But one must not make complaint of the fact that he is trying to obtain information.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, may I just point out to the Honourable the Minister for Labour and Social Security that before I put any question to his colleague I prefaced it with a remark that the first thing I wanted to know was whether he was in a position to have that information and to give me the answer, otherwise I would not put it to him.

That is not to try and trap him. Now, if in fact what I have discovered is that the Honourable Minister for Labour and Social Security is best informed about the pay negotiations and the Scamp recommendations, and that is why he is answering every time the matter is raised, then he ought to say that he is responsible for it so that the people of Gibraltar and the workers of Gibraltar know who to go for when the time comes.

MR SPEAKER

Order, order. Now on that remark I would like an explanation: what does he mean by going for him when the time comes?

HON J BOSSANO

Well, Mr Speaker, I will give an explanation . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, no, you are entitled to say what you have said except for some particular words: "to go for". What do you mean by "go for"?

HON J BOSSANO

Well, you see, Mr Speaker, the last time we had . . . .

MR SPEAKER

I want an explanation.

HON J BOSSANO

I am trying to give you an explanation Mr Chairman, but you must let me talk otherwise I cannot give it to you.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, certainly.

HON J BOSSANO

The last time we had a dispute the workers eventually had their patience exhausted and they were on the point of lynching the Honourable and Learned the Chief Minister, and I think it would be very wrong for them to lynch the wrong person. So it is very important to establish who to lynch.

MR SPEAKER

Precisely, and, therefore, I would ask you to withdraw that remark.

HON J BOSSANO

What am I supposed to withdraw? I think it is very important that the workers should know who is responsible in the Government.

MR SPEAKER

Who is responsible as to policy and as to decision, but not in the context it has been put: not that they know that they can threaten. Who to lynch, you have said. Not who is responsible for the policy. That remark should be withdrawn and I am sure you will have no objections.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, if you insist I will withdraw it, Mr Chairman.

MR SPEAKER

We will now continue.

HON A J CANEPA

On the question of responsibility for Scamp. I have constitutional responsibility for industrials. I do not have any constitutional responsibility for non-industrials, but being better versed than any of my colleagues in matters of salaries and wages I am kept in the picture, I am kept informed. I get minutes of meetings, but I make no attempt to influence the course of negotiations. My other colleagues, the Minister for Public Works, or the Minister for the Postal Services, do not have any such information. They are not in the picture at all. But that does not mean that I have got any direct responsibility for the course of these negotiations. And as to looking for scape goats, if the workers are not doing well out of Scamp they can thank Mr Bossano and not the Minister of Labour for it.

MR SPEAKER

For goodness sake no. You have both had a go at each other so let us not discuss this any more.

HON J BOSSANO

That will no doubt be decided before long, Mr Chairman.

HON A J CANEPA

I am not frightened by threats, Mr Chairman, I have been threatened more than once by Mr Bossano. In the January meeting, when I was debating the question of being called to order and I said that he had no right to call me to order, he said "Not yet". I am not scared of Mr Bossano. I have a family to look after but he has also got a family to look after, so he has to be careful.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, Mr Chairman . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, no, Order, order. Will you please sit down. I am sure Mr Canepa that you yourself will have no objection to withdraw that remark.

HON A J CANEPA

I will withdraw that, Mr Chairman, but I warn Mr Bossano that he had better not threaten me again.

MR SPEAKER

Fair enough. Well, he has withdrawn his threat and that is the end of the matter.

HON J BOSSANO

I am quite happy to follow the matter with the Member outside the House.

MR SPEAKER

Order, order, order. We will not have a further reference to this matter.

HON J BOSSANO

I . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Order, order. Mr Canepa, I will not call you to order continuously.

Now this is the end of the matter.



HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, have we now finished with the question of personal emoluments . . . .

HON J BOSSANO

No, Mr Chairman, I have . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, I think Mr Bossano has another question to ask.

HON J BOSSANO

Yes, you see, Mr Chairman, if the House is required to vote personal emoluments, then presumably the House has also got the right to ask questions about personal emoluments. If none of the elected members are in a position to answer the questions, then perhaps it should be the Honourable the Financial and Developments Secretary who ought to answer, or the Attorney-General. I do not know whose responsibility it is to answer the questions but I am sure of one thing, that if we are not entitled to information then this thing should be decided without the House having to vote the money.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I think, Mr Speaker, that there should be a differentiation made as to what we are prepared to answer and what it is expected on the other side that we should answer.

Of course every Minister is responsible to answer for the estimates that appear before this House. What every Minister cannot do, and what in fact no one as yet can do, is answer specific questions about matters which are the subject of negotiations between employers and employees, that is between the Government and the various associations who are negotiating Scamp.

This is what we cannot anticipate, and I think the Minister for Labour has attempted to help the House in telling them of his knowledge of the ongoing matters as far as he knows them. He has endeavoured to help the House in giving that information, but we had a very long debate at the beginning

where there was an attempt to say that at every item the question of Scamp will be raised, and we said that that would be impossible to deal with. The Financial Secretary commented on what the overall order of magnitude was and that remains to be seen. What we cannot do is to anticipate anything that is happening in the normal negotiations between employers and employees in the usual industrial ways in which these matters are settled. Ministers cannot interfere while negotiations are going on.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, may I say that . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Yes you will, but before you do may I say this. You have had your say, but we are not going to start again what was debated ad nauseum the day before yesterday.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I am not prepared in fact, to let the Chief Minister get away with this point. The natural frustration of this House arises out of the fact that practically one third of the Budget cannot be discussed because it is not in the Estimates. Now that is the natural frustration of the House, and that is why Honourable Members opposite find difficulty in answering questions, and Honourable Members on this side find it difficult to make up their minds about particular votes.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Speaker I want to make it quite clear that I do not expect the Government to be able to tell me what the final result of the negotiations are going to be. I cannot say what the final result of the negotiations are going to be, and I am on the other side, and I know quite a lot about the negotiations that are going on, but what I do want to know, Mr Chairman, is what policy the Government is following because I believe the Government is following different policies for different groups. I want to demonstrate that this is so, and if this is not so, I want the Government to demonstrate to me publicly that it is not so.

Now, in the case of this particular Head I would like to know, Mr Chairman, whether the negotiations that will bring about a revision of salaries here are based on direct comparisons with UK in the case of every officer under personal emoluments.

HON I ABECASIS

I do not know, Sir.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, does anybody know, Mr Speaker?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

It is fair to say that all the negotiations are based on one criteria: whether that can be achieved or not is a matter of negotiations because each post has to be weighted having regard, as I understand is the basis of the approach, weighted against the analogue, the suitable analogue if there is one, weighted to local circumstances and ironed out with the Unions. And I am glad to say that in some of the Staff Association areas, agreement has been reached. So this shows that there is a willingness to implement it in the meaningful way. But we cannot anticipate in any particular case when the matter is on the actual table. We can say what the criterion is, and that is an honest attempt at implementing Scamp on the basis of analogues, and negotiating and arguing one way or another as these things should be done.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Speaker, I must insist on this, because I do not want anybody misled. Is the Government policy to establish a structure in the Post Office, as indeed they say they have done in the Police, which taking into account locally circumstances will be as near as possible to what would be applicable in UK. That is, one would expect as a result of the Scamp Report being applied to this, if it is the Government's policy, the personal emoluments would consist, after Scamp, of different posts being created, some disappearing, and new ones appearing. Is that what the Government policy is.

MR SPEAKER

I think what you are entitled to ask from the Minister, and he may not have the information and may be unable to give an answer, I think what he is trying to ask is whether any re-structuring of the Post Office is envisaged which will in itself influence the Scamp negotiations. I think that is as far, because if the answer is, yes, then we can go further, but if the answer is, no, then that is the end of the matter. Do you agree to this?

HON J BOSSANO

Well, I do not agree, Mr Chairman, that the re-structuring is one that might influence. What I am trying to find out is whether as a result of Scamp, whether the application of Scamp to this would mean a re-structuring.

MR SPEAKER

I am afraid you are putting the cart before the horse. If you do it that way.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I want to make it quite clear and it only arose yesterday in connection with the Police vote. As I understand it, and I stand to be corrected, there is no question of re-structuring in order to apply Scamp. Scamp is being accepted on the basis of the present structure, or the structure which in the interests of the administration, whether with Scamp or without Scamp, would have taken place. That is where perhaps the matter is being complicated somewhat.

HON J BOSSANO

Well that is a very important matter, Mr Chairman, because that is a point that I have been trying to make repeatedly to the House, that if we have got somebody in Band 16 being moved to Band 4 that is as much as re-structuring and somebody being moved from being a Senior Postman to a Postman.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

There is no question of re-structuring, as far as I understand it, for the sake of applying Scamp. There is no re-structuring in order to apply Scamp. At the present moment the negotiations, as I understand it, on the Post Office are that they are looking at Postmen in England and Postmen here, and the difficulties about the fact that in England the Postman does the sorting and here he does not. If anything comes out of the points made by the Minister for Postal Services then that structure will have to be adjusted, or rather the Scamp analogue may or may not have to be adjusted according to whether the responsibilities have been changed.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, I would like to ask the Honourable and Learned the Chief Minister or whoever it is that knows most about the Post Office, whether this looking at the job that each individual does, whether this is applied to every individual grade there, or whether there are exceptions to that policy.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I am afraid I cannot go beyond that, and we cannot debate the application of Scamp. We are not in a position to do so. Attempting to help is alright, and giving indications, but attempting to debate a matter on which we are not completely au fait would be as misleading as attempting to put a point of view which is not correct.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, could I ask the Honourable Member then, under sub-head (1) Postmaster, Group H, whether the figure given by the Financial and Development Secretary as to the estimated cost of the Biennial Review included the assumption that the Postmaster would be paid £5,100 as recommended by Morgan.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The figures given by the Financial and Development Secretary made no individual assumption. He gave an order the magnitude of the problem and no more. I think he said it

several times and he did not in any way commit himself to any recommendation one way or the other. He looked at it broadly and said; this is the sort of thing: in fact he would not go into the £50,000, he was looking in terms of £100,000 precisely because of that. Therefore, however many times the Honourable Member asks this question he will get the same answer.

MR SPEAKER

Mr Bossano, I do not think you are going to get much further.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, Mr Chairman, could I just say this. If it is £100,000 it is fortunate because the Morgan Report will cost £137,000, did the Honourable the Financial and Development Secretary, in his global estimation, include any provision at all for the lettered Grades, or was it the assumption that they would get nothing.

MR SPEAKER

Of which Department?

HON J BOSSANO

Of any of them, this is one of the posts, but this post recurs in a number of items.

MR SPEAKER

I think the answer to that one was that it was in the order of magnitude and that therefore he had not related his figures to the particular requirements of each Department. That in an overall estimation of the costs, he could say that that would be the cost of Scamp. I think I am speaking from what I have heard in this House and nothing else.

HON J BOSSANO

Yes, but what I want to establish is whether the overall estimation of the cost included this Group as well, or

whether he was excluding them.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Why should anyone be excluded in an order of magnitude.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, I do not know. Perhaps, Mr Chairman, since the Honourable the Chief Minister has not yet made up his mind he may come to the conclusion not to give any pay increase to this particular Group.

May I ask the Honourable Member, Mr Chairman, in respect of the Postmaster, whether the Government considers that there is no appropriate UK analogue for this post.

MR SPEAKER

No, no, I am ruling that out of order.

HON J BOSSANO

Why out of order?

MR SPEAKER

You know why, Mr Bossano. We are discussing whether we are to pay the Postmaster the sum of £2, 70 which is attributable to the Postmaster. We are not discussing whether the Postmaster's salary should be increased. You are not being asked to vote the money for that. You can do that in the general debate, of course.

HON J BOSSANO

Yes, I shall do that and a lot more in the general debate, but what I want to do here, Mr Speaker, is since I know that the sum there is fictitious, and I know that it is the Government's intention . . . .

MR SPEAKER

But you also know that if it is going to be more they will have to come back to you again.

HON J BOSSANO

Yes, but what I want to know at this stage, Mr Chairman, is in fact what sort of commitment the Government has got on this money, and I want to know now because I shall not have an opportunity to do that again possibly until a Supplementary Estimate is brought, which could be anytime, it could be months.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I will give the House one assurance, that the Postmaster will not get less than £2, 70.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, Mr Chairman, has the Honourable and Learned the Chief Minister considered whether we need a Postmaster?

HON P J ISOLA

After hearing all the coming and going that there has been I will decline from making the suggestion that we reduce the salary of the Postmaster by £1 as a protest to the Minister's statement on the matters I raised. But I shall not do that because I appreciate that that has controversial aspects. But, Mr Chairman, I would like an assurance from the Minister that in view of the new development there has been on the question of mail, i.e., the ceasing in the United Kingdom of collection and deliveries on Sundays only three weeks ago, and the new Schedules by British Airways, will he give the House an assurance that he will review the question of collection of mails as a matter of urgency.

HON I ABECASIS

Yes, Sir.

(b) OTHER CHARGES, was agreed to and passed.



## HEAD 17 - PRISONS (a) PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS

HON A J CANEPA

Mr Chairman, there are two significant changes I think compared with the Estimates last year: one is the creation of a new post of Clerical Officer in order to take from the Prison Superintendent a great deal of the administrative work, that is, the preparation of salaries, and similar administrative work that he was having to do; and the other significant new feature, which accounts for over 50% of the increase in the provision under personal emoluments, is the need to employ a number of Temporary Female Officers due to the fact that there are two female prisoners in residence in the Prison. This is always something which is very costly and I have referred previously in the House to this. It is a matter that raises complications, and as the House can see the increased expenditure precisely because of this is very considerable.

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS, was agreed to and passed.

## (b) OTHER CHARGES

HON A J CANEPA

Mr Speaker, there are a number of innovations that I want to refer to. Under Rehabilitation of Prisoners, provision is being made to provide basic tuition in Arithmetic and English for prisoners who may require this. A very interesting exercise was carried out recently which was rather successful in that courses in first aid were also provided for prisoners, a number of whom were quite successful and obtained certificates in basic first aid.

A scheme to provide work for prisoners from outside sources has been established. The scheme has had the blessing of the Transport and General Workers Union and it is providing work in the form of painting and scraping of chairs, shutters, lockers, work which otherwise in the normal run of events would be difficult for the Public Works labour force to undertake. For instance, the painting of the chairs in St Michael's Cave is being done by the prisoners; they are also engaged in painting the exterior approaches to the Prison. In addition the training of prisoners in the basic skills of a number of trades, such as carpentry, plumbing, and so on, has been studied, and the

Productivity and Training Unit has submitted a report on this to the Administrative Secretary. Government will consider it. I personally do consider that training of prisoners, wherever possible providing training for them as a means of rehabilitation is a central aim of any modern prison service.

Also, Mr Chairman, we are very much interested in providing training for the Prison Officers, and, therefore, there is token provision this year, and we hope that we will be able to send one or two officers to the United Kingdom on a training course.

So there are, Mr Chairman, a number of innovations, a number of improvements have been made to the sanitary facilities, the ablutions, and I am pleased to say that we have a very hard working staff and a very enthusiastic new Prison Superintendent with a lot of ideas and thinking of ways and means of putting them into effect.

OTHER CHARGES was agreed to and passed.

HEAD 1 - PUBLIC WORKS (a) PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, I crave your indulgence to refer to my notes, since there are various items to be dealt with.

The House will have become aware that the Housing Unit has become self accounting and is not included in this Head.

As I was saying, Mr Speaker, the major alteration in this is the divorce, by mutual consent, of the Housing Unit from this Head - a separation which is taken place painlessly and without any friction.

I understand mention of this was made yesterday while I was away temporarily, but I wish to emphasise the point that it was painless and went through without much discord. In fact it is something that I have been striving for for the last four years. I feel that Housing and the management of the Estates had no place in Public Works Department as such. It is for this reason that there is this vast decrease in the total value of the Head.

Once again the allocation of personnel to various sections of the Department is as it is actually on the ground. There has been a re-designation at Item 2 from the Commissioner of Lands and Works to the Deputy Director, but this is not a change in duties but more in actual description of the task undertaken by this professional individual at the present time. And of course the post of City Engineer has been abolished. This has been common knowledge for a long time.

To avoid any misunderstanding, I wish to make it clear from the very beginning that the provision for COLA and the Interim Award is, in this particular Head, shown separately in Items 70 and 71.

I regret very much, Mr Chairman, that at Item 6 the figures 3 have been omitted from this year's establishment column: We have not cut out the 3 Clerical Officers, it is just a misprint there.

At Item 7 there has been an increase of 2 Clerical Officers, one of which was last year shown under Recruiting of Additional Staff, under another portion of the same sub-head, and the other has been the upgrading, or promotion in July, of one Clerical Assistant to Clerical Officer. These changes are highlighted by the notes in the remarks column.

Against Item 9 there is an error in that at (d) has been placed against it but there is no corresponding footnote. That should not be there at all.

No comments arise from any of the other items on page 45 since there has been no changes from last year. The small increases are the normal increments.

At page 46, at Item 1, the number of Architects on the establishment for 1976-77 should read "one". The emoluments of the other two have been included at Item 55 on page 4. Even though they have not been detailed there but I will deal with that particular point at that time.

Annotations (a) and (b) against Item 19 and 20 have done a little bit of climbing and in fact relate to 20 and 21. There is an increase of one Leading Draughtsman at Item 20, and in Item 21 there is only financial provision for six, with a token provision of £10 for the four vacancies. Ten Draughtsmen, but as the note says, we are only making provision for 6 and the token provision of £10 for the four vacancies. We just cannot recruit them in Gibraltar.

Coming to Item 24, which is a new item, it has been our policy to encourage school leavers to take up draughtsmanship - I have just mentioned that there is a great shortage of draughtsmen in Gibraltar - as a career, and we have in fact been able to recruit two young ladies to fill the posts of Learner Tracers, who in time will pass on to become Basic Draughtsmen and Leading Draughtsmen, and perhaps in due course Senior Draughtsmen.

In the line below Item 27, although we have included it, we have made no financial provision because this individual is now included under Head 19, Item 5.

There is an increase in Item 20 and this is due to the one Graduate Surveyor having now been chartered and therefore has been upgraded as indicated at note (d) in the remarks column. He has now done the necessary period at the bench, and he has been accepted as a fully qualified Surveyor.

I think I can comment on Item 33. Although shown as a new post this was in fact included in Item 74, Head 10, last year, under additional recruitment, and he has now been taken on as a permanent member of the staff.

Coming to page 47, Mr Chairman, there is very little here to comment on because there is not much difference from last year, except at Item 37; this is where one of our Graduate Engineers had returned to Gibraltar on completion of his training. This is a young man, a mechanical engineer, on whom we have great hope, he has shown tremendous promise.

At Item 40, there is provision for an extra TGIII who is now being recruited so that there will be one allotted to each Distiller, in an attempt to achieve better results. One TGIII has been trying to flit from one Distiller to the other and this has not helped matters at all.

Items 49 and 50 reflect the promotion of a Senior Clerical Officer to Supervisory Officer, and similarly 51 and 54 reflect the promotion of Clerical Assistants to Clerical Officers.

Turning now to page 40, again this year we have made merely a token provision at Item 57 because this post is being filled temporarily by the re-employment of a retired officer covered in Item 67, Temporary Assistant. At Item 59 the figure in the establishment column should read "4" not "3". We had three last year, we have got four now, and this is because we are recruiting one additional man

so that there is an understudy available to replace the TGI who is due for retirement very soon, and to cover the post of the man selected to fill the TGI post whilst he is on specialist training in the UK. Obviously you cannot pick a man off a tree and make him Foreman at the Water-works.

Items 60 to 64 relate to the Housing Survey Unit, This Unit set up last year for the first time to survey and record the Government's Housing Stock and the other buildings. The work was envisaged to be spread over some three years with the three Surveyors, not paid for by us, which had been recruited, although the additional staff comes from local funds.

The survey in fact commenced early in 1975 and as its first job tackled the pre-war building stock, and finished the survey of these properties towards the end of 1975. As a result of that particular survey 222 buildings were recommended for eventual demolition; 92 are fit for modernisation; 366 require maintenance work, either major or minor; and eight were found to be quite adequate and require no work at all.

To our great regret the three Surveyors did not wish to remain in Gibraltar and departed at the end of their tour of duty, which was in the first place for one year. This is a very necessary job so the recruitment of replacements is being actively pursued at this very moment and has been for the last two or three months in the UK. As soon as they are in post the physical professional survey will be resumed as soon as possible.

At Item 65, Mr Chairman, The Recruitment of Additional Staff, I am afraid that although the salaries are included in the breakdown of the staff, the two architects to whom I have already referred were omitted. So that break-down should read two Architects, two Senior Clerical Officers, etc., etc., etc. This team is now employed in planning for the Varyl Begg Primary School; for the extension of the Airport; the Rosia Dale and Gaswork Housing Scheme; the renovation of the Supreme Court; looking at the various proposals for the use of Engineer House; the conversion of 55/57 Flat Bastion Road; looking at the conservation plans within the City and many other types of work.

There is little doubt that there is more than enough work for this Unit during the rest of this year. And of course the employment of this Unit saves us having to employ consultants for each and every different job. So it is in

fact saving us money.

Item 67, Mr Chairman, as I have already said includes the re-employment of the retired TGI on water duties, and also a retired Clerk of Works. In addition to those two individuals we have been able to get one Leading Draughtsman who just happened to be in Gibraltar at the time and we have snapped him up.

Items 66 to 69 are based on the current basis of expenditure, and Items 70 and 71 on a staff of 110.

