

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION

SINGAPORE, 25TH APRIL, 1957

No. 22

10.00 a.m.

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

- *1. Mr. DAVID MARSHALL: To ask the Chief Secretary whether Government will publish a White Paper indicating what action has been taken since April 1955 to prepare a Bill amending or replacing the existing Banishment Ordinance (Cap. 127) and when it is planned to have the first reading of the said Bill.
- *2. Mr. DAVID MARSHALL: To ask the Chief Secretary—
- (a) how many outstanding appeals there are at present in respect of Orders made under the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance (No. 25 of 1955) and the date of each appeal;
- (b) how many appeals are outstanding—
- (i) for more than two months;
- (ii) for more than three months;
- (iii) for more than four months;
- (iv) for more than five months;
- (v) for more than six months; and
- (c) what action he is taking to provide facilities to enable these appeals to be dealt with speedily.
- *3. Mr. LIM KOON TECK: To ask the Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing, whether Playfair Road leading to Playfair School will be repaired and maintained either by the City Council or the Public Works Department.
- *4. Mr. LIM KOON TECK: To ask the Minister for Communications and Works what progress has been made towards easing the traffic congestion at the junction of Upper Serangoon Road and Yio Chu Kang Road.

AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS

Motion for the Introduction of Bill

Mr. Lim Koon Teck (Member for Paya Lebar) to move—

That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to incorporate the Reverend Mother Superior of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Malaya.

ORDER OF THE DAY AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

(Those marked ● are Orders of the Day.)

- 1. Pawnbrokers (Amendment) Bill—Second Reading.†

- **2. The Minister for Labour and Welfare to move—

That the Report from the Select Committee on the Clerks Employment Bill, as contained in Sessional Paper L.A. 2 of 1957, be adopted, subject to the recommittal of the Bill in respect of clause 27, clause 28, clause 29 and clause 46 to a Committee of the whole Assembly.

**3. The Minister for Labour and Welfare to move—

That the Report from the Select Committee on the Shop Assistants Employment Bill, as contained in Sessional Paper L.A. 3 of 1957, be adopted, subject to the recommittal of the Bill in respect of clause 2, clause 28, clause 29, clause 30, clause 34 and clause 50 to a Committee of the whole Assembly.

4. The Financial Secretary to move—

That this Assembly, in accordance with section 343 of the Municipal Ordinance (Chapter 133 of the 1936 Edition), sanctions the raising of a loan to be effected by increasing the issue of Singapore City Council 5 per cent Debenture Stock 1956 from an amount not exceeding \$30,000,000 as sanctioned by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly on the 7th March, 1956, to an amount not exceeding \$50,000,000 for the purposes stated and under the conditions specified in Sessional Paper No. Cmd. 12 of 1957.

5. The Financial Secretary to move—

(Governor's recommendation or consent to be signified.)

That this Assembly resolves that the sum of \$1,279,707 shall be supplied to the Government under the heads of expenditure and for the services specified in Schedule A contained in Sessional Paper No. Cmd. 14 of 1957.

6. The Financial Secretary to move—

(Governor's recommendation or consent to be signified.)

That this Assembly resolves that the sum of \$5,496,603 shall be supplied to the Government under the heads of expenditure and for the services specified in the Schedule contained in Sessional Paper No. Cmd. 15 of 1957.

**7. The Minister for Commerce and Industry to move—

That the Report from the Select Committee on the Seamen's Registry Board Bill, as contained in Sessional Paper No. L.A. 6 of 1957, be adopted, subject to the recommittal of the Bill in respect of clauses 3 and 5 to a Committee of the whole Assembly.

8. The Minister for Commerce and Industry to move—

That the Report from the Select Committee on the Muslims Bill, as contained in Sessional Paper No. L.A. 5 of 1957, be adopted.

9. The Chief Minister to move—

(Governor's recommendation or consent to be signified.)

That this Assembly—

(1) takes note of the Report of the Singapore Constitutional Conference held in London in March and April, 1957, as contained in Sessional Paper No. Misc. 2 of 1957, and approves the points on which agreement has been received; and

(2) approves the stand of the All-Party Delegation in not accepting the condition stipulated in paragraph 30 of the