If there is any more information required, Mr Chairman, I will be only too happy to supply it.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask the Minister, Mr Chairman, on water; whether he anticipates that any progress will be made in the current financial year towards moving to a situation where the functions of the Water Department of the Gibraltar Government and those of the DOE would be amalgamated? I raised this in last year's budget and I pointed out that there was an obvious area where there could be substantial benefits from rationalising a situation where we have two independent water authorities virtually in a very small area catering for two populations which could be obviously integrated and produce savings in avoiding duplication of laying of pipelines and so on, and in water collection?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I am very glad the Honourable Member has brought this up. There has been a joint Water Technical Committee in operation for at least 10 months, to 10 months, in fact preliminary work started two years ago. I am told that the Committee was formerly set up in the early part of last year. Later on I shall mention a report which had been commissioned by ODM, who had engaged consultants who are reviewing the whole of the water requirements for Gibraltar way up to the late 19 0's. But let us not overlook the fact that there are two different types of customers involved here, and to our very great surprise the other day we discovered that whereas the Service population is a mere fraction of what ours is, their consumption almost reaches ours. So that you are having to think about two different communities, one which has never had to bother about water, they pay water rates

and that is the end of it, and a community, a large community, which has always been conscious of the extreme need to conserve water supplies. So it is not all that easy. These are the items which one has to judge very, very carefully. But the Working Committee is set up and we are now in the process of considering the formation of a Joint Water Board.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Still on the subject of water, would the Honourable Member recall my question of last year: what about losses of water? It is page 275 of Hansard. What about losses of water?

Is this section responsible for . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Which Hansard?

HON M D XIBERRAS

Last year's budget.

MR SPEAKER

I think there was an answer to the loss of water at the last meeting.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, this is what I am going to talk about.

MR SPEAKER

I beg your pardon.

HON M D XIBERRAS

What about losses of water? Is this section responsible for tracing losses of water. And the Honourable Member opposite said: "Yes, the man who goes out with very sophisticated fault finding instruments and works in the middle of the night when there is a little flow going, this

comes under the supervision of this Department". Then on page 276, "but I am not particularly perturbed that we have undue loss through leaks". Now, it has been established in the course of this year and last year that a loss of water is running in the neighbourhood of 39% I think it was, and the Honourable and Learned Chief Minister gave me an answer, or gave one of my colleagues an answer, I think it was at the last meeting, in which he divided the losses that he thought were due to metering and the losses from leaks. Now, I was wondering whether the Honourable and Learned Member, since he was not here at the last time, could contribute anything to this picture: either correct the statement that he made last year or add something to what the Chief Minister had to say at the last meeting.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, I will deal with this when we come to Section 90 which deals with the actual running of this service. But I am surprised, I am afraid I do not go back on Hansards, I am surprised. I am perturbed by the loss of one gallon of water, but I am not as sure as some Members on the opposite side are that there are these terrific losses of water. I will repeat that there are not the losses, as it was called, the wastage, which is a completely different thing, but I think, Mr Chairman, the right place to discuss that is when we come to the running and the supply and the distribution of water, and not here. It comes under another Head, Annually Recurrent, Head 19.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I have no objection to that except that I want to make it absolutely clear that I am quoting from Hansard what the Honourable Member said last year. In fact whereas I am quite prepared to take it under another Head, the reason why I brought it out in Personal Emoluments was that the Chief Minister promised that there would be some improvements in the situation. We are facing a deficit of some £240,000 I think, in the Potable Water Account. The Chief Minister appeared to be saying that something would be done especially to deal with these losses which the Chief Minister accepted were taking place, whether for one cause or another. And I was going to ask the Minister in the Personal Emoluments whether the statement of the Chief Minister implied any increase in the staff or any modification in the employment of the staff under this particular subhead.



HON LT COL J L HOARE

I thank the Honourable Member for that, but of course it would not be under this staff which is Professional and Technical, it would be in the lower industrial grades that the additional staff is being recruited. I will deal with that, as I say, at Head 19, which deals with the other staff, the working staff if you like, rather than the Directing staff of that particular Distiller.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I was drawing attention, Mr Chairman, to the question of detecting leaks, which is the job of the little man with the stick. Now that man comes under this vote, am I right in saying that or not?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No, that man does not come under this vote, no.

HON M D XIBERRAS

He comes under the other?

In that case, Mr Chairman, I will leave all my comments for the next Head.

HON P J ISOLA

Might I just on a general comment. We welcome the additional staff of graduates and apprenticeships and so forth in the Department. There is only one thing which I would query, and that is: the Minister is making provision for quite a lot of additional staff into the Department, notwithstanding that some of the staff has gone over now to Housing, and obviously its workload must surely be reduced. And I notice that the staff is being increased with no actual increase, from what I can see, of the amount of work that the Department is undertaking in the year under review. I just wonder whether in general terms, I would like to know what is the aim behind taking on additional technical staff. The Minister has mentioned about this group that is going to do a certain amount of surveying and so forth. Well, were these not done anyway by the Department before, or is this a new

expansion in the activities of the department, new undertaking of the Department. In other words if the taking on of additional staff is the reason for it, in the various levels described, that the department is undertaking new spheres of activity which it did not undertake last year, or is it just simply that the Department feels it does not have sufficient staff with which to undertake its present activities.

I notice that the total cost of the Department is estimated to be £276,000 for 1976/77 and that its workload is about £1,200,000, but I appreciate that there is also the non recurrent and so forth.

I would like to end up on one other point in relation to the workload of the Department on whether the new staff is going to produce a different situation. I notice that under the Improvement and Development Fund there is a drop in the amount spent under that Fund in the revised estimates as against the estimates that were approved by this House last year of something in the order of £600,000. Less has been spent in the year under review than the Government estimated they would do and we will be commenting on that, but has the work not been done because the Department has too much on its plate. So, therefore, quite simply my question is, is the additional staff required merely to meet the existing workload of the Department or is the additional staff required to engage in activities not previously engaged in by the Department.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

So that we can follow the thing in a logical way, can he point out where he notices the increase in staff.

HON P J ISOLA

Generally, I think Architects and . . . .

MR SPEAKER

There are four technical grade III's now instead of three. You have explained them all of course.

HON P J ISOLA

Against that you see, there are, if I may finish in answer to the Minister for Medical Services, against that there is staff that has been moved out . . . .

MR SPEAKER

The general one, Item 65 you mean?

HON P J ISOLA

Yes, there is that general one but of course one must take into account, looking at it as against last year, that last year they had the staff which has now been moved out to Housing doing the work. So, therefore, I do not know whether there is considerable addition to the staff, but there must be some addition. The decrease of £30,000 in the cost is more or less accounted for by the staff which has been moved to Housing as far as I can see, but I think there is additional staff.

MR SPEAKER

May I follow your arguments. You are saying that in spite of the fact that staff has been transferred to the new Head of Housing, there are still seven extra bodies in this Department . . . .

HON P J ISOLA

There are extra bodies, the workload on that point of Housing has been reduced, and this is what I am asking, whether all the new staff, and using the existing staff no longer with Housing in them, if this means that they could not meet their workload, or is there an expansion of activity in the Department.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

First of all, Mr Chairman, the increase in the staff is in the establishment, that is the permanent and pensionable ones. The additional staff I think the Honourable and Learned Member is referring to is that under Items 60 to 64, which

was there last year, and therefore is not in addition, and also Item 65 which was also there last year. This is an additional role which has not been done before. There has never been a survey of the whole of the Government Housing Stock and Building stock, and when I say never, I mean the life of this Government the previous administration . . . .

MR SPEAKER

The Staff is for extra work.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Yes, that is right. And it is because this additional work that we have been able, as a condition of getting the staff, the additional money from ODM to catch up on the backlog of repairs; and the general rehabilitation. This was a condition under which we got the funds.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, I was delighted to hear the Honourable Member mention that two Gibraltarians had been taken into employment. Training Draughtswomen.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

They may start off as Tracers, and then they go on. This is the equivalent of an apprenticeship.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I have a particular case in mind to which I shall not refer, but since I have raised the question of training, particularly with two of the Draughtsmen, Mr Falero and Mr Canessa, and there was some confusion about whether they were going to be trained or not at one particular point, I am very glad to see that they are both training now in pursuance of the Department's policy of training people, but I also had another case of a young lady who applied as a Draughtsman, a Draughtsperson. I believe that a UK person was employed instead. We have laws about employment, priority of employment in the Public Service when we went into the Common Market and so forth. This was

established in our law, and I was interested to note that the rejection at first of this Gibraltarian girl had been on the grounds that she was not trained, and the person who got the job was a trained English woman. Now, I was wondering what implications that had for the training programme of the Department. In other words that we could have had, as far as I know, we did not have, a young Gibraltarian in the post provided she was trained, and instead there was a trained UK person in the post. My facts may not be absolutely up to date but I would like to have an answer to that as an indication of policy as regards training in the Department.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Chairman, on a point of law. There is nothing that requires priority to be given to a Gibraltarian. There is a provision that nobody from outside Gibraltar can be employed in the Public Service without a permit. That is the provision which we put in the Control of Employment Ordinance as you are entitled to do by the terms of the Treaty. There is no specific provision that priority must be given.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The Honourable Member is very much more conversant with the law and I will bow to his superior knowledge or memory of this, but the Honourable Member will remember he was, after opposing it on the grounds that this was not compatible with EEC Regulations . . . .

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

No, that is not so.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The Honourable Member will have to check his Hansard.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I stated it was not necessary to put in such a provision because it could be dealt with administratively. That

Government could in any event not employ in the public service some person from outside Gibraltar. They could do it without it being actually in the Control of Employment Ordinance, but Government agreed to amend the Control of Employment Ordinance, to put this matter beyond doubt. There was no doubt but to clarify the position as far as people generally were concerned.

HON M D XIBERRAS

This was an amendment taken straight from the Treaty of Rome in any case and the general purpose of this amendment was to try to salvage something of the priority of employment for Gibraltarians in the public sector. And something was done in that respect. Now, that, one way or another is as far as I know remains the policy of the Government and this is how I understand it and that is how I feel people understand it.

MR SPEAKER

We might perhaps get an answer from the Minister now.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Yes, I only remember this particular case very vaguely, but I am quite sure that my Honourable Colleague, the Minister for Labour, who was more directly involved may be able to throw a little bit more light.

HON A J CANEPA

Mr Speaker, the father of the girl in question came to see me and I investigated the case. The Drawing Office of the Public Works Department had had a serious shortage of Draughtsmen required in connection with the planning scheme for the Town Plan which is due in the next few weeks. They were not able to recruit the necessary Draughtsmen and they tried to recruit two or three Learner Tracers, I think the terminology is in keeping with Scamp policy, who would be able to do rather simple and rather rudimentary work in the preparation of plans and so on. When the vacancies were advertised there was an applicant, an English lady, who was a fully qualified Draughtswoman, and, therefore, the Department were only too happy to take her on. Had they

had any intimation prior to that that there were people available then obviously, the advertisement would have been specifically for Draughtsmen and not for Learner Travers.

HON M D XIBERRAS

What happened to the local girl?

HON A J CANEPA

The local girl was not taken on: I understand she was shortlisted. That is my understanding.

HON M D XIBERRAS

This is the point, Mr Chairman. Even though I appreciate that immediately there might be a need to Quantity Surveyors, well, we do not have them here. Nonetheless, if there is an application from a local person I think every effort should be made in consonance with the idea of training local people, to give that person some post so that eventually we will have a job for a local person. The Honourable Member knows about the unemployment figures for local persons, and, therefore, in this area, it is not just a question of choosing at a particular moment but of offering prospects for the local person inside Government's plan, which is allowed by the law. And I would urge the Minister to do this wherever possible.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Once again this follows our policy that we want more and more Draughtsmen, As I say my memory of this is not very clear, but I think the original advert was for Draughtsmen, which means a qualified as distinct from a Trainee which is what this girl was.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I accept that. But let us plan for the future and let us try to get some sort of career pattern for applicants, school leavers or what have you, in the Public Works Department.

My other question, Mr Chairman, is about Meter Readers.  
Does the Honourable Member consider . . . .

MR SPEAKER

That does not come under this Head.

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS was agreed to and passed.

(b) OTHER CHARGES

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Going on to page 49, Other Charges, Mr Chairman, there is a substantial decrease in Item 2. This is because last year we provided for the initial Drawing Office material required when we set up the two special units for the first time, and that expenditure does not recur this year.

Items 3, 4 and 5 are in fact identical with last year, but I think it might be interesting to note that although there is only provision for £100 under Item 5, the value of the stock, a rough estimate because you cannot make a special stocktake for this, is round about £267,000.

Item 6 covers the Training of Apprentices, not only in the Dockyard but the apprentices at the Landport Ditch and those at the bench.

Item 7 varies very little from last year; and Item has an increase because of our need to send the two Technical Grades from the Waterworks for specialised courses in UK and attachments to Water Boards in the United Kingdom so that they can get knowledge of what it is all about.

Once again it costs us £2,000 and there is a little margin for bread and butter courses, professional people keeping up to date with new techniques, new practices, and I think that covers that subhead altogether Mr Chairman.

Once again I will be only too pleased to give explanations if they are wanted.

OTHER CHARGES was agreed to and passed.



## HEAD 19 - PUBLIC WORKS ANNUALLY RECURRENT

MR SPEAKER

It is over the page - page 51.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, may I ask the Honourable Member about the Maintenance and Painting of Crown Properties. I would like to know what this means in terms of volume, because I think just voting sums of money can be misleading in the sense that we may be getting the same amount or less amount of work done and we need to know how the programme is physically moving forward; and secondly I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government supports the policy which I know the Union is very keen to see introduced, of introducing Job Price Contracts, that is piecework rates for the painting programme for painters in the Public Works Department.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, perhaps I should make a few comments on the Head as a whole as it has been my practice to do, and perhaps we can take it from there, because under this Head comes the very important item which was raised by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, Supply of Water, which I want to deal with in due course. But perhaps, Mr Chairman, here the estimated expenditure appears to be less than last year by some £,000. There is in fact an increase of nearly £104, 00 on this vote, because £104, 00 have been transferred to other Heads, principally Housing and Electricity.

We must remember that the Housing Units looks after properties, Government housing; public lighting, illumination, has gone to Electricity and this is why there seems to be this little increase, but there is a much larger increase than is stated.

The increases are principally due to the higher cost of materials, greater expenditure in maintenance and paintings of properties, on sewer cleanings, and on replacement and repairs of water meters. Our labour force around 795 is not increasing at the same rate as our responsibilities are, as more and more housing stock is added, needing more and more of our various services.

In this Head, COLA and Interim Award is included in each Item, which differs from the practice in the last item because here it is not possible to allot them to an overall. It has been decided and it has been always in fact included in each Head.

Taking each item in turn, the first one is Beaches and Montague Bathing Pavilion. The slight increase is not only because of the higher cost of materials, these places have to be painted and kept clean, but also because of the increased rates payable to the Female Attendants who work there. I have got an idea that there are 13 or something like that. More people than ever used Montagu last year, some 25,000 tickets were sold and over £2,000 was taken there, not including some £500 which we expect to accrue from the use of the Montagu for the Dolphin shows.

Takings of all the beaches were up even on the previous season. This year the protective sea wall at Camp Bay is being extended, the paved area at Montagu is being increased, and slides and diving boards are being provided. We are allowing £2,500 on renewals of beach furniture to replace those which are broken beyond repair.

Item 2, which I think, is an item with which our friend the Honourable Member across the other side, I mean friend politically. I hope I am friendly with everybody although I may not be demonstrative, this is part of my Anglo Saxon inheritance. I am not demonstrative. I do not show my feelings. No.

In item 2, Mr Chairman, 109 flats were rehabilitated last year. Under this Head, not overall, there were much more overall because some come under the Improvement and Development Fund. Now, that is eleven months up to February, 1976, and 43 old houses had water laid on during the same period. Altogether some 7, 00 requisitions for works were received in the same 11 months. That shows the magnitude of the problem.

The proposed painting programme for next year totals £100,000. If you look at the revised estimates as against the estimates for last year it will in fact be seen that we spent a little bit more than was anticipated, despite the extra work which comes under the Improvement and Development Fund.

Items 3, 4 and 5 require no special comment, since they vary very little from last year's figure. However, I am

sure it will gladden the Honourable and Learned Mr Isola's heart to know that we are going to put plastic flower pots on the lamp posts, which will be easy to maintain without breaking the lamp post. Plastic flower pots which can then be taken out and new ones put in so that . . . .

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

And flowers, as well! !

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Not plastic flowers: I said flower pots. I will deal with that when we come to "Gardens", and I will extend an invitation to the Honourable Gentleman on the other side to come and see what we are doing at the Alameda - and the whole of Gibraltar. I am anticipating events.

Item 6 shows a considerable reduction from last year - that is furniture.

Item 7 is one that I would really like to draw attention to. Item 7, Leave and Sick Pay for Workmen. We provided £36,000 last year, the revised estimate is £56,000 this year. During these 12 months, £56,000 on leave and sick pay. Now, in order not to encourage this side of the expenditure, I am only making provision for £36,000 so that if there is any more wanted the matter can be brought to the notice of this House again and debated.

Items 8, 9, 10, 11 are substantially the same as last year and require no comment.

Item 12. The increase here is attributable to higher petrol and oil costs and all spares, which I have said before have rocketted in Gibraltar. And anybody who has a car and takes it in to repair is more than painfully aware of the result.

Item 13, Extra cost of materials and spares, once again account for a slightly higher amount.

Item 14. The lower figures than last year shown arises from a misunderstanding and the amount in fact should be £175,550 . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Instead of £173,000, is that right?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Instead of £165,000. Now, the £10,000 difference, Mr Chairman, is the amount we consider attributable to the 5 Estate Cleaning Labourers . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Could I ask whether it makes any difference to the total?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, I am just explaining how it is and how we propose to correct it, because, as I say, the £10,000 should have been taken off Item 2 and not Item 14, which deals with Maintenance. In other words the cleaning of the Estates was done by what we know as the Maintenance Gang and not the Street Cleaning Gang. We will be asking for a virement immediately to correct this error. In total no additional funds will be needed, it was taken off the wrong Head.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, just to get that clear. Government will come with a proposal to take £10,000 . . . .

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No, it does not require to do so. Virement is in the hands of the Financial and Development Secretary.

HON M D XIBERRAS

It is taking £10,000 off one vote and putting it into the other. But Item 2 is the one in which we asked for a breakdown earlier on in the meeting.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Because the five labourers on Housing Estate Cleaning will be

in fact not charged there although they were left in there in the first place. The overall effect is no different, it was just taken from the wrong place.

Item 15 varies little from last year, that does not require much comment, but may I say here that now and again I see adverse comments about the amount of smoke coming from the destructor. It does not come from the destructor, it comes from the little kiln that we have had to build next door to it to deal with items which cannot be burnt in the Destructor, like huge trunks of wood, rubber tyres etc., etc. Tree trunks cannot be put through the destructor or any wood over six feet in length.

Item 16: part of the additional expenditure is attributable to higher wages - Item 16 being Toilets and Public Baths. The higher wages being paid to the female staff and also to the higher cost of cleaning materials. Once again I think it might be interesting for the House to know that 3,000 people use the showers provided at the Market and the Piazza, and 3,100 use the Tarik Baths which have now been completely modernised and rehabilitated.

Item 17. Sewers are of course a matter of constant attention and concern. Whilst the bulk of the desilting of the main system is dealt with in the Improvement and Development Fund, there is still a lot to be done in the connecting minor sewers. The Improvement and Development Fund will deal with what I can call the main big sewer, and the main Main Street sewer. We are here trying to increase the number and strength of labour gang to cope. This type of work is not particularly attractive although there are many different allowances being paid in addition to basic wages, and fairly constant regular overtime.

Item 1: there is a substantial increase here because we want to provide . . . .

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, did the Minister say that in Item 17, £13,000 is attributable to overtime?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No, no. We are trying to recruit another gang to reinforce the other one, but this work is not popular, even though the

emoluments are very, very attractive. There is more regular overtime worked here than anywhere else.

MR SPEAKER

Any questions?

HON J BOSSANO

Is the Honourable Member going to give me an answer on the point that I raised in relation to item 2?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, when I have finished, if he will ask me then I can give him the breakdown of what we intend to do there. If he is particularly interested in the programme I can tell him how we propose to subdivide the £100,000.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, I am interested in two things, Mr Chairman, in what it is costing now with the present system and how keen the Government is to see the introduction of a Job Price Contract system, a piece-work system, which will be negotiated with the Union, because I know that the workers in the PWD Paint Depot would in fact welcome the introduction of such a system - they are my members - and I think it could produce results of mutual benefit to the Government and the employees.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, I take the point, and this is one that we are looking at, but I think the amount covered here in this particular thing also includes in that painting: the bulk of it is work which is put out to contract, the big jobs. The difficulty - and I am not going to delve or give an answer on that particular point which is one we are looking at. One of the difficulties that is involved in this JPC system, is one which is very difficult to implement for interior painting, because it requires constant remeasuring of surface. One has to work on some particular formula and it is a question of the professional staff going round

measuring to arrive at how much to offer, and measuring afterwards to see how much has been done, whether it has been done properly and all the rest of it. We are constantly on the lookout and I think the Honourable Questioner must be more than aware that wherever it is possible we go out to these Job Price Contracts. There have been three or four to my knowledge in the last year, so that we do believe in this practice, but some jobs are easier to do that way than others, and it is certainly the small job which are the difficult ones to do this way.

May I then proceed, Mr Chairman, because I am sure the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is raring to go on the next one when we come to Water.

Now we come to page 51, Item 17. There is a substantial increase here because we want to provide another gang of 9 men on meter inspections, maintenance and repair: that is to increase this particular gang from 7 to 16. It is here that we are convinced that the so called losses - not wastage, wastage to me is wastage of water, loss is something which although it is supplied cannot be accounted for, a vast difference. We have recently installed new meters in the two Tower Blocks and their recorded consumption is some 20% over the previous recording. We are of course getting complaints of overcharging as a result. We will be installing replacements in other blocks of flats and if we look at Item 27 of Head 20, £24,000 is being provided for water meters, and I have little doubt that the results will prove most interesting. Our checks at night during the silent hours still continue and confirm our repeated statement that there is not much loss through bursts. That would be wastage, although it is a loss really because one cannot foretell when it will happen, but, I mean, this is playing with words I think, and rather with intentions and definitions.

We produced during the year from our various sources, rainfall, wells, the Distillers, and in fact three tankers, 139.7 million gallons of water, but we supplied 144.1 million, of which 0.3 million were supplied to shipping. It is interesting to note that only three ships throughout the year, took more than 200 tons at a time.

Item 22: both the North Face and the VTE Distillers continue to cause us a great deal of concern, and are not producing anything like their rated output, despite the attention of all the experts whom we have had out to see to them. In fact, although we stopped the North Face Distiller

for some four months for a major overhaul, it only produced about 55% of its rated capacity last week, and has since stopped. We are looking at it again. Overseas Development Aid recently commissioned, and this is what I forecast previously, Priest, Cardew and Ryder to carry out a thorough investigation of our requirements - and this includes Gibraltar as a whole, not only the Gibraltar Government but also the PSA - up to the years 19 4/19 5. The report has only just arrived and is still under study. It is a huge report full of technical details which will take a little time to assimilate and to arrive at conclusions. But there is little doubt that we shall be requiring further Distillers as soon as possible which in any case could not be productive until 1979 or 19 0. I am therefore investigating ways and means of dealing with the anticipated short falls at the cheapest possible price.

Before condemning our Distillers too forcibly, let me say that they are not unique in their shortcomings. The DOE ones are giving just as much, if not more trouble, and DOE are in fact expecting a tanker in mid April. Higher fuel costs of course accounts for some of the anticipated increase. Items 22, 23 and 24 show only minor increases: there will be changes at the top at the waterworks, as I have already mentioned when I dealt with Head 1, because of the change over of the Foreman. Once again if there is further information needed, and I am sure there will be lots of questions, I shall be only too happy to give it.

MR SPEAKER

Well, I think this is the appropriate time to recess so that the Opposition can give careful consideration to all that has been said. We will resume, just in case I am misunderstood and I have the feeling when I come back in the afternoon that I have not made myself completely clear at which time we are going to resume. It is at 3.15 this afternoon, a quarter past three.

The Committee recessed at 1.05 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 3.25 p.m.

MR SPEAKER

We were at Head 19, Annually Recurrent. The Minister has given his explanations.



HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, my question involves the whole Head, and is to do with the total amount.

MR SPEAKER

Well, the Head is not divided into sub sections: Head 19 is annually recurrent.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I mean both things, Personal Emoluments and Other Charges.

MR SPEAKER

There are no personal emoluments in Head 19.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Not in Head 19, but I would like to ask a question which has to do with Head 19 in part, and that is the breakdown partly involving the painting of crown property, partly involving other . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Perhaps what I should say is that what you are trying to say . . . . Let us do one thing: let us see if there are any general remarks that anyone would like to make and then we will take the items. I think that would be better.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well, my general question is how much of the Public Works vote, part of which is in here under Other Charges, and which has not been transferred to the Housing . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, let us have no misunderstanding. What part of Head 19; you see there are no personal emoluments and other charges in Head 19. What part of Head 19 has been transferred to Housing, yes, but there are other Heads under

Public Works, as you will see, you will come to Head 20 afterwards, Public Works Non-Recurrent.

HON M D XIBERRAS

This is the point, it involves all three in fact, partly under other charges partly under personal emoluments. My general remarks is, and I put the Government on notice about it, and that is how much money has the Public Works Department kept after the transfer of certain responsibilities to the Housing Section. How much remains in the Public Works Department vote for Housing or with work associated with Housing?

I think the Honourable Financial and Development Secretary was going to give us a breakdown of an Item of about £26,000 which we looked at on page 6, I think it was, which I have got now, and I want to know whether there is anything else remaining in the Public Works vote which has not been transferred into the Housing, which has to do with Housing.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, I could not give an assurance that it has all gone over to Housing or that there is not some left, but I can say that we will look into this and provide the Honourable Leader of the Opposition with the answer. I cannot do any better than that at the moment I am afraid.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The point about this is that we would like to make sure that the transfer of funds to Housing is at least not going to represent an increase overall on both votes.

MR SPEAKER

I think as far as I can be of any assistance there are only two items, one under Head 19, which is the one you have been talking about, which is building maintenance and planning and painting of crown property, and one under Head 20 Housing, items 11, 12 and 14. Is that correct? Perhaps the Minister could comment.

HON H J ZAMMITT

On page 51 there are three more large ones which come to £6,200 which we have not got to as yet, but I think you will find that £56,200 have been transferred from the Public Works Department to the Housing Unit.

MR SPEAKER

That has been transferred but we are talking about the ones that are still in this vote. Is that correct Mr Xiberras?

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes. As I recall there was about £20,000 unaccounted for. That is in fact the sum to which the statement made by the Honourable Member refer?

HON H J ZAMMITT

No, Sir, the sum which I referred to of £25,200 is the paper I passed over to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, which is referred to in page 6, under Appendix I. Those are the £25,000 which I could not find yesterday morning, and I was very . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Let us be very clear. What I think the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is trying to find out is what is the left over of expenditure in the Public Works Department over and above the amount that has been transferred to the Housing Section. Is that correct?

HON M D XIBERRAS

I think, Mr Chairman, this might be looked into. This is why I have raised it here, to put the Government on notice.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but in the mean time shall we go through the items in the vote? first Item 1 which is Maintenance of Beaches and Montague. Mr Isola, I am sure you would like to say something.

HON W M ISOLA

The Minister said something about this, that it included beach furniture. I believe he said £2,500 on beach furniture. Do I understand that this beach furniture is for Catalan Bay and what sort of beach furniture. It is a lot of money and where is it going to. That is my first question and I will ask him a couple more later.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

£2,500 is the amount which has been spent - last year I think it was £2,400 - in providing new umbrellas, new deck chairs, but not at Catalan Bay because they are not hired out at Catalan Bay. At Camp Bay, yes, at Camp Bay it is not unknown for us to lose 10 or 16 umbrellas in 1 minute because of a sudden burst of wind which turns them. This is why in Camp Bay I am extending the free shading by more than treble this year on the upper two terraces. This is iron pipings on which we will put "cañeso", cane-lays, so that people do not have to use either our umbrellas or their umbrellas, because Camp Bay is very prone, particularly in the summer, to sudden gusts of wind from the east which takes off not only the umbrellas but people in deck chairs!

HON W M ISOLA

On this one, Mr Chairman, can the Minister state approximately how much of the £61,900 which we are being asked to vote is going on the maintenance of Montague, and how much of it is going to all the other beaches?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I cannot give that kind of breakdown, Mr Chairman, because for example this includes the labour: two Beachkeepers, 12 Lifeguards, 5 Beachkeepers, 20 Beach Cleaners, 4 Cleaners, 6 Ticket Collectors for part of the year . . . .

HON W M ISOLA

There is no need to go right through . . . .

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No, but as I say I cannot split this without analysing every

single one of these figures.

HON W M ISOLA

I say this because there was - and perhaps the Minister might take note of this - there were a lot of complaints last year about the young chaps which we employed in the beaches as Beach Cleaners who used to come to Gibraltar in the summer, got these jobs, got very well paid and did not do the jobs which they were supposed to do, and as a result of that there were quite a lot of changes and they were kicked out, and quite rightly. This is quite a substantial sum of money and since this does affect a vast majority of people that the Beach Cleaners we employ are of good calibre for what they are supposed to do, that we are a little more selective in what we get and not just get anybody, otherwise we are going to throw good money down the drain. The Minister might take note of that.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Thank you for that, Mr Chairman. In the beginning it is a question of taking what comes along; afterwards we find that they are not suitable and we kick them out. I hope we get the backing from that side. But once again I would be grateful if these occurrences are brought to my notice or to the notice of the Beach Supervisor, who is available on the telephone, at the time, not later, when we can catch them red handed and we can do something about it. We can then take disciplinary action and disarm them.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Mr Chairman, I would have thought that the job of the Supervisor is to see that those working under him do the proper job, not that members of the public who go there to relax should undertake to call the attention of the Supervisor.

MR SPEAKER

Let us not go into the job of the Supervisor. I think an undertaking has been given that the matter will be looked into.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I have only one Supervisor and he cannot be on seven beaches all the time!

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

But surely it is his job, his job is to go round the beaches and see

that they are clean. And if he is not doing the job, do not blame the chap who is not doing it but blame the Supervisor.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Well, I am sure the Supervisor will take action if he sees them slacking, but it is when he is not there that they slack.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I cannot accept that, Mr Chairman . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but I am not going to have a debate here as to how the supervision should be carried out.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Well, it is very important, we are spending £68,000 . . . .

MR SPEAKER

An undertaking has been given that everything will be done to see that this is put right.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

With all due respect, Mr Chairman, but the answer is, as I understand it, that if anybody sees that the cleaner is not doing his job properly should report it to the Minister.

MR SPEAKER

No, no, that has not been the answer. The answer has been that he will take note of what the Honourable Member has said, and that he will do everything in his power to see that it is improved. But that if there are any complaints it would be of help if it were brought to their notice.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Yes, and I hope this is the principle adopted right through the organisation, otherwise we will never finish, we will never have any efficiency in Government and certainly not in his department.

MR SPEAKER

Any other questions?

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Yes, on the other point, and this is a vital one I should say . . . .

HON MISS C ANES

I should like to ask the Minister<sup>7</sup> Mr Chairman, if it could be possible for him to look into the question of erecting at Camp Bay a foot-high wall near the swimming pool near the first terrace where people sit, my reason for saying this is that children, particularly the older ones, using the swimming pool splash about a lot and this means that people sitting on those terraces get all their clothes and food wet from the spillage of the water. I was wondering if it would be possible for the Minister to look into providing some protection in that particular area in order to avoid the same problem arising this summer.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I will certainly look into it. If I understood the question right what I am being asked to do is to build a wall around the present paddling pool . . . .

HON MISS C ANES

I am referring to the terraces near the beach, below the swimming pool. The water that spills from the swimming pool, particularly from the big one, affects the people sitting on the steps below and wetting their clothes and food as a result of the horse play of the youngsters. I was wondering whether this protection could be done this summer in order to avoid any complaints.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

In fact we have already done half that wall, and the other half is provided for in this year's estimates. We have built a wall to protect the first terrace already from the northern end to beyond the paddling pools, to where the pier is. There is a wall already there built and finished this year. Next year we will do the other half from the other end of the pier to the south end.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I believe the Honourable Members have been talking at cross purposes on this one.

MR SPEAKER

So I believe, yes. What you are being asked to do is whether you will build a small protective wall on the very edge of the swimming pool, on the west side, so that when children are playing about they do not splash onto the people using the lower level where they are sunbathing, next to the pool. Is that correct?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I do not think so.

HON MISS C ANES

I do not know if I am explaining myself correctly. There is a big esplanade where there are two swimming pools, a large one for older children and a small one for the youngsters. When you go from that esplanade down some steps to the beach proper, there are terraces where people sit, put up their beach umbrellas and have their little tables and so on. Now the spillage of the big swimming pool particularly, because in the other one the children are too small and do not create too much of a problem, but the bigger one, the spillage of the water whilst they are getting in and out and splashing about and playing around, the amount of water which spills out of the swimming pool comes onto the people sitting below the swimming pool on the next terrace. There is no proper drainage which could drain away the amount of water that is splashed around.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I will certainly look into this and perhaps I will be accompanied by the Honourable Lady when she can tell me exactly what she wants, and I shall try to meet her wishes.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

There is another seafront now and that is in the Varyl Begg Estate seafront. I wonder if the Minister is making allowance for keeping that place clean at the moment and also for any plans to make full use of that area. I think it is very handy for the occupiers of the Estate and also perhaps for other people in the area who would like to come in. What provisions are we making there, please?



HON LT COL J L HOARE

At the moment, Mr Chairman, the Varyl Begg Complex as such is not finished. There is access to the sea but not very satisfactory. I do not intend at the moment, unless we get funds from somewhere, to turn it into another beach with Montagu basin so near. In other words I am not going to turn that into a public bathing place at the expense of Montagu.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Mr Chairman, I think there is quite a big proportion of the population of Gibraltar in the area, one of the lucky few who are near the sea: I would have thought that this would be an added amenity which would be very welcome by the occupiers of the houses in that area and I would have thought that the Minister would have given more consideration to this. Not many people from there would go to Montagu, and in any case I do not think it is going to take any business away from the Government at all. On the other hand it might help considerably those who are there to make full use of that: even helping to decongest other places such as Eastern Beach and Sandy Bay. If the facilities are there they may decide to stay there rather than go to the beaches and that will allow people from other areas to find more room in those beaches. I wonder if the Minister would like to reconsider his statement because I think it is an important matter.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I do not know, Mr Chairman, if the Honourable and Gallant Member has been to the Varyl Begg Estate. He will find that there are paddling pools, and promenades, and seats there, and in fact last year it was used extensively, but the present funds do not provide for the extension of the front of the Varyl Begg Estate into a special bathing place. There will be actually a great deal of further reclamation and a great deal of cement filling, but that has not prevented and did not prevent residents there from being able to swim in the sea last year, and we have made more than adequate provision for the children there.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I will not pursue the matter further, Mr Chairman, but I hope that there will be somebody else in that seat next

year, when I am sure his seat will be vacated, who will take the matter more seriously.

MR SPEAKER

Item 2.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, is any of this sum being used for maintenance at Varyl Begg other than the maintenance after the contract is finished? In other words are we using any of this money to effect repairs in Varyl Begg?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

We are still within the 12 month guarantee period. If damage arises afterwards which is not due to the tenants, and we are getting a bit more firm as to the wilful damage caused by some tenants, then if it is due to fair wear and tear, then of course the guarantee from the contractors is only valid for the first 12 months. This is why we have insisted that people who want to erect balconies and things like that do not do anything to damage the fabric which would prejudice any claims against the contractors.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

On that item, Mr Chairman, I was very delighted to hear a representative of the union suggesting that there was a possibility of coming to some arrangement over piecework on painting. This is something which certainly when we were there we were trying very hard to do and we found very little support from the Union then. Now we find it is the other way around - at least I am not sure it is the other way around but certainly the Union is very keen on this. Since obviously wages are likely to continue rising and productivity is essential, now that we find that the Unions are in a co-operative mood to adopt productivity, could the Minister assure us that he will leave no stone unturned to make sure that some agreements can be reached, because I think it could lead to a saving even if it means of course a little more hard work on the part of some individual by taking measurements and what have you, but perhaps leading to a saving in Government spending and perhaps even more efficiency.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

This Government, and my Department in particular, has every desire to use JPC's. The answer is payment is rather more difficult. I really must make this point. One of the difficulties is this, that it is not the final cost of paint that matters, but how much preparation . . .

MR SPEAKER

We are not going to go into the qualities.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

No, no, I fully agree on that, I fully agree that this thing cannot be carried out and get shoddy results, but I do hope that it will be possible to come to some arrangement with the Unions whereby we do get good results with savings, as well as there being a gain both for the Government and the employees as well. I do hope that the spirit is there to bring this about.

MR SPEAKER

Any other items?

HON M D XIBERRAS

On this particular point, have the Government and the Union concerned taken into account the possibility, and if so are they in favour, of people planning the work, measuring the work, being included in the JPC. This is most important, Mr Chairman, I have had first hand experience of this and I would like the Minister to say whether. Because, you see, if the work . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, I am very clear as to what we are doing. It has been asked whether Government is prepared to consider this kind of work being done by piece work. The answer has been, yes, it is being looked into. We are not going to discuss the way to do it and how it should be approached.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I do not want to be lengthy about this, I am just saying

that since the Minister said that part of the difficulty was measuring the work, and I had first hand experience that this is the difficulty, that unless somebody proposes a deal there is no deal to be done, then has the Government considered allowing the TG, or whoever it is, to take part in the deal, the JPC. It is quite a big item of Government policy. Now can I have an answer from the Minister on that.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

The answer is: "Yes, of course".

MR SPEAKER

Any other item on page 50?

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I have one more, Mr Chairman, that is Item 12.

MR SPEAKER

Before doing so does anyone wish to raise anything before item 12.

HON MISS C ANES

I would like to draw the Minister's attention to Item 11, Public Lighting. It has been rather common in the past along Waterport Wharf from the entrance of Revenue Station down to the very end to see all the lights on in broad daylight. I was wondering who is in charge of switching off the lights at dawn and switching them on at dusk. To have them on all day long in the whole of the Waterport area seems a waste of electricity and money and I wonder whether the Minister could look into the situation to avoid a repetition of this this year, because it is common to see the same thing happening every summer.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I thank the Honourable for that. Public Lighting has of course been taken out of here and been put squarely where it should have always been on the lap of the City Electrical

Engineer, but I have an idea that whilst the City Electrical Engineer is responsible for the fittings and things like that, the control of the Port as such in toto - and this is not by way of finding an excuse, I will certainly chase this up - lies with the Captain of the Port. From the Revenue Station onwards it is under the jurisdiction of the Captain of the Port, but I will certainly take that up because if this is waste of public money it is unforgivable.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, especially on that one I asked last year I believe, on the road leading to the Port, I see that part of it has been done from the Port Office down to the Customs Post, at least a stretch there and the crossroads leading to the Mons Calpe ferry, but the work as far as I can recall, has not been completed. The Honourable Member I think told me that the whole of that would be done and that there was specific provision for that work. Is part of that money going to be devoted to the resurfacing of the whole of that road right up to the Port or not? At the moment what has been done is to draw a line down the middle of it.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I am quoting from memory without a great deal of research. I think in fact this part comes under Roads, or some other Head, not under Head 11, but I can tell you from memory, I cannot pin point it now, that in fact going to do the balance from where we have done to the Mons Calpe complete, and then of course when the Varyl Begg is all settled and the roads re-aligned we shall do the whole of that again.

MR SPEAKER

Item 12.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I notice that the rise between 1974/77 is very nearly 50%. I imagine that the main reason for that is wages, but the increase in this year is £15,000. I wonder if the Minister can give us an idea of why there has been such a high increase in that, in the Running Expenses and Maintenance of Motor Vehicles and Workshops. I am particularly interested

in the hire of lorries, if I can give an indication of what I am after.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I am rather surprised because I made a special point of mentioning this in my opening remarks. I gave three main reasons for the increase here. First of all the rise in the cost of petrol, the rise in the cost of oil, and thirdly, the meteoric rise in the cost of spares in Gibraltar. And I make the point that anybody who has a car in Gibraltar and has taken it to a garage is more than painfully aware of the results.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

On the hire of lorries, can the Minister give us an idea of how much of that money is spent on the hiring of lorries?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Hire of lorries, £3,600 a year, £300 a month.

MR SPEAKER

Any other items on that page?

HON MISS C ANES

Item 14, Sanitation. No doubt the Minister is aware of the amount of criticism there is about the way that refuse collection is being done in Gibraltar, particularly at the time when the lorries travel along Devil's Tower Road towards the Refuse Destructor. A great deal of the refuse collected is dropped onto the highway, to the annoyance of motorists travelling behind these lorries who get all the surplus refuse spilt onto their cars. Pedestrians also suffer in a similar way.

Another thing is the sweeping of highways. There are times when certain areas in Gibraltar have had no sweeping done for a whole week and one goes around and sees the amount of papers, toffee papers, lollipop sticks, cigarette cartons and so on which is strewn around. What is worse is that

when the street sweepers decide to come along and do their little bit of sweeping in the particular areas assigned to them, they collect the larger pieces and sweep the rest of these and extra bits that he considers too small into the sewers. Consequently when we have a heavy rain the sewers overflow and we have flooded streets.

I was thinking on the question of the collection of items deposited in the street by people, such as debris, furniture etc., whether it would be worth it for the Government to give this work out to contractors rather than have it done by the Government. I have seen PWD lorries collecting items from one particular corner and by-passing the corner opposite. When their attention has been called to this their reply has been that they have been told by their foreman to collect the items at that particular corner only. They have therefore collected that, driven it away and have later returned to the same area to pick up the remainder. And the lorries have been on occasions half empty. If this were to be given on piece work, or contracted to outside people, perhaps it could save the Government some money.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I am sure the Honourable Lady will accept that it is not Government policy to permit this sort of thing. I will certainly look into the matter but it is difficult to attach a supervisor to every man that is working for us.

MR SPEAKER

Now, page 21, it is a continuation of the same Head.

HON W M ISOLA

Item 22 the Operation distillers.

I would like to ask the Minister, Mr Chairman, and he may have said this and if so I must apologise because I was actually here when he did talk about this. On one of the visits from the experts on the question of the distilling plant has he been given any indication at all as to the life of the distiller on the Eastern side of the Rock.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Yes, but this is in a recent report, very recent, published in February. As I indicated this morning, this is a rather hefty report there is no doubt that the life of the North Face Distiller can be prolonged.

MR SPEAKER

You have been asked what is the life expectancy of that particular Distiller.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

At the moment since it was built, 15 years. There are ways and means that we are looking at of prolonging its life.

HON W M ISOLA

15 years since when?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

From its commissioning, 1959.

HON W M ISOLA

Another question. Is the Minister satisfied that the cost of producing water in this Distiller is worthwhile keeping on the Distiller.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

There has never been any doubt in my mind.

HON W M ISOLA

I am not asking about your mind, with respect, but of Government's mind.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I am now speaking on behalf of the Government. There has



never been any doubt and I have stated it here that we can produce water more cheaply than importation. It must be, it stands to reason, it has not got to be transported, but there it is, it is a fact of life.

HON W M ISOLA

Mr Speaker, I do not like his remarks! It stands to reason because obviously it stands to reason that the water we catch from the catchments is cheaper than the water we bring from England, and in this same House the Minister said that we could not repair the catchment because it was not worthwhile. So the question I am asking the Minister is simple.

MR SPEAKER

The answer has been, certainly, yes, it is worthwhile.

HON W M ISOLA

I appreciate that, but I am saying that it does not stand to reason.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I am sorry, there was no intention of being offensive. I was merely making a statement of fact.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but let us not procrastinate, let us not go into the quality of the reply itself.

HON P J ISOLA

Is it possible to give a figure of how much water has been produced by each distiller, and how much water has been collected in the catchment areas for a year roughly?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Yes, Mr Chairman, I have the statistics for the year 1975. This we work by calendar years and not by financial years. I gave the total

figure of production as 139.7m, and this is how it is made up. Incidentally we are finding it more difficult to talk in millions of gallons when everything is being metricated. The meters we have ordered are metric and we talk about metric meters which is roughly a bit more than a ton which is more than 220 gallons. But I will give the figures in gallons.

Rainfall - 11.9 million;

Wells - and this is where the work which we have done in the wells is more than paying off - 36.7 millions;

North Face - 27.9;

King's Bastion - which only came into operation very late in the year - 3.8;

As I explained earlier if we do some work on it we hope it will be 7 million this year.

The VTE - 45.5 million;

Importation 3 tankers which came in with 12.3 million; and we transferred from the DOE, which is mostly repaid, 1.6 million; giving a total of 139.7 million.

HON P J ISOLA

Could I ask, is the amount that we are voting for the running of the Waterworks, does that include the operation of the wells? Is that the same figure?

I notice we have got Operation of Distillers £283,000; Running of Waterworks £18,500. Am I right in assuming that the labour content, or whatever you like to call it, of the wells is included in that estimate for the Waterworks? Is it one composite whole.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I have got an idea that it is, I am almost certain that it is.

MR SPEAKER

Well, if there are no other questions on this head the Leader of the Opposition wanted to ask something on meters. But may I say that if anyone wants to ask any questions on this Head will they do so now, so

that we will know we have finished.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member said that new meters had been installed in some sort of trial at the Tower Blocks and that substantially different results had been obtained. My understanding is that the present meters are supposed to be accurate to within 2% or I do not know whether this is the case or not.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

A new meter has a tolerance plus or minus, of two per cent: when first put in they have a tolerance of plus or minus two per cent, but as they get older and wear more then the pivot gets worn and therefore it becomes less reliable. This is why in the experiment we have carried out in these two particular blocks of flats where we have installed the brand new meters we have recorded figures at 20% above what they were with the old meters.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Sir, the Tower Blocks are not that old, when were they built, about 1963/64, about that. So they are 12 or 13 years old, and most of the meters in existence are in fact older than that.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

This is why we have under another Head a very large order, and that is why I want to increase the gang engaged in the repair and maintenance of these meters because this is where, I think, and I have said, and I will repeat, the so called losses occur: in metering.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The Minister is no doubt aware that the fault has to be found. I have referred to the Hansard of last year's budget debate and a whole year has gone by and apparently something has come up now. We are getting a rather more satisfactory reply but the water account is still in considerable deficit - £260,000 I think it was - and something has to be done in that respect. Now, will the Honourable Member commit himself to putting the situation right?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, we are now getting into two different aspects: the running of the Waterworks and the Water Account, which I have rebelled against ever since

I have been in office because it is not a true picture. This is a trading concern and if you look at the Water Accounts it makes no provision for assets, sundry creditors - and there must be hundreds of creditors - your metering, and your billings is always in arrears; so, I am sorry I have very little faith as a trading account in the way these accounts are presented and I have made a point of this year after year after year. The Honourable the Financial and Development Secretary is looking into this at the moment. I do not want to get involved in politics but I think this stems from the change of the system of accounting from the old City Council days to the Government system. I do not want to get involved with this but this is where it stems from.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I do not want to get involved with figures either, Mr Chairman, because I have brought the figures to the notice of the House, such as are available to me. I like what the Minister is doing to try and remedy this question or metering, but I do not like half answers to the question. It seems to me that water is going into the pipes and if people are not paying for it then there is bound to be less money in the Government coffers. Now, this is what I am saying: whatever is the makeup of the Notional Accounts this must be a factor. Would the Honourable Member see to it that either we are presented with a different sort of accounts or that the deficit is less as a result of his work.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

This is one of the things that is resulting from the past, that the Minister is not responsible for the accounts, he is only responsible for having the water produced and having it supplied. He is not responsible for the accounting.

MR SPEAKER

What you are being asked is whether you will at least take the necessary steps to see that there is less wastage.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Well, this has been one of my greatest crosses, if I can put it that way, since I have been in office, the question

of water. I have never been satisfied either on the matter of accounting for it, or the way that it was dealt with. I know that it has taken a long time but this has probably been one of the major tasks that I have undertaken, and I say in all humility that the Waterworks are now, by the time we finish the next phase this year, will be as up to date as any in the world.

HEAD 19 was agreed to and passed

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Mr Chairman, just before we go into the other Head. Some time back the Honourable Financial and Development Secretary very kindly said that he would be supplying us with the adjusted figures of the accounts where there had been increases and decreases - purely nominal but they were still shown there. Slowly but surely we are approaching the end and I would be very keen to have those figures before we reach the end of this debate . . . .

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

First of all there is nothing under Head 18; under Head 19, which is the subhead on which the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition raised the question, of the £400,000 which appears there, as we, I think, have previously elucidated, £350,000 of that amount is for Housing and that is the figure which appears in the Housing Account on page 86. Now, this is the only item under Head 19 which provides directly for houses. The other direct provision is in Head 19 which provides directly for Houses. The other direct provision is in Head 19 and of course Honourable Members must not forget that the Housing Account is not in fact voted, it is not a vote, it is not a provision, it is purely indicative or informative. The other voted provision for Housing which does not appear under the Housing vote but under the Public Works Department, is the figure of £25,200 of which my Honourable Colleague the Minister for Housing made available the necessary information. Those are the only direct provisions under these three Heads which I am advised are made for Housing.

HEAD 20 - PUBLIC WORKS NON-RECURRENT

MR SPEAKER

Right, on Minor works, any question?

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, I would like to ask a general question with regards to this vote. I notice that in the Public Works Annually Recurrent, and the Public Works Emolument and Other Charges the amount voted has been exceeded in both cases by quite large sums, so that the Department seems to have been at full strength as far as those votes are concerned, but with regard to this particular vote - Non-Recurrent, I notice that last year the House approved no less than £176,000 in respect of Non-Recurrent Work to be done by this Department. We raised this point I think on previous budget sessions, and in fact I think the Honourable and Gallant Colonel Hoare has told us that one of the things that was wrong with the previous administration, if I remember rightly, was that they put themselves down to do lots of things and then they did not do them. Perhaps I should not have made that last remark but the point I wanted to make, the point of substance is in fact from what I feel, the particular vote that we made of £176,300 in Non-Recurrent Works has been underspent by £62,500, which would indicate that the work has not been done. That we have been paying vast sums in respect of our different votes as far as Public Works is concerned, but when it comes to actually getting concrete things done, the Department has not come up to the expectations the Minister as set out last year.

The reason why I bring this point, Mr Chairman, is because I notice that this year the Department is saying, with the odd Architect more and the odd Surveyor more, that it is going to spend no less than £383,500. I think the House needs some convincing of this. How is it, may I ask the Minister, that he is supposed to do all these things at more than double the amount of works he said last year he was going to do, and which events have shown he has failed to do by quite a large extent. Now are we just being asked to vote money to make up figures for the estimates or is the Minister confident that all these works, that all these estimates of expenditure in Non-Recurrent works are possibly concrete achievements that can be pointed to as opposed to pious hopes in this House, and as opposed to telling people we propose to do hundreds of things this year and then nothing happens. But it is more serious than that, Mr Chairman, because the amount involved is extremely

substantial, and I would like to ask the Minister how he proposes to fulfil the commitments to the House to spend this money during the year under review.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Could I perhaps, before the Honourable Minister answers in detail, could I perhaps draw the attention of the Honourable Member to page 11. Public Works Non-Recurrent, Approved Provision 1975/76, £176,300; Revised Estimate £209,708.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I think the Honourable Financial and Development Secretary has anticipated what I was going to say. That although we provided for expenditure of £176,300 last year, this was increased by supplying funds amounting to £77,000 during the year, and the work carried forward to be done this year, amounts to . . . . No, I am sorry, and of those £77,000, a great deal of it, £26,000, was in respect of damage to the Water Catchment which could not have been foreseen at the time, additional to what we passed last year, and £40,000 on revotes of work not only done that year but from 1974/75. So, in fact, as the Honourable Financial and Development Secretary has said it was more work that had been anticipated, although not necessarily the jobs that are there, because other jobs arise.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, now I am more confused. Because if one looks at the estimates for this year and one compares the approved estimates of last year, what the Honourable Financial and Development Secretary is in fact telling me, or what the Honourable Minister is in fact telling me, is that his main precept given to the House at the time of his budget, that it is now that you decide what you are going to do, has been completely overlooked by the department of the Minister, because if I look at the estimates, and I have looked at the original estimate as compared with the 1975/76 Approved Estimate, the £62,500 I am referring to is £62,500 on work approved by this House that have not been done according to the estimates now in front of me. If they are wrong I do not know what. I mean, for example, if you look at page 52, Mr Chairman, the £7,000 for Electra Flats rehabilitation . . . .

MR SPEAKER

That is a new one, that is a new item, is it not?

HON P J ISOLA

This is another thing that bothers me, you have a new item here and then a revised estimate for it, and it did not appear last year . . . .

HON LT COL J L HOARE

When it was first . . . and it was not done . . . .

HON P J ISOLA

But some of these are not even in the approved estimates for last year.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

That is right. This is because they are new. This is the difference between Head 20, which is non-recurrent, and the other ones which are annually recurrent. But referring to last year's estimate, if the Honourable and Learned Gentleman will give way, he should remember that we have voted supplementary funds right left and centre in this Head, and I can quote a few, in Supplementary Estimate No.2 funds which were brought forward from the previous year, and this is what happens, that you order materials and they do not arrive, you have to revote.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but what you have been asked, and we must come back to it, is, are you going to be able to spend your £383,000 in the current year? That is what you are being asked.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

This is our aim, Mr Chairman, not only this additional amount here but the increased amount in the Improvement and Development Fund. We have got over a lot of the teething trouble in materials, we are getting them ordered in advance.



If we had no idea of doing them, then they would not be here. And may I say that this going on revotes from one year to the other, from the year 1971/72 the revotes amounted to £178,000 in this Subhead: last year, as I have already said, I only expect to have to revote £30,000, so we are catching up. There are items which we cannot do because of lack of materials and so on, but it is not through lack of will.

MR SPEAKER

We will go now to Minor Works. Any questions on minor works?

Housing which we have done, Ports. We are at page 52. We have done Minor Works, we have done Housing, we have done Ports. Purchase of Vehicles, Plant etc. Roads.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, on Housing, a very quick one. These are some works connected - I made certain representations to the Minister in connection with a staircase leading up to Arengo's Palace. Perhaps the Honourable Member will recall.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I am sorry, I do not recall. Is it Palace Gully Steps?

HON M D XIBERRAS

No, not Palace Gully, by Arengo's Palace. There was access through a patio and there was a possibility that perhaps in the new estimates provision might have been made to build the steps outside.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No, I cannot remember this, but perhaps my Honourable Colleague, the Minister for Labour and Social Security, could tell me - I have not been up there for some time - where the second entrance to the Edmund Rice Home from the new flats that we built from a derelict building.

HON A J CANEPA

The entrance is the same as for the Edmund Rice Home.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Yes, we have used part of the back patio for it.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Instead of having the same entrance as for the Edmund Rice Home, the possibility of building a private steps outside.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Anyway, I will certainly look at this again. I have got an idea that this is finished. In other words that the secondary means of escape is there.

MR SPEAKER

Sanitation; Beaches.

HON W M ISOLA

One item, a very quick one. I am delighted to see under Item 47 that the Minister intends to repair the Lido at Catalan Bay, and we are being asked to vote £10,000. I am very glad because that is a place that is frequented by quite a lot of members of the public. What I do not like about this is this remark: "first aid repairs". Does that mean that this is just the beginning and that it will cost much more to repair the Lido?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, the Honourable and Learned Gentleman may have been mistaken on this. We have used the Lido merely as a means of identification. This item - Item 47 - is really a continuation of the work of our coast protection policy. This is the very last bit which remains unprotected. We have protected the whole of the beach area from the sea from the Destructor to Catalan Bay. The only bit left to do is the little bit in front of the Lido, but we do not

intend to do the Lido itself this year. It is coast protection.

HON W M ISOLA

Let me get this clear in my mind. We are not being asked to vote anything at all in repairing the actual Lido for members of the public?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No, Sir, if work is done it will have to be another year. Before you even think of building you have got to protect it from what has happened in the past.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Mr Chairman, could I go one back, a very quick one, in 46. I see £5,000 in Camp Bay for a temporary car park. It seems to be a lot of money for a temporary car park. Can the Minister give us an idea where this is going to be done, for how many cars and for how long?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I am sorry this is one of these errors which arise from time to time. Item 46. The amount of £5,000 is not intended solely for Camp Bay, as it would appear from the Estimates. The division here is £1,000 Camp Bay Tunnel area, that is being flattened to make it into a temporary car park; the area above the Dolphin; £2,000 for the large area at Little Bay - not the small area but the wide area; and £2,000 for the old slaughter house.

MR SPEAKER

Now other works. It is over the page - page 53.

HON W M ISOLA

At item 57 - Tourist Department.

MR SPEAKER

Anything, before that by anyone?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Yes, Mr Chairman, I would like, and I think it is only sensible, to move an amendment to amalgamate in effect Subhead 54 and Subhead 59. For some reason I cannot remember now, in effect two lots of improvements have gone into the Prison and I think that it will only be sensible to amalgamate the two.

The amendment, Mr Chairman, is to amend the amount provided under Subhead 54 from the present figure of £3,560 to £7,060, and in consequence thereof, to delete Subhead 59.

MR SPEAKER then proposed the question.

HON P J ISOLA

I notice that there is no original estimate and that in that particular one, 59, £3,500 have been spent to the 31st March 1976, and the Estimates for 1976-77 is £3,500. So what is the position there? Is it a re-vote then and it has not been spent.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

It has not been spent.

MR SPEAKER then put the question which was resolved in the affirmative.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Item 55, Mr Chairman, can he give us an explanation - Police, General Improvements?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

On item 55 - Police. I can say that the improvements envisaged are to provide for the supply of potable water to

the kitchens of Castle Road Quarters, Police Quarters. For some unknown reason when they put potable water there they only put it in the bathrooms and not in the kitchens. So people at the moment have to cart water to the kitchens by buckets from the bathrooms.

We are putting that right. This also covers general repairs and modifications to lino floors, walls etc., to the rest of the Police Department.

HON W M ISOLA

In the Tourism Department we are being asked to vote £13,000 and I see that this includes a revote from 1975-76. Can the Minister tell us what new works are contemplated for this coming year which were not included in the previous year on the revote?

HON A W SERFATY

Well, this is a new item as far as I am aware, except one in St Michael's Cave. There is a new tape version of the *Son et Lumiere* at St Michael's Cave which is going to cost £5,000. Then there is re-wiring of cave, labour only, because we have got the materials, that is £2,000; and a few minor items. If the Honourable Member wishes to know . .

HON W M ISOLA

No I do not, I am delighted.

HON A W SERFATY

This would bring the amount spent at St Michael's Cave to £8,280. Then there is £900 worth of work in the Galleries including description panels and replicas of old ranges for heating shot. There is some work in the Air Terminal, including reconditioning of toilets etc. There is a relatively important one of a penfold fence around the mini-golf course. There is a provision of 250 chairs in the Alameda Theatre. All the other items are minor items.

HON W M ISOLA

I am delighted that all the time we are trying to improve our image in the Galleries and in St Michael's Cave etc.,

but I am very concerned - I am glad the Minister has mentioned the word "Airport" - I am very concerned with the state of the Airport at the present. It certainly needs painting and leaves a lot to be desired. This is the beginning of a holiday maker's visit, and . . . .

MR SPEAKER

I think we were given some information by the Minister for Public Works this morning as to expenditure at the Airport.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No, Mr Chairman, what I did mention, and I would like to correct - I heard the 1.30 news and to my great surprise I heard that I was extending the runway . . . .!

MR SPEAKER

I thought I would give you an opportunity to deal with that.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

As if it was ours, in any case. What I said was that the additional staff employed on the Development Programme are in fact planning for the extension on the Air Terminal, not the resurfacing of the runway at all.

HON A W SERFATY

We have done some work in the Air Terminal this year, such as repairs to doors and furniture and a new security entrance, amounting to £1,250, but we have not done any painting because we are really busily engaged in preparing a brochure for the extension at the Air Terminal Building.

HON W M ISOLA

I appreciate all that, Mr Chairman, but I think that if the Minister could in all his visits to the Airport, and especially to the lounge upstairs where drinks are served, I am sure the Minister must come to the inevitable conclusion, to which I have come, that whether the building is going to be extended or not, it certainly needs a good word from the Minister of Tourism to the Minister of Public Works which would not cost very much, and have a coat of paint because it really does leave an enormous amount to be desired. I know how keen the Minister is on Tourism, I think this is a place where I think a few pounds should be spent in having a good coat of paint and making it look a bit more attractive than it is at present.

Otherwise, with the other vote I am delighted to hear that the Minister is considering to improve St Michael's Cave, the Galleries etc.

HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Chairman, is there any money envisaged to be spent on having loud speakers installed in the bar area. When the departures of planes is announced and this area is full of people, as it usually is, it is very difficult to understand what is said properly. If the Minister has been there often he will appreciate that there should be at least one or two loudspeakers so that it will be easy for people to know what is happening.

HON A W SERFATY

I agree entirely that the public address system in the Airport Terminal Building is defective, and in fact it is difficult to get the spare parts for it. The cost of replacing is high and I myself in discussion with the officers of the Tourist Office decided that we should include this item in the cost of the extension of the Terminal Building. It is a big sum of money and it would be far more convenient to include it in the cost of the extension. In any case it is a much bigger public address system that is required.

HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Chairman, would it be very inconvenient - I am sorry if the item was not mentioned otherwise . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, no, we have been doing this . . . .

HON L DEVICENZI

Mentioning the item?

MR SPEAKER

Yes, most certainly.

HON L DEVICENZI

We have just gone from Tourism, which is 57 . . . .

MR SPEAKER

We called the items up to 57, Mr Isola talked about Tourism and then I said any other item. Then I said we will take a vote.

HON L DEVICENZI

I would like to ask on Item 62. There is a big item there of £30,000, Conversion into Offices at St Jago's School. Very briefly Mr Chairman, could the Minister say what are the offices for, are they for experts or non-experts, what are they for?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, the item here provides for the conversion of part, I think, of St Jago's School into Government office accommodation, the allocation of which as far as I know has not yet been settled although a number of suggestions have been made to relieve some of the congestion just across the road in the main Secretariat building, and also to allow more space at the other end at the Old Fortress Headquarters building now occupied by the Income Tax Office and the Tourist Office. It is basically for Government office accommodation, without putting any names to the departments that will go in.

MR SPEAKER

Next item - 63, 64.

HON L DEVICENZI

The Minister for Public Works or Education could perhaps give a brief resume on what these £50,000 are being spent.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE

Yes, Sir, there are a number of minor works that need to be done to put the schools into adequate safety as required by the Chief Fire Officer. St Bernadette School, an alternative fire exit; Government Nursery a portable fire alarm; St Peter's School, a fire guard for tubular heaters, quite a lot of smallish items. Some of the bigger items, Sir, at the Governor's Meadow School the playground needs resurfacing; at St Joseph's Middle School there is a balcony which is at present being held up by props, it needs to be properly secured. Basically there are a number of small items totalling altogether £15,000. If you would like to see the whole list I will show you afterwards with pleasure.



HON L DEVICENZI

On fire safety, has anything been done at the Loreto High School at all? Is that included there? You know, the Girls Comprehensive, the Loreto Convent opposite the Governor's residence.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE

I have put down for the Girls Comprehensive, the Commercial Department, a fire escape at the top floor which has to be marked, fire direction signs and a fire alarm audible through the building.

MR SPEAKER

Right, 65, 66, 67, 68.

HON L DEVICENZI

67. Is this the retaining wall opposite Sandpits?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Yes, they have not been able to finish it all this year and this is a continuation work.

HON L DEVICENZI

Can you say by the way the works are progressing there, and the instructions of the work there that it will be completed this year?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

We have comments on this departmentally that we are not moving as fast as we should like to there, but we have had to divert those workmen to other jobs at short notice, and, therefore, in the summer the problem does not take as much priority as it would in the winter because the object of the wall is to stop landslides onto the tennis courts.

MR SPEAKER

You have only been asked whether this year it is going to be finished.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I do not think so, but it will be finished at least in time for the finals! We will have a lovely sight of the open tennis championships, we will have lovely terraces on which we can sit down comfortably.

MR SPEAKER

68, 69.

HON MISS C ANES

Fire Escape for Worker's Hostel, Devil's Tower Road. Is this in addition to the fire escape in existence already or is it to repair the present one.

HON A J CANEPA

Mr Chairman, this is a fire escape for the second and third floors. This is a requirement by the Chief Fire Officer.

HON MISS C ANES

This means an additional fire escape to the one there is. Has the Minister considered - I think this goes more to the Minister for Public Works really - converting the plot of land next to the Hostel, which is now a cemetery for dead lorries, kitchen refuse from the hostel, and other deposit there, and which have caused a few fires, converting this plot into a car park?

HON A W SERFATY

Is this plot next to the Hostel?

HON MISS C ANES

Next to the Hostel.

HON A W SERFATY

This is the same plot I was referring to this morning when I said that we wanted to park lorries in the industrial areas.

HON MISS C ANES

I am very glad to hear that because it means this plot has been causing trouble to the Fire Brigade on and off over the years, because of people throwing cigarette ends and there are so many weeds and papers and so on that they have been giving trouble. I am glad to hear that.

MR SPEAKER

70.

HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Chairman, I presume this fence at Notre Dame School is to keep hoodligans out and other children in. There is a fence there already, is there not. What exactly is being done now?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE

At the moment, Sir, round the Notre Dame School there is a hedge of some description with a lot of gaps in it and some small wiring which is broken and laying on the ground. This is an eight foot high iron railing all the way round. It is not to keep the children in, it is intended to keep the vandals out, although my Director and I have made a small wager as to how long it will be before two of the railings are bent so that a small body can squeeze through and the vandals will continue. But that is the intention, to try and keep the vandals out.

MR SPEAKER

71, 72.

HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Chairman, 72. The shops at Varyl Begg. Again, could

we ask for a brief resume of just what is intended for that area. What types, variety, and how many.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, it is public knowledge that we are providing shops at the Varyl Begg Estate and the intention is to provide for one supermarket under Chusan House and five or six shops under Canton House. The exact use to which these latter shops will be put is still not known, but when they are ready they will be put out to tender.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, the question was, how were they going to be built, by direct labour?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I would not know whether it is direct labour or contract but the Government is going to build them and then recover the cost from the people as it has done at the Glacis. Otherwise you will have people building shops to their own design which might undo all the work in trying to get a nice estate down there.

HON L DEVICENZI

I would follow up on that question, Mr Chairman. Is it the idea to have the shops fully built by the Government, or will the person who wins the tender have to do any outside work? What is the idea?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

As I have said the Government will build them, when they are built they will be put up to tender, and then people who tender for shops 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 will have to tell us what they want to use it for, and all the rest of it.

HEAD 20 was agreed to and passed.

HEAD 21 - RECREATION AND SPORT PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS

HON H J ZAMMITT

Mr Chairman, Sir, this is the other entirely new Head appearing in these year's estimates as mentioned by the Honourable the Financial and Development Secretary in his Budget speech. It was of course previously shown under Secretariat, and since the Stadium has now developed and is now in full operation, it was considered that it should have a Head of its own.

On personal emoluments, may I say, Mr Chairman, there is very little I can add. As can be seen there is the one new post created, the Sports Officer, the Clerk/Typist was there last year, and there is very little change obviously in those two. There is really nothing else I can add on the personal emoluments at this stage.

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS was agreed to and passed.

#### OTHER CHARGES

HON H J ZAMMITT

Mr Chairman, on other charges I think Members, as I said earlier, will see there has been a rather large increase. Although there is nothing there because it is an entirely new Head I would, for the information of Members opposite, say that staff wages last year, when we then had one Head Groundsman, an Assistant Groundsman, 3 Labourers and a Charwoman, was £5,900. This has obviously shot up now to £20,900 and the Biennial Review has equally gone up in proportion.

The running and maintenance facilities, £6,000, that accounts for the nortex maintenance of the general ground and obviously overtime which has increased because the Sports Centre does function until 1030 or so at night, and as you know we have two shifts. The replacement and maintenance of sports equipment is £2,000.

HON L DEVICENZI

What is that for?

HON H J ZAMMITT

Replacement and maintenance of sport equipment? It is for the replacement of things such as net, in the case of exterior, goals and odd bits and pieces, and of course we have had to up that figure because of course we now have to cater for other bits of equipment in the new phase, the trimmings, they can go wrong, damage to chairs, more equipment and light. The majority of this of course is taken up by nortex, the surface, at the Stadium.

One other thing I should have said, Mr Chairman, under other charges is that we have also transferred Item 80 at the bottom of the page there from Secretariat to this particular Head, and I think Members opposite will be pleased to see that we have been able to up this to £7,000. The emphasis on this rather substantial rise is basically on culture. It is felt that culture should be given a particular lift.

I do not think I can add anything else on this unless members may like to ask questions.

HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Chairman, I have a couple of questions. Could the Minister say what is the state of the showers and other facilities there? Are they in order, are people complaining about them, or are they running well. Hot water, cold water? What is the position.

HON H J ZAMMITT

I have received absolutely no complaint, Sir. I think the Member may be referring to something that may have been wrong there a few months ago, but this has been put right and I have received no particular complaint nor has any complaint been reported to me, Sir.

HON L DEVICENZI

In Item 80, which the Minister said had gone from Secretariat to this vote, what is the increase? I have not got the previous years figures. This does not now appear in 1975-76, this is a new one here; what is the increase?

HON H J ZAMMITT

Sir, the increase from 1974-75 was from £4,500 to £7,000. It has been increased since 1972 from £1,600 to the present £7,000.

HON L DEVICENZI

1975/76 - 1976-77 is my question, Mr Chairman.

HON H J ZAMMITT

£4,500.

HON M D XIBERRAS

How much of that, Mr Chairman, goes to culture, did the Minister say - or is intended to go to culture.

HON H J ZAMMITT

Sir, I cannot answer that one. There is a Committee that considers applications from sporting and cultural organisations. It would be the Committee of course who would have to decide upon the merits of each application. As the Chairman of this particular Committee I would obviously try and assist a little more in the culture aspect. I say that where as a grant to a particular society, for arguments sake, the Gibraltar Symphony Orchestra or the Music Centre, of £200 or £300 means absolutely nothing to them, the instruments are expensive, tuition is rather expensive, and, therefore, a grant to a cultural society must be more substantial.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The Minister does not have any clear cut division for one activity or another.

HON H J ZAMMITT

No, Sir, it depends entirely on the applications and there is a Committee set up to look into these.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Does the Minister have a record for last year's award?

HON H J ZAMMITT

I can certainly get it, Sir, within five minutes.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I would be grateful for that and also in particular about the Festival of Football and Hockey.

HON H J ZAMMITT

If the Honourable Member will give way, he will not find that there, Sir.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Well the Honourable Member tell me where I can find it, I have been looking for it for two years!

HON H J ZAMMITT

Well, I certainly can. Assistance for football and hockey festival we had last month would not come from this Committee, it is a particular one, I am quite prepared to let the Honourable Member have a record of this, it was an agreement between the Gibraltar Football Association and the Gibraltar Hockey Association to run two football games and two hockey games and that profits if any would be shared by the two Associations, Government asking absolutely for nothing. At the end of the day, and I think I can speak with certain authority . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, you are being asked a simple question. From what vote did it come from.

HON H J ZAMMITT

There was no vote.



MR SPEAKER

That is the answer, but do not give an explanation as to what happened.

HON M D XIBERRAS

You see, Mr Chairman, I am interested in this since a system is sometimes applied of underwriting certain ventures, and I want to know if there is a loss from where it comes?

HON H J ZAMMITT

I must apologise . . . .

HON M D XIBERRAS

Not just in respect of this particular one but of other ventures.

HON H J ZAMMITT

I must apologise, Mr Chairman. There was a deficit on the hockey and football games of £247, which Government paid. It did not come from here, Sir, it was voted for in this House as a Supplementary Estimate.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Speaker, just for the record, there is no other vote out of which money for any sporting activity of this kind comes, this is the only vote, apart from supplementary expenditure for the purpose. Am I right in saying that?

HON H J ZAMMITT

That is true, yes, Sir.

HON M D XIBERRAS

And one final question, Mr Chairman - I am as bad as the Government wage negotiations. Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Member say in that particular venture, for the

benefit of the House, how much was lost by the hockey side, because the Honourable Member has mentioned to me a figure in private and I was wondering whether he was going to say it in the House.

HON H J ZAMMITT

The deficit there, Sir, was that the two hockey games caused a loss of £950-odd. A total amount of something like £500 was collected by hockey in the two games, and the football were able to cover everything but the £247.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I want to mention this, Mr Chairman, because the Honourable Member has told me there was a deficit of £900 for the venture and I thought this was misleading because in fact I have it from the President of the Association that hockey paid back £600, which left a deficit of £300.

HON H J ZAMMITT

I am sorry, Sir, I think the . . . .

HON M D XIBERRAS

I think it is important in a future allocation to the various sporting Associations that this matter should be cleared.

HON H J ZAMMITT

I am sorry I am rather confused. I cannot think from where he gets the £600 from hockey. If I remember correctly, the Wales hockey team cost something in the region of £1,500. I am sorry I may not be very precise or correct here. We collected roughly as I say something like £500 for the two hockey games, thereby leaving a deficit of £900. But both football games were so successful that we were able to barely cover but for the £247 which Government paid for those two particular ventures.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I believe, Mr Chairman, the Hockey Association would say

that the Minister is presenting a distorted picture of this, and I would ask the Minister whether he is prepared to give me a statement of the accounts of that in writing.

HON H J ZAMMITT

I can assure the Member and I certainly will.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Thank you.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask, Mr Chairman, whether it is intended to make provision, perhaps by supplementary estimates, for vehicles for transport for the staff employed at the Stadium.

HON H J ZAMMITT

No, Sir, there are no vehicles at the Victoria Stadium.

HON J BOSSANO

I know this, Mr Chairman, I am asking the Minister whether he is willing to either find the funds to do it or bring a supplementary vote to the House later on.

HON H J ZAMMITT

It is not intended to, Sir.

MR SPEAKER

No, what you are being asked is would you please do so. Is that right?

HON J BOSSANO

Yes, but he is not willing to do so, I take it.

MR SPEAKER

I know he does not intend to but he is being asked whether Government will change its policy and provide it.

HON H J ZAMMITT

We **certainly** will consider it. We will consider anything, by all means.

HON J BOSSANO

But Mr Chairman, to say that they will consider anything, with that sort of flipant tone means that he is not prepared to do it. I mean he is not prepared to take this seriously.

HON H J ZAMMITT

It has been considered now and it is not considered necessary at the moment, Sir.

HEAD 21 was agreed to and passed.

MR SPEAKER

Perhaps this will be a reasonable time to have a short recess for tea and we shall be back within a quarter of an hour's time.

The Committee recessed at 5.00 p.m.

The Committee resumed at 5.30 p.m.

HEAD 22 - REVENUE - (a) PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, the only two changes in the Establishment which are not explained in the notes relate to Item 20 and 22. In 20 there is a reduction of two and in 22 a reduction of one post.

The former reduction is made possible by the fact that meters, electricity and water meters, are now read jointly by one man, and the reduction of the Machine Operators is due to the introduction of the modern billing machine.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask, Sir, in relation to the post of Financial and Development Secretary, Item 1, which in fact the House is not voting any money. I was rather surprised to find that there should be such an elaborate explanation in the remarks column telling us this man's other duties. One would almost think that Mr Morgan had written this instead of the House. Could I ask him how much of the time of the Financial and Development Secretary is in fact taken up with each of these other things, roughly speaking.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

I do not really know, I mean, I have not kept a log book to apportion every minute of my time on the various and many functions which come across my desk, but I doubtless could do so.

HON J BOSSANO

I am not suggesting that he should, Mr Chairman, I said roughly speaking. I know it is only industrial workers who are expected to clock in and out, we trust the others.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

As I was saying, Mr Chairman, in answer to that question, as a very rough guess, probably the four items mentioned there, in terms of paper work, consultations, and what have you, I do not propose they exceed more than probably 15/20%, but that is just a wild guess, I have got no statistical evidence to say that at all. It is just my impression.

MR SPEAKER

Anything else on page 55?

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask the Financial and Development Secretary to give us some indication of the savings involved in this use of the new accounting machinery that he has mentioned that has been responsible for the reduction in the establishment by one operator. I would like to see this related to the cost of the equipment to see to what extent the capital investment in the equipment has produced results in terms of savings in recurrent expenditure.

MR SPEAKER

That would be on another charge, am I wrong?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

No, Sir, I think it is a fair question under this and it is not a question of course which I can answer right here and now, but I can undertake to do the necessary study and make such information as we can obtain available to the Honourable Member.

MR SPEAKER

Let us go over the page, to page 56, 57.

HON P J ISOLA

As far as Development and Planning and Valuation is concerned are there any plans to strengthen that establishment? It seems to me that this is possibly the most overworked section in the Government.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Yes, Mr Chairman, and that in fact is the reason for increasing the Clerical staff by two posts, that is Item 41, that is the basic reason. The blockage is on the Clerical side, the production of papers and so on, and that is the basic reason for those two posts and also for the additional post under Item 45, an additional Typist. That is the reasoning for the strengthening that Mr Isola was asking for.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I would like to add a word on that because I appreciate the problem, I have had a word with the Establishment Officer about this and I have said that the Surveyor and Planning Secretary requires some technical help because he is dealing with the whole of the question of lands. The idea is to transfer one of the Surveyors in another Department to understudy him because the work load on lands is very heavy and I know that there are complaints that certain matters take a long time to clear that Department.

MR SPEAKER

57?

HON M D XIBERRAS

Would the Chief Minister make a statement to the House as to whether any statistics were offered to Maxwell Stamp for the publication of the book on Gibraltar "Gibraltar British or Spanish".

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I am glad to have been asked that question in order to make clear that no Department of the Government of Gibraltar has had anything to do with the preparation of that report insofar as I am aware. I am quite sure that if any information had been sought for that purpose it would certainly have reached me and I would have had to approve or otherwise. I would not have approved it, perhaps, I do not know, but anyhow, the fact is that no enquiry has been made from us about this at all. Whether statistics were obtained through other purposes I do not know. The Government has not been approached, and I made a similar statement in another place. The Government has not been approached, no officer of the Government has had anything to do with that report as far as I am aware.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Is the Honourable and Learned Member aware whether any enquiry was put to any Government Department from sources other than Ministers or Members of the Gibraltar Government. I mean direct from Maxwell Stamp or Iberplan.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

No, I am not aware of any such enquiry having been made. What I could not reply was whether enquiries came to the Statistics Office from whom, and for what. I am aware that the Statistics Office have got a code of conduct and anything that is not available to the public is not given to anybody by the Statistics Office.

The Honourable questioner will remember that when the Statistics Office was set up one of the points I raised from the other side was the question of confidentiality of statistics insofar as those that were not available to the public were concerned.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Let me make myself absolutely clear, Mr Chairman, I have no objection to anybody receiving statistics of this kind which would be made public in Gibraltar in any case. But I do have objection if any member of the Government makes a statement which to the best of my knowledge may not be accurate.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I do not know that we can be judged by whatever the Honourable Member thinks is accurate or not. So far as the statement made by me is concerned it is as accurate as I could make it because as far as I was concerned - in fact I did not make specific enquiries beforehand but I had it on good authority that there had been no approaches at all to the Government.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Would the Honourable Member nonetheless make further enquiries about it at my request?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, of course.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, in relation to the Income Tax Office could I



ask whether the Government is aware that the new PAYE certificates for the year which are going out have in many cases a lower code than in the past year? I think most of them are due to the fact that dependant relatives, for example, previously being eligible for an allowance have as a result in the improvement in the social services gone over the maximum. It was a matter that was raised before and is there any chance of this being put right or something being done to improve it during the current financial year?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, I was not aware of that, this is quite new, but if the Honourable Member will give notice of that by way of a verbal question at the next meeting or indeed if he would like to write to me and set out his questions I will ascertain the information.

HON A J CANEPA

Perhaps, Mr Chairman, I could mention that the Government does have under consideration the matter that was left pending affecting dependant relatives from last November when the House, the Honourable Member who took part in that debate, could not come to an agreement as to the best way of doing something about updating these dependant relatives. We are looking into it and we may have something to bring before the House shortly.

HON J BOSSANO

And I think, Mr Chairman, another matter that I also raised in connection with tax allowances at an earlier meeting of the House where I was hoping to hear something on this occasion was on the question of Handicapped Children's Allowances.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Earlier in this meeting we answered the question on that.

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS was agreed to and passed.

## OTHER CHARGES

## HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, I must first say one thing here, and I am looking at Other Charges as a whole. That of course the apparent increase in this vote is accounted for by the fact that Head 22 has absorbed a large number of the services which were previously provided under the now defunct Miscellaneous Services. And this accounts for the great part of the apparent increase of the Head.

## HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Chairman, one question which I bring every year. Item 27 Annual Grants in Aid. There you find that the British Red Cross Society gets £200, which is the same as last year. I notice that for the Society for the Prevention of Blindness there is a little increase £90. Mr Chairman, I know that both these Societies are more or less self-supporting, they have very nice people looking after them, but surely the community via the Government should take a rather more responsible attitude towards these Societies. I would like to suggest, Mr Chairman, that Government should seriously consider increasing the grants made to both these Societies, notwithstanding the fact that they themselves do a lot of the work. It does not amount to very much. We give the RSPCA £1,175 - and although I have no objection to that at all, Mr Chairman, I would certainly like to hear whether the Government has any objection to increasing those amounts, and if they do object on what grounds.

## HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, I feel certain that my colleagues will bear in mind any alterations in the distribution of these contributions. I do not think I can go any further than that at this stage, but this is not set pattern and I think that my colleagues will certainly be willing to consider variations.

## HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Chairman, I do welcome what the Honourable the Financial and Development Secretary has said. All I would ask, Mr Chairman, at this stage is that although I note that it

is being said sincerely and that his colleagues around him concur with the Honourable Financial and Development Secretary, I hope that something positive is done and that perhaps we will get at an early date supplementary funds to back up what has been said here now.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

The think that we have to do is to ask these Societies how they stand for funds, because otherwise there would be a relative upgrading for everybody, but of course if they make anything like a case for more money it will be given, there is no doubt.

Now the question of the RSPCA is somewhat different because they also provide a service to the Health Department in allegedly disposing of cats and dogs.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, just before we turn over the page, we might as well get it right, a typographical error, a spelling mistake in line 7 - instead of "Mideterranean" "Mediterranean".

HON M D XIBERRAS

Still on page 58, Item 25, Contribution to Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation - £109,500. Last year I believe it was £90,800; now we have a subsidy of £40,000 and so forth, we have a breakdown there. What accounts for the difference in the figure.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

This is the Interim Award which was paid this year.

HON M D XIBERRAS

That is the only difference?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I think that is one of the main items that I can remember.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Is there anything else?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

No, about it. £90,800 and £109,500 that is exactly the increase. The subsidy for the winter programme is up £4,000. The Interim Award and the winter programme.

HON M D XIBERRAS

This makes no provision for the present wages and salaries negotiations going on with GBC.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

They are still negotiating.

HON M D XIBERRAS

So there we have the total Government contribution up to the end of this year practically, because there is nothing new and new commitments coming.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I do not quite follow the question.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The question is that the figure there, £109,000 represents broadly a continuation of expenditure at the rate for last year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Plus the Interim Award.

HON M D XIBERRAS

And it is by no means a realistic picture of what it is going to be next year.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Certainly, no.

HON M D XIBERRAS

As most of the budget.

HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Chairman, one last thing under transport, £3,419. This refers to official cars and also staff expenses or is it just the petrol etc.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Last year it was £2,300 in the Revised Estimates - the Approved Estimates was £1,500.

HON L DEVICNEZI

But what does it refer to, last year it was shown under Head 16.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

Provision was made for £1,500, the revised estimates was £2,300 for this year that is finishing now. These are the alternative figures for the two columns.

HON L DEVICENZI

The transport has stalled, Mr Chairman!!

I do not want a breakdown I only want to know in a very . . .

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Well, I am afraid we do not know at the moment but we will find out and let the Member know.

MR SPEAKER

Any other item in this page?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE

Item 28 - The John Mackintosh Hall. This was under Miscellaneous Expenditure last year, £27,000, and the increase is mainly due to small increases in utilities etc. There is one increase of a semi-capital nature: the Hall has been there now for 13 years, the Theatre is very much in need of repair and we are spending £800 in doing half the curtaining this year. I do hope, Sir, this is the beginning of keeping the Theatre in good condition. We shall have to renovate the rest of the curtains next year and the seating will need attention in years to come. This is the first step - £800.

I bring this up because this is really a contribution of Government towards the culture of Gibraltar, and I know that the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition will be very interested in it.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I am glad the Honourable Mr Featherstone remembers that I mentioned something about culture and I am very glad to see that £800 out of this vote are going to be spent on culture, and even more glad that £3,200 of the Honourable Mr Zammit's extra £7,000 vote are going to be spent on culture. I am very glad to hear that.

HON H J ZAMMITT

I am afraid that that is an unqualified statement, that is not the case, Sir.

OTHER CHARGES was agreed to and passed.

HEAD 23 - Secretariat (a) PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS

HON A J CANEPA

Mr Speaker, I would like to make a few general remarks on

the work of the Productivity and Training Unit, but I will give way if Honourable Members opposite have any questions prior to that.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I just have my mind set at rest. It is not in fact the case that we are increasing the establishment by an additional Financial and Development Secretary is it, Mr Chairman. This is the second Financial and Development Secretary we have come across in the Estimates.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

I cannot see one, Mr Chairman, the answer is no.

I do not know why this has got in. I think the Honourable Member has got a point, it should of course only obviously appear in the estimates as an establishment in one post, and this is a matter which we will certainly deal with before the estimates are published. One, I am told by my colleagues, is enough.

MR SPEAKER

Right, anything on page 60? Over the page then, page 61. Oh, I beg your pardon, you were interrupted.

HON A J CANEPA

We heard something earlier this morning about Job Price Contracts, and I want to make some reference to this, Mr Chairman, because the Productivity and Training Unit has in the course of the last year been very closely involved in the preparation of a number of Job Price Contracts. Indeed I think it is true to say that quite a significant breakthrough has been made in the last twelve months in negotiating and implementing Job Price Contracts, and the reason for that probably is to be found in the fact that previous year there was a rather big job done by means of a Job Price Contract and this was the maintenance overhaul of the North Face Distiller. I think this main job brought increased earnings to the workers and benefit obviously to Government, in the sense that there were also at the end of the day savings because the job was done more quickly, and time, if nothing else, in the case of the distiller, saving time means that a distiller can be available to produce for

more weeks of a year. I think the fact that there were these benefits highlighted the beneficial purpose to which Job Price Contracts can be put, and I think it is precisely because of that that there has been this significant breakthrough in the last year.

I would like to refer to the jobs that have been done as it will give Honourable Members opposite an idea of the sort of work that can be done by Job Price contracts and I think it will convince, particularly the Honourable and Gallant Major Peliza, that we are on the look out, management with the co-operation of the Unions who have also had that interest naturally in increased earnings for their members, and also the payment of terminal bonuses when there is an earlier completion date, management is conscious and on the look out for any job of work that can be done by this scheme.

I have referred to one, and again during the last twelve months the overhaul of the North Face Distiller was done by means of a JPC. In the Port Department 60 port fenders - I think the Honourable Mr Isola has had a lingering interest in this item over the years - 60 port fenders were produced on the basis of a Job Price Contract. During the summer the much spoken of old Refuse Destructor: I think any Honourable Member that in the course of the summer months went to Catalan Bay or to Sandy Bay could virtually on the way back in the evening see the real progress that was being made. That in particular, Mr Chairman, was a real eye opener, the extent to which we got productivity out of the labour force employed in the demolition of the old Refuse Destructor. The level of supervision was excellent, the supervisors derived benefit from it as well, and the job was completed in half the anticipated time.

Similar to that in nature is the demolition of the existing derelict buildings and other structures at Rosia Dale where a block of flats is to go up. The demolition is under way and again a Job Price Contract has been negotiated for that purpose.

The electricity generator and ancillary plants, the maintenance and overhaul of these, have also been the subject of a Job Price Contract, as has also been the replacement of the potable water main for shipping along Viaduct Bridge.

So here I have mentioned five or six important jobs, and as I say, the Public Works Department is constantly on the look out for this.



Another aspect which has been mentioned, I think it was under the Revenue, that the Productivity and Training Unit has also been involved very closely on the new accounting and billing machines. The Unit undertook an analysis of the requirements, they studied the alternatives and they made recommendations, and really it is on the basis of their recommendation that these machines have been installed.

On the training side the Unit has helped with the implementation, the programming of the machines, and also the training of the staff that will be operating them.

Similar work to the JPCs, the equivalent of these on the non-industrials side are the PBR schemes, Payment by Results Schemes. There have been 14 or 15 new ones in the last year and I would just like to mention two or three that might be of interest: the Register of Electors, House of Assembly; the Tourist Office, the response to the coupon campaign: in 1975-76 there were two PBRs on that; and in the Housing Unit the reassessment in respect of increased rents.

So while, Mr Chairman, for other reasons we have not been able to make the progress that we would have liked on a comprehensive productivity agreement for the Government industrial labour force, and I hope that when the current round of negotiations on Scamp is settled we can get around to that, nevertheless, mindful, very mindful of the needs to get increased efficiency and increased productivity wherever possible, we have been doing what we can.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

I am really delighted to see the new mentality of the Government. At long last they are beginning to see the light.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Just one question I would like to ask the Minister. Does the Productivity and Training Manager continue to keep some sort of notional account of savings?

HON A J CANEPA

I think savings are quantified wherever possible but our concern, my concern certainly, is not with savings only. I

am quite happy that there are no savings in providing a better service to Government. We had a case, I think the Honourable the Financial and Development Secretary mentioned saving in staff. That sort of thing can be obviously quantified, but I think we should also have the other aspect in mind and that is to get a better service.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I think Honourable Members opposite, when they were on this side of the House were pretty worried when the Productivity and Training Unit was introduced that it might be yet another little empire and not pay its way, and at that time notional accounts, very rough ones I agree, were introduced. I wonder whether the Minister would urge the Productivity and Training Manager to continue this practice in the knowledge that the benefits cannot be accurately quantified.

HON A J CANEPA

Yes, I can do that, certainly.

MR SPEAKER

Right, over the page 61, General.

HON L DEVICENZI

The Honourable Mr Canepa mentioned on payments by results, that there were not very much. I see that there were £200 last year and £100 this year.

HON A J CANEPA

Each Payment by Results Scheme involving a Government department would be paid for by that Department.

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS was agreed to and passed.

OTHER CHARGES was agreed to and passed.

HEAD 24 - TELEPHONE SERVICE (a) PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS was agreed to and passed.

OTHER CHARGES

HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Chairman, I think I should mention on other charges generally that there appears to be some dissatisfaction, some discontent at the time taken for repairs as affect the public, and not their own works as it were within the Department. I have talked to the Superintendent and of course he does assure me and has explained the reason why this is happening. As far as I am concerned he has given me full satisfaction. I wonder Mr Chairman, whether it might be in the interests of the Department, and in order to explain to the public what is in fact happening, whether perhaps the Government should put out a press release or something in order that the public at large should know what is the position, and by so doing it would alleviate perhaps the misunderstanding that the public, or at least a number of people, have vis a vis the efficiency of the Department, which, as I said before, is not the case. I wonder whether the Government could do something in that respect.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, I really do not quite know what the Honourable Questioner is asking. Is he trying to elicit from me the time it takes for an application to the time of the installation, or the number of lines that we have got, is he after statistics, or what?

MR SPEAKER

What information do you want?

HON L DEVICENZI

Mr Chairman, whatever information the Minister wants to give. I believe he has some figures there which will be welcome.

MR SPEAKER

But what in particular?

HON L DEVICENZI

I am thinking in particular when the public asks for repairs or alterations at their homes or businesses, the time it takes is very considerable from the time the application is made to the time the actual work is done. It could just be a passing phase perhaps?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

This varies from job to job according to the work involved, but every alteration, every new installation requires an application, and I think at that time the individual is personally informed of what it is likely to be. But I will give a general picture. At the moment we have on the waiting list 402 applicants, of whom I believe 91 came in January.

MR SPEAKER

It is not the new applicants you are being asked about.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No, but I am afraid this is all interwoven. Now there are at all times disconnections and transfers going on and this is what I believe the question to be. The number of the disconnections during the year was 167, although we put in 215 during the 12 months. There were 315 removals, which of course are self balancing, they are not shown anywhere, they do not increase or decrease the lines. The present number of 402 outstanding applicants exceeds the present capacity of the exchange by 87, and, therefore, when we come to the Improvement and Development Fund it will be seen that we have already made provision for extending . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, but what you are being asked is, could something be done to cut down the waiting time between an application for a

repair, a maintenance or a change of an installation on an existing telephone, between the time the application is made and the actual work is done. That is what you are being asked.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Sir, as far as I am aware this job is tackled as soon as we can.

HON L DEVICENZI

That was in fact the question. I am satisfied with the answer given to me already, by the Superintendent what I want to know is whether something could be done to tell the public about what is happening. But if the Minister likes he can phone me later and tell me.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

What I am trying to say is that it depends on the work required to be done and at the time of application, the client is told.

HON W M ISOLA

I have noted that the Minister has just stated that there are under Appendix G about 400 people on the waiting list. Am I right in assuming that when we come to the Improvement and Development Fund, and naturally we will be voting for the provision of 3,000 extension lines, am I to understand that by the end of this year there will be no waiting list?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No. I have already said that at this moment in time there are 87 more applications than we have got spare lines, and that in January we had 91 applications for new lines. When we allot Varyl Begg Estate there will also be applications in the other two phases, not only for transfers but also for the new lines as well. These we cannot meet unless somebody else asks for a telephone to be disconnected. We cannot increase the number of lines from that exchange and there it is. This is why we have plans, when we come to Appendix 'G' to have a further extension to the exchange wi

within 18 months.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but what you are being asked is that once that further extension is made will you have sufficient lines to meet your commitments.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Oh, when that exchange is in operation, Mr Chairman, there will be enough spare capacity for four or five years.

HON W M ISOLA

That is what I mean. That was the answer I was looking for. One other small point, Mr Chairman, which is always causing great concern in Gibraltar, and I know it is not the fault of the Telephone Department, but perhaps the Telephone Department could at least take this up with the person responsible for telephones in London: the delays from London to Gibraltar are absolutely incredibly bad, always two or three hours; from Gibraltar to London, it is far better. I find it that people in London are always complaining that they cannot get through to Gibraltar.

Is the Minister prepared to make representations to the relevant authorities in London about the delay, and also would the Minister again consider the question of STD - this is automatic lines to all parts of the world - because at this particular moment of time Gibraltar is about the only place in the whole of Europe - even La Linea and Algeciras have got STD - but not Gibraltar.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, this is the continuing story of Peyton Place. We keep on pressing on the British Post Office the need to get cracking on setting up not STD, because STD in a community the size of Gibraltar is not practical, it would mean a meter to every single line and most of our lines are local and, therefore, every local call would have to pay a charge. So in the long run what we are after is semi-automatic, that is that the telephone operator here can telephone direct to any subscriber in the United Kingdom, and conversely the operator in the United Kingdom exchange

can dial direct to any subscriber in Gibraltar. In other words the intervention of one operator only instead of two. This is being held up, this is at high political level for seven or eight months. This is being held up by the joint purchase between Cable and Wireless and the British Post Office of eight submarine lines from Morocco via France to the UK. We have been offered alternative means of producing this on another route which were not accepted at the moment.

HON W M ISOLA

All I can say is that it is a completely short sighted policy on the part of the Government on the question of STD, and if other parts of the world can do it there is absolutely no reason why in future years we should be deprived of STD merely because the Minister says it would mean providing one of these little boxes to each subscriber.

MR SPEAKER

No, Mr Isola, he has not said that, he has said that if he provides the box then you would have to charge for every single local call.

HON W M ISOLA

If I remember rightly at one particular point when we were in the City Council, the Chief Minister wanted to have - if I remember rightly - payment for each telephone call.

HON CHIEF MINISTER

We were looking at it and one way of increasing them was to have meters.

HON W M ISOLA

We were talking about it in those days. Talking about it, we are even considering it, but now with STD we should be talking about it far more seriously.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, all I would say is that no community of our

size is completely independent on a telephone service. They can say La Linea, but La Linea or Algeciras forms part of the complex, of the whole national telephone network of Spain, and therefore, the cost of these meters are spread. Here they would fall on the 6/7,000 subscribers that we have. And coming down to practical terms, the number of people in Gibraltar, of our subscribers, who want to use STD beyond the limits of our own frontiers are few and far between.

HON P J ISOLA

I was just wondering. Is it possible to have STD from England, one way, so that a subscriber in England does not have to go through our operator? Because that is the whole problem, going through an operator in England. Although it is little problem from Gibraltar out - sometimes there is but normally there is little problems - the problem arises at the other end. Well, cannot you have STD from England, from subscribers in England, Direct to Gibraltar.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

This I think is the next step. It will be the same process that we had in Gibraltar whereby the Services had separate exchanges, they rationalise this between themselves, and now we are able by pre-dialling another digit to achieve that. But that is a secondary phase, we must get the first phase done.

HON P J ISOLA

If we can find a number.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Well, one has to find a number because it is world wide.

HON W M ISOLA

Having brought this question of direct dialling with the Services, I have never come across in my life such stupidity. Because let us be basic, Mr Chairman, once upon a time if I wanted to ring up the Navy, or the Army,



or the RAF, all I did was to ring up their number and I would be plugged through.

Now I have got to ring up the Services' exchange then they tell me a number and then I have got to ring them up again - if I remember the number - and then the Government, if I remember rightly, brought out a communique to the effect that we should make a little note of the numbers which we were ringing. Now if you look at it from that point of view, I see no reason why the Government should spend some £5,800 in publishing a Gibraltar directory when we have also to make notes of our own numbers. And that, Mr Chairman, the Minister responsible for this vote says is progress. I agree with him, Mr Chairman, it would be progress if we were supplied with the telephone numbers of the Services, like the Services are supplied with our telephone directory. That indeed would be an improvement, but at this particular moment of time, believe you me, and I am sure anybody who has to ring up any of the Services, it is not improvement because you have got to make two calls.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, the Honourable and Learned Member is completely off beam. The first thing of course is that when he gets the number the first time he can then ring that number and nobody will know that he is getting that number. Secondly, a great deal of the calls from the Services to the civilian population and the civilian population to the Service population is from firms not from individuals with whom they have business. And in the same way that our directory recently published has a whole list of useful numbers to ring it would be pointless to have a Service directory by names included there because they change every two years.

Our population does not change. If I have a friend in the Services I get his number from him, and when he changes address, and let us face it they change much more often than we do, I then get his new number. I only have to be told once. But it is efficiency, it is a step in the right direction, we have had a considerable speed up in communication, and he is further wrong in saying that the Services have got our telephone director. The Services have got as many directories as they pay for direct lines.

MR SPEAKER

But was this not done specifically for the Services to go

automatic?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

The Services have been automatic between themselves long before we were.

MR SPEAKER

Yes but the decision to use their own exchange was not taken by this House?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No, Sir.

MR SPEAKER

What we are talking about is not within the context of this vote in any manner or form. It is not our decision, it is their decision.

HON L DEVICENZI

My final question on this one is a mini question. Under Item 80, Purchase of a Mini-van: is the figure given here referring to the Mini being an 1100 or is it the cost of the van?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

When the proposal was put up by the Department concerned that was the cost quoted to them. I believe since then the price of all motor cars has gone up, and it is going to go up again next month I understand, so that in due course we may have to come for more money unless we can vipe from savings. What is wanted is one mini-van, whatever the cost.

OTHER CHARGES was agreed to and passed.

HEAD 25 TOURIST OFFICE - (a) PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS.

HON A W SERFATY

Sir, on personal emoluments I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that there will be two Administrative Officers instead of one. This is as a result of a recommendation by the Productivity

and Training Unit that we should have one Administrative Officer doing administration, and another one on development, marketing and that kind of thing.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I think it was a very unfortunate note in the margin "vice sales officer and vice pricing!"

Laughter.

PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS WAS AGREED TO AND PASSED

(b) OTHER CHARGES

HON A W SERFATY

On Other Charges I would like again to call attention to Item 3 where there is an increase of £1,040. This is because we are going to commission expert photographers for a really good set of colour slides. The film "Gibraltar Landfall" has been seen now by most of the travel agents in the United Kingdom, and we are now going to prepare a promotion on the basis of really good colour slides.

There is an increase in Item 5 of £1,980: this is mainly due to increased costs and additional literature required. Bird watching, historical notes, etc. If I may come back to Item 2, there is a decrease of £993 and this is because the electrician is now shown under Public Works. It does mean an increase in Item 15 Maintenance and Sites, because we shall have to pay Public Works when the electricians do any work for the Tourist Office.

On Item 9, London Office, there is an increase of £3,338. There is nothing special about this except increases in salaries, postage, rates, telephone rates, trunk call rates, etc.

Item 10 Local Research shows an increase of £1,440 and is mainly to cover the cost of sending one of the lads in the Tourist Office to the UK to take a course in tourism. There are several alternatives but we have not yet made up our minds which course of courses he will take.

On Item 17, Sundery Festivals, there is an increase of £1,848. Maybe the Opposition will be glad to hear that the Shark Angling Festival is out and we are saving £1,792 on that. We are carrying on with the Gibraltar Festival, at a cost of £4,075, but we shall be getting some back in rents: last year we got about £1,700. We are carrying on with the Deep Sea Angling Festival, we are contributing to the Song Festival we shall have Miss Gibraltar and we have increased the amount on concerts quite considerably.

In fact we are providing for concerts £2,760 instead of £1,510. We want to cheer up the place with music.

Item 18, Advertising and Field Sales shows an increase of £16,000. This is due to several items and of course increased costs too, but we are allowing £9,000 more on the advertising campaign in case we have to go it alone. There have been all kinds of difficulties in past years on the question of contributions from the airlines and others, nevertheless, my hunch is that we shall still get contributions from airlines and tour operators, still we have increased the vote to give us a little more independence - quite a lot more. £1,000 will be more **in support of advertising** and an increase of £1,500 on trade promotion, the cost of which is increasing year by year.

We are now considering a seminar on cruises in Gibraltar. Item 19, Entertainment and Travel has been increased by £800. We do invite Travel Writers to Gibraltar and we propose to continue on the same lines. Item 80 Purchase of Car, £1,300. The car we have is not that old, it is 4 years old, but it has already done 68,000 miles and has to go up and down the Rock continuously. I believe it is time we should have a new car and trade this one in in part exchange.

HON W M ISOLA

Mr Chairman, I just like to ask for some general comment on this matter. The Minister has not said anything at all whether he intends to have a mini fair or a fair for children or a fair like we used to have. Could he first of all tell us whether he has made provision under one of these items for a festival, for a Gibraltar Fair, or is it the intention of the Government not to have a Gibraltar fair, this coming year?

HON A W SERRETT

I must apologise, I did not make myself quite clear. We do intend to have a fair similar to last year's.

HON W M ISOLA

Was that not, if I remember rightly, a complete and utter failure!

HON A W SERFATY

That was at the Alameda Parade.

HON W M ISOLA

Yes, but was that not a failure?

HON A W SERFATY

Oh no, it was a great success.

HON W M ISOLA

Mr Chairman, there are two matters which concern me, and that is that the actual expenditure for the London office in 1971/72 was £7,992; we are now being asked to vote for the London office the sum of £27,245. Does the Minister think that such an increase is justifiable in proportion to the number of tourists coming to Gibraltar?

HON A W SERFATY

I am absolutely convinced. I have said so before and I say so again. I am absolutely convinced that the Gibraltar Office in London is jolly good for tourism. It has also been called by some experts, who came, the Gibraltar High Commission in London. I will not call it that but it is doing excellent work in London, I must say, which is our main market, the United Kingdom.

HON W M ISOLA

I am not saying that it is not doing its work, what I am saying is that the cost of the London Office is soaring up enormously.

Now, Mr Chairman, I am also concerned on the question - perhaps the Minister could expand on it more - on the question of the public relations officer in London. If

I understand it, since the Minister came into office, there have been two or three changes of Public Relations Officer. Could the Minister explain why there have been these changes?

HON A W SERFATY

There have been three changes. I remember explaining here in an answer to a question that the first young lady we employed full-time was offered a better job and so she went. We employed a second young lady, also full-time, and for personal reasons she resigned. Now we have employed old friends of ours who used to do public relations for Gibraltar in the time of the last administration, and we have employed them on a part-time basis. We are giving them a fee which is no more, in fact a little less, than we have been giving these young ladies.

HON W M ISOLA

Do I understand it that once upon a time we had one public relations officer, full-time, then that public relations officer went and somebody else took it up, and now we have a husband and wife . . . .

HON A W SERFATY

Correct.

HON W M ISOLA

On part-time?

Now, is that satisfactory when one considers that we are spending £178,000 on Other Charges, that we should have a husband and wife part-timers doing public relations which is so vitally important, and have they got the experience necessary to portray the image of Gibraltar.

HON A W SERFATY

When I am employed the second young lady, she was not with us a long time, I interviewed a number of persons, other young ladies and other people who were interested in doing the job that the Honourable and Learned Member may remember Roger Braban was doing some years ago on a part-time basis.

When we chose the second young lady this husband and wife firm were second on the list, and I believe they will do a good job on public relations. They know their Gibraltar quite well, and they are public relations consultants to the Tour Operators Special Group of the Association of British Travel Agents, so I am quite satisfied that they will prove satisfactory.

They have been employed of course for a year. We could give them notice before this period is up and so could they, but I am hopeful that we shall get good results from Kimber and Kimber.

HON W M ISOLA

Again, I am sorry I have to jump from item to item but I think this will save time if I jump; on the Item 5, Printing and Stationery, before I come to the Advertising, I see there is an increase due to increased costs. As a matter of policy, I understand from the Minister that Printing and Stationery consists also of printing these particular forms "Where to go and where to eat in Gibraltar". Now, if I understand it rightly, the people who advertise in "Where to eat in Gibraltar", pay the Government a certain sum of money for having their name inserted in this. Now, I am not entirely happy with this, and I will tell the Minister why. I feel, because this is published by the Tourist Office, that there is some sort of guarantee to people that the place mentioned is a good place to eat. I would far rather that people did not pay to enter into this brochure but that supervision by the Tourist Office should be very closely exercised on these places. I am not saying that only the very best places should be included because obviously small restaurants - which are unexpensive should be allowed to go into this brochure, but what I am saying is this, that a certain standard and supervision should be exercised by the Tourist Office. And I am not entirely happy that that supervision is being carried out. I hope that I am wrong in saying this, but perhaps the Minister will correct me if I am.

HON A W SERFATY

Well, the point is that if we had complaints we would not include them in the brochure, even if they paid.

HON W M ISOLA

Mr Chairman, let us be basic, you do not expect people to

go to a restaurant and say, "Oh, this place is awful". What I am trying to say is that before including a restaurant in this brochure are there any standards exercised by the Tourist Office, or can just anybody pay £6 and be put into this brochure. That would give Gibraltar a bad image.

HON A W SERFATY

I will agree with one thing, and that is that eventually we should have classification of hotels and of restaurants too in Gibraltar. This will have to come one day.

MR SPEAKER

You are talking at cross purposes now. What you are being asked is whether these restaurants referred to in the brochure, which are recommended in the brochure, is there any kind of vetting before they are allowed to go into the brochure.

HON A W SERFATY

I am afraid, Mr Chairman, that we have not yet got to the stage of vetting restaurants.

HON W M ISOLA

That is what I am saying: if we are not vetting restaurants let us not publish this brochure. Because if it is published by the Tourist Office any man who comes to Gibraltar and sees "Where to eat, where to sleep", will feel that this place is recommended by the Tourist Office and will go there. Do not have that brochure, which is not the responsibility of the Gibraltar Tourist Office, or if you want to have it, which is a very good idea, at least vet them, have some supervision, and then, if they come up to standard, and by that I mean that they must be clean and all that, then have the brochures and publish what you want, but do not just let any type of restaurant, which may be very splendid but very bad go in because we are taking the responsibility, the Gibraltar Tourist Office is taking the responsibility of stating in their brochure that these are the places where to eat. I hope I have made my point clear.

HON A W SERFATY

You have indeed. It is not an easy matter, but I will look



into it. We could have stars like the Michellin Guide, 5 star restaurants and that kind of thing, or perhaps exclude some. It is a very delicate matter but I will look into it, Mr Chairman.

HON W M ISOLA

No, Mr Chairman. I would like to go on to the question of Advertising and Field Sales in which here again we are being asked to vote a further £16,000, bringing Advertising and Field Sales to £86,000. Now, again, Mr Chairman, I may be wrong, but I would like the Minister to explain how he proposes to spread this advertising of Gibraltar, and whether it is going to be through the media of television in the United Kingdom, like two years ago, or through the media of newspapers. I would also like to know whether any consultations have taken place between the Tourist Office and the hoteliers who are to a very large extent obviously interested in these large sums of money, and whether there has been - am I asking too many questions at once, I wonder!!

HON A W SEREATY

May be.

Well, I would like to start by saying that I discussed this matter with our advertising consultants in London when I went a few weeks ago to the CAA, and they will be coming here in a few weeks' time to advise. They are making a study now to advise on the media to use etc.

The hotels, as the Honourable and Learned Member knows, came into the brochure - one page to each - as from last year. They have done pretty well, they have not contributed to that but it was a good thing that one page in the brochure should be dedicated to each hotel. Normally it is a very difficult thing to discuss, let alone with the hotels but even with the airlines and tour operators, on the best kind of advertising campaign. It is a never ending discussion and that is why I said before we have increased the vote on advertising so that if necessary we may go it alone. There are so many diverse interests.

MR SPEAKER

The answer basically is that you are seeking advice as to

how best to distribute the vote.

HON A W SERFATY

Exactly. From our advertising agents obviously.

HON W M ISOLA

May I make a suggestion. I am sorry, I must dwell on this because it is £86,000.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but we must not because that is the sort of thing you must raise in the debate.

HON W M ISOLA

But I must ask a question before I criticise the Minister, if he needs criticism. On this point I have heard, Mr Chairman, and I stand to be corrected that from November last year to March this year, the number of tourists had gone down considerably. And I am sure since the Minister has those figures available, I am blaming nobody, but all I am trying to say is this, that if that is a fact, would the Minister not agree with me that perhaps more advertising should be concentrated on the winter months as a matter of policy than for the summer because obviously Gibraltar can be sold much more easily in the summer than it can in the winter.

MR SPEAKER

Let us leave it at that, Mr Isola, because otherwise it is speeches and not questions.

HON W M ISOLA

I am asking him about advertising policy, Mr Chairman.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but what are you asking him?

HON W M ISOLA

I am asking him whether he will look into this matter of advertising Gibraltar more for the winter months than for the summer, and, Mr Chairman, I am giving him the reasons why. I may be wrong, but that is my information.

HON A W SERFATY

I agree. And in fact we are increasing our winter campaign to a greater extent than the summer one. I have discussed this at length with Osbornes.

HON W M ISOLA

Mr Chairman, will the Minister not agree, also again as a matter of policy, that at this particular point in time, however hard the Tourist Office tries to sell Gibraltar with the number of planes coming to Gibraltar we can never fill our hotels, and if that is correct, what does the Minister intend to do?

HON A W SERFATY

Well, I think I informed the Civil Aviation Authority, and I have our Honourable and Learned Member on the other side, I made a calculation that of the 15,066 beds that are available in Gibraltar, and taking into account that about - if I remember rightly - 15% are not used by people flying from London to Gibraltar, which left 1,300 and something - and if we take into account that the number of seats on the route 26% are not filled by people who go to hotels, there are about 540 beds which cannot be filled for lack of seats on the planes.

I calculated this and I told the Civil Aviation Authority what we think about it.

MR SPEAKER

I think it is not fair under this vote now to discuss the question of the flight availability which is now under consideration by the CAA.

HON A W SERFATY

But the Honourable Member will be pleased to hear that

perhaps there are people who are very seriously considering flying charters to Gibraltar.

HON W M ISOLA

I am glad to hear that.

Will the Minister not agree with me that it would be to the benefit of the whole of Gibraltar that when the advertising agents come to Gibraltar to discuss this matter of advertising with the Minister and the Director of Tourism, on whom I have great faith, that it would not be a good idea as a matter of policy to have closer co-operation between the Department of Tourism and the hoteliers.

HON A W SERFATY

It is an idea, but of course let us not forget the tour operators, because these are the people who actually sell the holidays to Gibraltar.

HON W M ISOLA

I am sorry, when I said hoteliers I also mean Tour Operators, a closer co-operation between the Department and those directly connected with the Department.

HON A W SERFATY

There has always been close co-operation, always, and there will continue to be.

HON W M ISOLA

Closer co-operation.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, I notice that the Minister gave confirmation to my Honourable Colleague when he said that from November to March the tourist figures had been rather bad. And I wonder where the Financial and Development Secretary would fit this confirmation into page 6 of his statement, where he says: "in an otherwise cheerless year, economically

speaking, the industry, the tourist industry on the whole, had a relatively good 12 months."

HON A W SERFATY

May I answer that one.

MR SPEAKER

I think he went on to say that the first bit for this year was bad.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The reasons which he gave were rather different, but I think it has come out much more clearly now that in the winter months, November to March, which was my Honourable Colleague's point, the statement of the Financial and Development Secretary would generally be over-optimistic.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, the figures I was using were in relation to callendar years, January to December, that is to say.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, but I am talking about the Honourable Member's general contention, and that is that we had enjoyed a relatively good prospect, and then he went on to say that in the year that followed, because of events in Britian, because of the wage freeze, cuts and so forth, that he did not expect so much. Now I was wondering how the Honourable Member would fit in his statement, with the confirmation of the Minister. My impression is that the tone of these two statements are not quite the same, not quite on the same key.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, that statement while it was relatively good, was based on what I said following that, and I was quoting, **statistics**, and as far as I am aware, these statistics are now published. I stand to be corrected on this.

And they are derived of course from the work of our own statistics Office.

Arrivals by air, staying in Gibraltar were up by over 89% on the 1974 figure, and I went on to give other figures. And it was on that basis, that because there had been percentage increases seemed to me that it was not too bad. I did not say that it was an excellent year or anything, I said that in an otherwise economically wise cheerless year, tourism had a relatively good performance.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, but my point Mr Chairman, and I think I will leave it at that until the general debate, is that perhaps it is not a wise thing to take the calendar year when one is dealing with tourism, but rather, how the summer tourism has done and how the winter tourists have done.

HON W M ISOLA

May I say something?

MR SPEAKER

Yes do, provided that it is nothing that you have raised before.

HON W M ISOLA

I would hate to repeat myself, Mr Chairman.

MR SPEAKER

I would hate it if you did!!

HON W M ISOLA

Mr Chairman, on another matter now, on this question of this cruise liner, I would like to ask the Minister, since the number of cruise liners to Gibraltar is dropping heavily, and from the speech of the Financial and Development Secretary, he talked about the decline of shipping and all that, there is no doubt at all, the Minister will agree with me, that many cruise liners, including the P & O are by-passing Gibraltar and going to ports like Malaga and other places.

Would the Minister not agree with me that at least part of these £86,000 which we are being asked to vote in advertising Gibraltar should be devoted - because if I remember rightly no money was last year spent in advertising . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Mr Isola, I am terribly sorry. You are reviving something on which you have been talking for a long time, that is the expenditure of £86,000 on advertising. You have been told that they will not take a decision on this one until such time as the experts come along and give them advice. Now you are re-opening the same thing because they have told you that they do not know how they are going to spend it.

HON W M ISOLA

With respect, Mr Chairman, and I am sure that the Minister will appreciate it, when we have been talking about advertising we have been talking of advertising directly vis a vis people coming to Gibraltar on holiday, on package holidays and holiday, we have not been talking about cruise liners.

MR SPEAKER

No, we have been talking about advertising, this expenditure of £86,000 for the purposes of attracting people to Gibraltar.

HON W M ISOLA

I am sorry, I may not have made myself understood . . . .

MR SPEAKER

But anyway do go ahead.

HON W M ISOLA

Does the Minister intend this coming year to spend any of this £86,000 in advertising cruise liners, because last year, if I remember rightly he had not spent a penny on this. And on previous questions which I have asked in the House over the current year no money has been spent in advertising cruise liners. As a matter of policy, and in view that the numbers are falling and that affects the trade generally in Gibraltar, has the Minister any intention of spending any money in advertising for cruise liners to stop at Gibraltar, Particularly in view of the fact that we are getting something like £30,000 taxation on people landing in Gibraltar.

HON A W SERFATY

The number of cruises which we expect this year is about 63. Last year we had 72.

Going Back to 1973 we had 81. But what is important is not - it is important of course - but it is also important not to forget that what we are really interested in are the people, not ships. And this last year, even though we only had 72 ships we had as many cruise visitors as we had 2 years before when we had had 81. Bigger ships like the Canberra - I well remember the Hermes which used to bring 150, so let us bear in mind that it is people we are interested in. We are going to have seven visits by the Canberra this year, and that is a lot of people.

Now we did spend some money this year on a cruise manual, but I would like to stress one thing, that our advertising campaign is not only aimed at the package holiday maker, it is aimed at prestige advertising because we are now on the tourist map and this is bound to help people who are considering travelling on a cruise.

MR SPEAKER

What you are being asked is whether you are prepared to spend some of that vote on advertising cruise liners.

HON A W SERFATY

What I am trying to say, Mr Chairman, is that I am spending it.

HON W M ISOLA

One last question. I am grateful for that answer. Of course the Minister is aware that when we spend these £86,000, all that money is spent in the United Kingdom. When I am talking about cruise liners, I am being a little wider. I am talking about cruise liners from other nations, not necessarily just from Great Britain, because there are cruise liners from other parts of the world. Does he intend to advertise to shipping companies who have cruise liners, not necessarily British, but in other parts of the world crossing the Straits of Gibraltar.

HON A W SERFATY

Advertising; we have discussed this at length with Osbornes. The thing to do is to bring these people here to Gibraltar, shipping managers, people who decide on the cruises, and we are going to bring people not only from British shipping companies but from foreign companies.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Has the Government got a figure as to how much money comes back per pound of advertising on tourism.



HON A W SERFATY

I am afraid I need notice of that question.

HON M D XIBERRAS

It is a figure which has been given generally before.

HON A W SERFATY

The Honourable the Financial and Development Secretary said so in his Budget speech, Mr Chairman, is quite true, £4m were spent by tourists. Now, your guess is as good as mine on how much of that £4m remained in Gibraltar. I remember the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition once asking me in the ante-room how much of that comes to Government. This would require very careful statistical study in depth. I wonder whether we will ever get to the real figure, but of course we get much more than we spend.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The answer is, no, but it was done, I think, last year.

Now would the Honourable Member, in view of the importance of this, try to see, I think I have seen it around somewhere in fact, this figure, an approximate, but I will have to make absolutely certain. Now would the Honourable Member perhaps give me an approximation. It is a question which I think I asked last year as well, because we have got this constantly developing expenditure on tourism and I think the cost effectiveness of it is important.

HON A W SERFATY

Mind you, we will be getting hunches like the Honourable the Financial and Development Secretary calls them, but £4m expenditure - you see it all depends where you spent your money. If it is on a hotel room then perhaps the whole of the money stays here; if you are buying cameras then of course a lot of it goes out again, but I would say that of those £4m at least £1½m stays here, if it is £4m.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, on this item here, the purchase of a car. I think one of the significant things about this Budget is the number of cars and vans and mini-buses that are being purchased by the Government. This is one of the most significant things in the Budget, Apart from being known as the "Hunch Budget" it will probably be known as the "car budget". But could I ask the Financial and Development Secretary about this proliferation of cars which are being purchased, whether they will in fact be purchased locally, will the Government spread them out among the different makes, or is it proposed to have one standard make for the Government?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

It is hardly for me to expound any sort of policy on standardisation of vehicles, this is really for the mechanical side, but there are a lot of advantages in standardising. I would, however, say this, that most, and indeed I think virtually all of them, although I stand to be corrected on this, the cars that have appeared on the recurrent side are in fact replacements and as far as I am concerned they will be purchased locally.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, could I return to the point that was being made by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, because I raised the question of cost benefits analysis for the tourist vote two years ago, and I think at the time the Honourable Minister for Tourism had some difficulty in establishing what it was that I wanted.

I think if the House is asked to vote money on tourism it is presumably because it wants either to make a profit or at least to break even, and, therefore, I think it is important for the House to be given an indication of whether the Government is actually using taxpayers money to attract tourists to Gibraltar, or the Government is making a profit on the deal. I would have thought that with a limited space we have here in Gibraltar we can hardly afford to have people coming here at our own expense.

HON A W SERFATY

No, I have no doubt that even the Government is making a profit, but let us not forget one thing, Mr Chairman, and that is that this is the growth industry. We started virtually from scratch two years ago, so we must look to the future, and that is why that even on that basis it is a good investment. I have no doubt about that.

HON J BOSSANO

I agree the expenditure side is a growth industry, Mr Chairman.

Could I ask the Honourable Member whether he agrees that estimates in future - I also raised this point in past estimates and it has not been done on this occasion I think - estimates in future should show under the Tourist vote the cost of subsidies on things like water consumption, since I do not think it is right that that should be included in the Notional Account and the deficit that is produced in a Notional Account should then be used to raise rates generally. I believe that in the Notional Account this would be a book entry, it would be an item on the revenue side in the Water Account and an item on the expenditure side in the Tourist Vote, but I think it should give the House a more accurate picture, both of the viability of the Water Account and of the true costs of the Tourist Account.

HON A W SERFATY

As far as I am aware water is the only facility that the Government subsidises in the tourist industry, but as to how that should be done I will leave in the hands of the able and Honourable Financial and Development Secretary.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Sir, I think that is precisely the kind of thing that we shall hope to solve in the production of more realistic accounts.

HON MISS C ANES

I see that no provision has been made for the Caravan Site at Catalan Bay at all. Is it the intention of

Government not to carry out any repairs or any maintenance to the site? Or are they going to remove the Caravan Site and do away with it?

HON A W SERFATY

The Honourable Lady may or may not be aware that the plans of the Government are to do away with the Caravan Site as soon as possible. We are finding it very difficult to do this, but we have been able to reduce over the past two or three years the number of caravans on the site. I am sure that somewhere in the vote, either here or in Public Works, provision is made to carry out any repairs that may need to be done in the meantime.

The aim is to get rid of it because there is really not much sense in having a Caravan Site in Gibraltar with the closed frontier.

OTHER CHARGES was agreed to and passed.

MR SPEAKER

We shall now recess until tomorrow morning, as usual, at 10.30.

The Committee recessed at 7.05 p.m. Friday the 26th March 1976.

The Committee resumed at 10.45 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Miscellaneous Services is not repeated and is only there for information on what happened last year.

MR SPEAKER

Yes Mr Bossano?

HON J BOSSANO

I wanted to ask the Honourable the Financial and Development Secretary some questions about the other accounts that appear in the Appendices. Will I have an opportunity of doing this.

MR SPEAKER

I think these are Notional Accounts, are they not? We are in Committee and we are liberal in committee: provided that they are questions to understand the nature of the accounts for clarification then I see no reason why you should not. But of course the answers must be, I am sure, cagey and limited because they are basically Notional Accounts.

I am not going to call all the appendices because there is no reason why this should be done, but I think I must give Members an opportunity and I would ask you please take them in order of appendices so that we do not then come back again.

HON J BOSSANO

On Appendix D, on the Currency Notes Income Accounts, Mr Chairman, which is a matter that I have raised also on previous occasions. One change which may simply be a typing error but which I have noted in the accounts is that the amount allocated to the Note Security Fund this year is 1% of the value of the Note Security Fund as at the 31st of March, 1977, that is at the end of the Financial Year, whereas previously, in every account it has been the value of the Fund at the end of the previous Financial Year, and there is usually quite a big difference between the value of the Fund and the beginning of one year and at the end of the other year.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

That is in fact a typographical error, it should be 1976.

HON J BOSSANO

From that, Mr Chairman, I can assume, although there are no figures, that the value of the Note Security Fund must

be in the region of £3,410,000. And that, therefore, the interest on investments estimated for the current year is considered to be a fairly accurate estimate of the sort of yield that we are getting on that level of investment, that is a yield of about 9%, I would say.

Is that right?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Yes.

HON J BOSSANO

Thank you.

MR SPEAKER

Any other appendices, up to 'G' of course.

HON J BOSSANO

I wanted to say something on the Housing Account, which can wait until after . . . .

MR SPEAKER

After we take Appendix G. Like that we will know where we stand.

So if you will call Appendix G.

APPENDIX G

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, with regard to Appendix G, speaking in general terms, we are concerned by the situation that is revealed in this Appendix. Last year for the Improvement and Development Fund we voted expenditure of £3,661,486; the revised estimates of expenditure for 1975-76 is in fact some £700,000 short of the announced voted last year at £2,918,324. This would appear to indicate, in general

terms, that the pace of development during the year under review has slowed down quite considerably.

I notice in page 4 of the Financial Statement, that there is in fact a deficit on this account, even though we did vote into the Improvement and Development Fund last year £240,000. Now, the questions I would like to ask are: the reason for the shortfall in expenditure, and if in fact there has been considerable slowing down in development over the year under review, and the reason for this. Secondly, in view of the fact that the money from local sources has been put into the Fund and spent apparently, because of the deficit, am I right in assuming that works which are financed locally have in fact been done, and it is the work which is financed from the UK Government that has not been done. This would seem to be the picture from the expenditure. Again that would be of course somewhat disturbing, because if it is UK Funds that are not being used, as you know, Mr Chairman, once the period of grant expires all those monies have to be voted back and form part of the new aid. This would be very serious from Gibraltar's point of view because money that could have been spent has not been spent and can only form part of subsequent earnings. So, I would like, if possible, in general terms, explanation of these matters.

#### HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, I can say a few words on the financial aspects of this. First of all I think that in any worthwhile development programme or plan there must be a considerable element of optimism and ambition. And to that extent, therefore, it is quite general, and I say this with considerable experience of corresponding programmes elsewhere, that the estimates of expenditure of a development programme, are normally, and certainly more often than not, overstated in terms of what it is expected to be done or what it is hoped to be done rather than underestimated. Therefore, it is not at all surprising in any development fund that the act or performance at the end of any calendar year is in fact less than the amount which was sought by way of appropriation.

Another point I would make is that any development programme which is not merely a straightforward continuation of on-going projects, takes time to gear up, and considering the difference between the programme which commenced on 1st of April, last year, and the previous programme, are not I think, as I said I think in my budget statement, the progress we have made was very creditable. There has been

constraints we all know that there is some constraint in relation to labour, and particularly skilled labour, but perhaps what is not realised and what is not quite so obvious is that the content of the programme which we embarked on last year involved a much greater range of what one might call, one-off relatively small jobs: renovations; modernisation; and so on. Now, by comparison with a major building contract, a tower block of flats and so on, relatively speaking, there is a lot more work that has to go on into the preparation of a relatively small programme, which involves numerous odd bits and pieces, painting, re-structuring and so on. This is part of the gearing up process.

Taking these factors into account, in terms of figures, an under-expenditure of £700,000 roughly in round figures, must suggest, as it has already suggested to the Honourable and Learned Peter Isola, that there has been a slowing down. This I think is a misconception, it does not necessarily mean that there has been a slowing down, what it does mean in effect is that there has had to be a rather longer period of preparation in order to build up steam. In other words, the development programme itself is gearing up to greater performance in the coming year.

I should answer the other question which the Honourable Mr Peter Isola asked, and that is, why is there a deficit. Well, this is a complicated and somewhat technical matter in that in the case of development aided projects, the money is only actually transferred into the fund when it has been spent, and there is a lag. Now, if the accounts are made up of any given day there is a lag between the amount of money already ploughed in, the amount of money claimed against what has already been spent: and this is to a large extent responsible for the deficit at the beginning of this financial year.

I was also going to say, while I am on my feet, a brief explanation of the letter 'R' which Honourable Members will see against certain provisions. This indicates that an application to finance the project has already been made, or is in preparation, or will be prepared for consideration by HMG. But until that project, as I said in my statement, is actually and formally approved, there is no authority to commit British Development Aid Funds. The 'R' stands for "Reserve" and will be automatically lifted by administrative action as soon as the particular project to which it relates has received Her Majesty's Government's formal approval.



HON P J ISOLA

I thank the Financial and Development Secretary for that explanation. But I am afraid that the explanation is not really a satisfactory one, when you look at past performance. And it is a pretty worrying situation, I think, because it shows quite considerable slowing down in development in Gibraltar which in its turn has quite serious effects on the economy of Gibraltar and of course also on social progress. Could I point out that the expenditure in this Fund, as far back as 1972/73, which was presumably the programme of the previous administration in the Improvement and Development Fund, looking at the approved Estimates of that year, 1973/74, shows that what was actually spent in 1972/73 was £3,587,000, which is, Mr Chairman, £600,000 more than that actually being spent three years later, with the inflation that there has been and which has been pointed out to this House time and time again over the last three years. Just allowing for inflation I would have expected an expenditure this year comfortably of £3.6m possibly £3.80 m & possibly more. In 1973/74 the actual expenditure was £3,250,795 and in 1974/75 it was £3.45m; and if you look, Mr Chairman, at what was estimated in 1974/75 and it would be spent in 1974/75, the figure was only £2.695m, and in fact £3,452,081 was spent. In other words over 1974/75, £8,000 more than estimated were spent. So that this year, this must be I think, if I look at the various figures, this must be the first year in many years of Government history, possibly the first time in 10 years, I do not know, where the Improvement and Development Fund has actually been under-spent by £700,000, and down to a figure below that of the last 3 years.

Now, I cannot go into details and work it out, but this shows a serious slowing down of development with all its consequences to the economy and it shows to my mind a slowing down in performance. And this I think is very regrettable especially as, Mr Chairman, we were asked last year to contribute £240,000 to the Improvement and Development Fund, and indeed we were told that this was absolutely necessary to get through the year in the Improvement and Development Fund. And taxes were imposed which took account of this necessary contribution, and we find that the Government has underspent by £700,000.

MR SPEAKER

Mr Isola, we will be debating this in the general debate.

HON P J ISOLA

Having said that, could I then now ask - I have made my comments! Perhaps it has been rather a lengthy one.

MR SPEAKER

That is not an understatement of accounts!!

HON P J ISOLA

Could I now ask in general terms what it is that the Government has failed to do that it said it would do, and the reasons for it.

HON A W SERFATY

Well, I think the main item, I think is that we have not started the Girls' Comprehensive School. Not that we have been doing nothing about it, because only within a month of the aid talks in London the brief was sent to ODM. But it does take time, as it took for Varyl Begg, to get off the ground. It does take time for a big scheme like the Girls' Comprehensive School to get off the ground. And one important fundamental thing is this whole question is that it was relatively easy, despite the fact that it took a long time to get off the ground, for the Varyl Begg Scheme, a multi-million scheme on a flat piece of ground, with just one consultant and one contractor, to be carried out. This was a far simpler scheme than the kind of sophisticated programme that this Government prepared.

Now, the question is, whether this sophisticated programme, even if it takes longer to gather momentum, is or is not in the best interest of the people of Gibraltar.

MR SPEAKER

No, we are not going to debate policy and to degenerate into a debate. What we want to know is what are the reasons why you have not spent more money. Otherwise we will debate. Any more general questions, otherwise we will go through Appendix G, we have done the others.

Right, the first sub section is housing: any questions on any of the items in page 76 of Appendix G.

HON P J ISOLA

I would like to ask on "Housing", under that item, the estimates of spending for 1975-76 was £2,120,640. From what I can see we have only spent on the revised estimates £1,927,703, so we are £200,000 short of the estimate. Could I ask what it is that has not been done that might have been done, and the reasons for it.

I notice that the Departmental votes of the Public Works Department - Annually Recurrent, and Non-Recurrent estimates of expenditure, has been exceeded and here this is not the case. What has gone wrong and why?

What has slowed down?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

There is no comparison, Mr Chairman, between the original estimates 1975-76, and the Revised Estimates 1975-76 to show where the shortfall has been, very clearly. Varyl Begg has kept pace with the schedule. £1,370,640 was estimated and that is what we expect to spend this year. There is a shortfall of £74,000 on Penney House because of the delayed start on that owing to lack of materials, the delay in getting materials and the plant here. We have spent the £100,000 grant aid we thought we would on the Housing Repair Scheme. Where we have fallen short by £118,000 is in the Housing Modernisation, primarily because of decanting problems, but despite that, Mr Chairman, we have every confidence of doing this year, because we have got the plans already made out in advance - and I mentioned this when I was talking about the additional staff - we are aiming at not £200,000, as was the aim this year and we only happened to do £81,000, but at £450,000. In other words, we consider that we have got over our teething problems on this very delicate and difficult exercise of getting people out of their own houses, who will not get out unless they are assured, and there has been a certain amount of - I do not like using the term - "blackmail" to try and get houses on the Varyl Begg Estate before they move out of their old decrepit houses, although in the long run every one of these tenants have been given the right to go back to modernised accommodation. They will yet dig their heels in and say no repeatedly: you either give me a house at Varyl Begg or one of the new ones, or we do not get out at all. That is the problem.

We have now got sufficient houses empty to be able to proceed at a much faster pace than we have in the past. It is a human and decanting problem.

The other one where we have fallen a little bit short is in new housing: we have spent £341,000 instead of £350,000. If one looks back over the records, as we have done, on new housing in Gibraltar, there has always been tremendous slippage. May I quote as an example . . . .

MR SPEAKER

In other words, what you are trying to say of course is that the shortfall is due to slippage.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Slippage . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Fair enough but we must debate this otherwise . . . .

HON LT COL J L HOARE

If I may quote an example - Glacis.

I think that is the only slippage, if one can call it that, in the Housing Section. And may I say while we are talking about Housing my latest information is that the next phase of Varyl Begg should be handed over around about the 2nd April: the delay is caused by the non-arrival of some trifling minor fitting and that holds up the handing over of three whole blocks.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask the Honourable Member whether he can tell the House, for example, in the Housing Modernisation Programme which he has mentioned, how many houses he expected to modernise with the £200,000, and how many houses he has actually modernised for the £81,000?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, Sir, when we started this scheme our rough estimate was that it would cost £4,000 to modernise each unit. But this is what my Honourable Friend there calls a "hunch". You cannot tell how much a house is going to cost to modernise . . . .

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, I am afraid, if the Honourable Member will allow me, because I do not want him to go on giving me the wrong answer.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

The right answer is that we have worked on the basis of £4,000 per unit and, therefore, the £200,000 would have been 50 units. In fact we have not done as many as that because they are costing more, as we get down to it we find it is much more than £4,000.

HON J BOSSANO

But I want to know how many?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

We have in fact modernised so far this year 15; we have got three in hand, and already out to tender, we have another eight and we have another twelve ready to go out to tender.

HON J BOSSANO

Perhaps the Honourable Member by trying to be too helpful in giving me too much information is confusing me. I want to know for the £81,500 how many modernised houses have we got? That is what I want to know.

MR SPEAKER

Or we are going to get.

HON J BOSSANO

No because it is the Revised Estimates for 1975-76. By Tuesday we will have spent £81,500, and I want to know what we have got physically for those £81,500.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

We have in fact completed fifty. But there are a number actually in hand at the moment.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask the Honourable Member, am I right in thinking that there is no provision here for any of the other projects like Rosia Dale for housing there, I mean, it is not anticipated that any work will start on that in 1976-77, or is it somewhere that I cannot find.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I think, Mr Chairman, that if he will look under the Estimates for 1976-77, for new Housing there is provision for £546,625.

HON J BOSSANO

I sec.

With the Code, Mr Chairman, which says - Gib 21 - Gib 21 does not mean anything to me. Is that then the estimated cost of the Rosia Dale project, or is it the Rosia Dale and something else.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

We are working at the moment on two projects, Rosia Dale and Gas Works Site. This is for all work, and Gib 21 is the figure allotted by ODA to the total figure of £1,450,000 which they have allotted. This is why the expenditure is given this label.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, could I ask, because I am rather concerned at

the figures that have been produced previously in the House, about the number of houses that it is intended to build in that area, which seems to me very low, and the cost per unit which seems to me very high. Has the Government now reached a stage in fact where they have taken a final decision both on the density of buildings and on what it will cost? I believe that at one time they were considering alternatives which might perhaps have cost less money and looked less attractive, or whether to have more attractive houses which could cost more money and involve less accommodation.

I know this was at one stage the sort of alternatives the Government was looking at and I would like to know whether in fact the point has now been reached when a final decision has been taken on that matter, and if so whether the figures previously produced in the House both about the number of units and the probable cost per unit are still in fact valid.

HON A W SERFATY

The present information we have of the cost of new housing is going to be very nearly £20,000 each unit, whereas of course the cost of modernisation will go up eventually to about £6,000. So the cost of modernising a house is still about 1/3rd or a little slightly less than the cost of building a new one. I wonder whether that helps the Honourable Member.

HON J BOSSANO

What I would like to know, Mr Chairman, is whether this cost of £20,000 per unit is in fact a reflection of the type of houses that it has been decided to build in that area. I mean, if one builds for example a high rise block in that area, would the cost still be in the region of £20,000, or would the cost per unit be lower.

HON A W SERFATY

I am afraid that the cost of a new house, whatever the type of building, you will never get it under much less than £20,000. This is the present position.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Speaker, on modernisation. The amount spent has fallen short by more than a half. Now, I heard the Minister say that next year they are going to spend £450,000, which of course is double, more than double what they hoped to spend during 1975-76. If previous performance is anything to go by one would be terribly sanguine about this being done. What I would like to know from the Minister is two things. Can he categorically assure this House that he has sufficient agreement - let us put it that way - with tenants of a sufficient number of houses that can enable him to assure the House categorically that the £450,000 worth of work that he has got for next year will be spent. That there is no question of being dependent on negotiations with tenants, giving them another house somewhere else, that all of this has been planned and ironed out, and, therefore, there is no reason at all why the £450,000 should not be spent. I say this, Mr Chairman, because we are again being asked to make a contribution to the Improvement and Development Fund, although this does not come from that, from local contributions, but obviously if UK Funds cannot be spent on this because there are problems, then presumably the Public Works Department would be in a position to do other works for which he possibly pay. To that extent it has an influence on our contribution.

MR SPEAKER

Let us have an answer to that.

HON A W SERFATY

I can give one categorical assurance, and this is that already we have schemes for modernisation, which will soon go out to tender. We have got £1m in which we have no decanting problem.

These are for four different blocks. So we have got a total of £1m worth of work in which the decanting problem has ceased to be one. Now, we have got other schemes for nearly £100,000 in which the decanting problem - I do not want to stick my neck out - does not seem to be very important. So that brings it up to about £350,000, and we are confident that within this year we shall be able to increase the number of schemes by another £100,000.



It has taken time to get the modernisation scheme off the ground, but it is a well worth scheme which will help us to do away with the slums.

HON P J ISOLA

We have been told about taking time, but we rather feel that it is taking rather a long time. These are not the sort of assurances we got last year at Budget time we asked about it. And the story a year later is very different. What we are trying to avoid is that we get another different story when the next budget comes along. It looks, if the Minister will forgive me for being cynical about this, but it looks as if he may have difficulty with the last £20,000 on this vote.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I do not think so because . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, no, you do not think so, which is a fair enough answer.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, would the Honourable Member say what is the stage reached at Rosia? He gave me the impression that we were almost ready to build at Rosia.

MR SPEAKER

What is the stage you have reached at present in the Rosia development?

HON A W SERFATY

I do not know exactly when this project is going to go out to tender but it is going to be very soon and I will know in a minute. 38 Flats will go out to tender at a cost, so I am told, of £709,000. When we get the tenders we shall know exactly. Even then we shall not know because there are fluctuation clauses.

HON M D XIBERRAS

It is a fact that at the moment all you have done is to clear the ground there, and you are nowhere near spending any money on that, surely?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

No, this is not so. All the bills of quantities and all the tender documents are in the final process of separation, these take the time.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I think the Honourable Mr Serfaty said that work had already started at Rosia.

HON A W SERFATY

Demolition work.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Demolition work.

Mr Chairman, may I ask a general question. Who is the Minister responsible for the development programme, may I ask that?

I am always mystified by this.

HON A W SERFATY

I have no qualms in saying that I consider myself responsible for the monitoring of the development programme.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The monitoring.

And the implementation of the Development programme, who is the Minister responsible?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

This is where we have a share of responsibility. I have the responsibility for doing the work for all the other departments, although they are responsible for it. We are an agency, we provide an agency service to carry out the work. And, therefore, in fact in that respect I have a subsidiary responsibility for development because we carry out the works.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I see, Mr Chairman. So the Honourable Member, Mr Serfaty is the inspiration, shall we say, behind it, and monitors this, and the Honourable Member is the person who is responsible for the work agency, for implementing.

HOUSING was agreed to and passed.

SCHOOLS

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, again the picture here is somewhat disturbing. I notice that in the Boys' Comprehensive for example the estimate for 1975/76 has been exceeded, but why has it not been finished? I notice that there are still £5,000 to go. I would have thought that this would have been finished a long time ago, but perhaps we can get an explanation on that. With regard to the Girl's Comprehensive School I notice the ominous "R" appears . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, no, let us go item by item. Let us make sure we know what we are talking about. You have asked on the Boy's Comprehensive School: let us give an answer on that.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE

The main difficulty in finishing the Boys' Comprehensive School is in the Language Laboratory. A special cable has been required for this, it has been ordered from the firm doing the job, it is taking its time in coming. I understand that it has come now and it will be finished fairly soon. There is also the question of the architect's fees,

which has got to be added on at the final stage.

MR SPEAKER

Right, the Girls' Comprehensive School.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Does the Honourable Mr Featherstone also have a responsibility in this development programme?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE

The answer is, no, but at least I know something about my schools.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, I am sure, Mr Chairman, but my point in asking is that we sometimes get somewhat different appreciations of the situation from one Minister and from another.

MR SPEAKER

I am sure you will be able to deal with that.

HON

HON M D XIBERRAS

As with the Honourable Mr Zammitt, Mr Cheirman, when the Sports Centre was being built, we used to have an appreciation from him and another one from the Honourable Member for Public Works.

MR SPEAKER

Perhaps that is the price of democracy.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The price that we are paying and not getting the development programme done.

HON P J ISOLA

On the next one. The Girls' Comprehensive School situation, where I notice the ominous "R" there - subject to UK Government approval - and I to understand from this that the £375,000 we voted for last year should also have had an "R" against it? Anyway, whether it did or whether it did not, Mr Chairman, what is disturbing is that in March last year the Minister responsible - and I have given some explanation already today - planned to spend £375,000, planned to get everything under way, there was an air of optimism and so forth, looking at the estimates now, as far as the Girls' Comprehensive School is concerned, the air of optimism has distinctly changed to one of great pessimism. Because I notice that for 1976/77, subject to British Government approval, the Minister only expects to spend £150,000. So less than half of what he expected to spend last year, which he has not spent this year, he now tells us that the estimate of £375,000 in 1975/76 was not only wrong and seriously wrong for 1975/76, but also seriously wrong for 1976/77!

Now, this reveals a serious situation, Mr Chairman, and certainly we would welcome an explanation as to how it is that by the end of 1977 the Minister only expects £150,000 to have been spent on the Girls' Comprehensive School as against £375,000 he told us he was going to spend in March 1975! He will forgive us if we start doubting his judgement.

HON A W SERFATY

The Girls' Comprehensive School is not going to really get built during the next year, let us face it. This sum of money includes only a sum of money for the reprovisioning of Ministry of Defence Buildings, which was part of the agreement; it includes demolition; and it includes as a result of these demolitions other works around the site. I do not want to get too involved in that but as we are going to demolish that big building there we are going to use the debris from that building in reclaiming for what we hope will be a public promenade.

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Chairman, I thank the Minister for that explanation and it is a pity that it was not given last year, because what has happened in effect, and will the Minister not agree with me, is that by committing oneself last year to £375,000 for this school, and, therefore, committing in theory work-force, planning people, the available labour force and so forth, the Minister could not give the House something alternative for money that was not going to be spent. Something alternative could have been done in the year under review. This is the tragedy. This is the indictment I think against lack of planning here.

HON A W SERFATY

Very easily said, Mr Chairman.

HON M D XIBERRAS

It is not very easily said, Mr Chairman, we are talking with some experience. The Honourable there with his white elephant will know what we are talking about.

HON A P MONTEGRIFFO

Mr Chairman, just a small correction. I said it had become a small elephant.

HON M D XIBERRAS

A small elephant which it was possible to produce whilst a bigger elephant, the Varyl Begg, was getting done. A small elephant which the Honourable Member is riding now.

MR SPEAKER

Order, order.

Right, any other item under Schools?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Chairman, I would just like to put a point of perspective which I think the Honourable Mr Peter Isola may be just a little bit off-beam. That £375,000 could not have been spent on anything else, because it is United Kingdom Aid funds, and so that in purely financial terms there was no money to be transferred to any other project. If of course there had been other projects and the House has voted a further contribution of £375,000 development programme that other work could have been done.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, surely it would also be true to say that in purely financial terms the Government could have chosen a more accelerated programme for example in Rosia Dale, and a less accelerated programme on the Comprehensive, and there were funds for both.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Mr Chairman, precisely the point that I have made in relation to the Honourable Mr Montegriffo's white elephant. That in fact before the Varyl Begg was started there were a number of projects: the isolation ward in the last development programme; the Health Centre; some other work at the hospital, and they got on with it.

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but we are getting off beam again.

HON M D XIBERRAS

No, Mr Chairman. The point that I am making is that the bad performance of the Government in this . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Yes, but it is the performance of the Government, with all due respect to you, which is going to be debated in the general debate.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, no doubt Mr Chairman, and I have not contributed much to this debate, but I do want to say this . . . .

MR SPEAKER

This is not the debate, this is what I am trying to say.

HON M D XIBERRAS

We are debating in committee, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER

We are approving the estimates of expenditure.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The only point I wish to make in relation to the School is that if they could not build a school, why not build something else? This is a very simple thing.

MR SPEAKER

Fair enough.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Why did they not go on with the Rosia Dale development?

MR SPEAKER

Order, any other matter.

HON J BOSSANO

Could I ask, whoever it is that now takes a turn to answer, whether in fact the physical constraints, the constraints of the labour force have been a factor or there have been other reasons, because in fact this was something that was made a great deal of if I remember rightly when we discussed this previously. That there was a physical limit to what we could do, however much money we wanted to devote to it.

HON A W SERFATY

There may have been some physical constraint and . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Insofar as the Girls' Comprehensive School is concerned.

HON A W SERFATY

Ah, well, not really, not in the Girls' Comprehensive School.

HON J BOSSANO

So then Mr Chairman, from that it would follow that there was spare building capacity which unfortunately has not been used.

MR SPEAKER

No, no. Mr Bossano, not necessarily.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Was there spare building capacity, whether that deduction can be made from what the Honourable Mr Bossano has said?

MR SPEAKER

I will allow that question as a result of the non-commencement of the project. Most certainly you can answer.



HON A W SERFATY

This question of spare building capacity . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, you are being asked if as a result of the fact that for other reasons you were not able to start the Girls' Comprehensive School project, whether there was a surplus of labour which you could have applied to other schemes?

HON A W SERFATY

No, we have been going on with repairs and modernisation, particularly with repairs.

HON M D XIBERRAS

I find that incredible, I find that absolutely incredible.

MR SPEAKER

You might, indeed, but that is the answer you are going to get.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Yes, I am sure, Mr Chairman, but the people of Gibraltar are entitled to know that one minute the Labour Minister stands up and says he is short of labour, then the other Minister says: "Well, the labour that is left over is doing little jobs". I mean, who is the guiding spirit behind this development programme, Mr Chairman, and who has conceived the whole thing. We should have tackled some small projects before tackling the big project . . . .

MR SPEAKER

Order. I am not going to allow this to degenerate into a debate as to what the Government's development policy generally should have been. I will not allow it any further.

I will allow any questions with the briefest of statements on any matter which arises from the items before you and nothing else.

Then when the general debate comes along you can have your full say on policy.

Any other questions on schools?

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Chairman, you see what I am concerned about is the physical output, and I think it may mislead the House to be thinking in terms of money all the time, if in fact these sums of money reflect the Government's Assessment of what can be physically produced by the contractors of Gibraltar in one year.

Will he be able to answer that, Mr. Chairman.

I want to know, Mr Chairman, whether when the figures are brought to the House they are arrived at by a process which departs from an assessment of what the construction industry in Gibraltar is capable of producing in a given year, and then putting a price on to that. If that is the sort of procedure which I would imagine it ought to be, if it is not then it would follow that if one of the projects that was anticipated was not, for other reasons, commenced, then that would produce spare capacity which should show up somewhere else as more than had been anticipated having been done, because the original plan was based on a maximising of the potential physical output. Is that the case?

MR SPEAKER

Perhaps as a result of that, perhaps we could cut this down if you asked the question whether any labour was allocated to this particular project; and then if the answer is "Yes", you can ask what happened to that labour as a result of that project not having been started. If the answer is "No", then the answer is that no labour has been.

HON M D XIBERRAS

The answer is "no".

HON J BOSSANO

Well, I imagine no direct labour . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, let us not . . . .

HON J BOSSANO

I imagine no direct labour was allocated Mr Chairman, but I just do not know. We are being told now that the Government expects to spend £X in 1976/77 on development projects. Those sums of money represent in turn a physical output by the construction industry in Gibraltar. Now, what I want to know is in fact whether the Government arrives at these figures by starting from the position of what the construction industry

is capable of producing in one year, or whether it arrives at this figure by starting from the position of what sort of money can we afford to spend regardless or whether it is too much or too little.

MR SPEAKER

What you want to know is whether the Government has got the labour capacity to carry out these developments.

HON J BOSSANO

Yes, that is right. Because we have been told in the past that they are working at the maximum of our capacity.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, I think the answer to this is very simple. The labour force in Gibraltar is not monopolised by the Public Works Department. The construction industry in Gibraltar has to deal and take up other work. The proof of this, Mr Chairman, I can put in the form of a question to the Honourable Questioner.

MR SPEAKER

No, you must not ask the question.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I would like the answer because he is probably aware; how much unemployment is there amongst . . . .

MR SPEAKER

No, no, I am not going to go into the question of unemployment in Gibraltar now. What you are being asked is whether the Government has got the labour capacity to carry out these projects. You can answer yes, or no, or you envisage to obtain it by other means, but let us not go into policies.

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, the Department experts, and nobody can give guarantees for a thousand and one reasons to be able to do this programme, either with its direct labour, or with the assistance of all the other construction availabilities in Gibraltar.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, can the Government say what of the total output of the construction industry, to what extent do they consider that their programme accounts for it. Or what proportion of the total output of the construction industry they think will be taken up by their projects?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

Mr Chairman, the answer to that is "X". I do not know what industry is being run by private enterprise.

HON J BOSSANO

Well, what would they consider, Mr Chairman, to be the total capacity of the construction industry? That they do not know either. Well, in that case Mr Chairman, how do they know when they have reached the total capacity, if they do not know what it is.

HON M D XIBERRAS

There are reports about this in the Public Works Department, about total capacity. I remember Mr Rooney producing a report about this and the Honourable Minister for Labour should know about these things.

HON A J CANEPA

The Honourable the Minister for Labour does not poke his nose into the Public Works Department the way the Honourable Leader of the Opposition used to when he was Minister for Labour.

HON M D XIBERRAS

Except to say that he has not got enough workers to proceed with the development programme.

MR SPEAKER

We have gone far enough on this one.

Now any other item on schools?

SCHOOLS was agreed to and passed.

MEDICAL

HON P J ISOLA

Mr Speaker, there is another shortfall here, in the hospital renovation, I notice. Quite a considerable one too. What has happened there?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I think that once again here, Mr Chairman, the people who are carrying out the major renovation at the Hospital is the same firm that is doing Penney House. They were slow to get off the ground, and in fact the two year's programmes are being dovetailed together. As soon as Penney House is finished then the whole of that labour force of specialists will move over to the Hospital. The Hospital renovation was a three-year programme and we have every expectation of doing it within the three years?

HON P J ISOLA

Am I right in assuming that both in the case of Penney House and the Hospital renovation there are penalty clauses as far as this firm is concerned if the contract is not done within the time specified?

HON LT COL J L HOARE

I do not know personally because I do not enter in contracts like these, but I am advised that the answer is, yes.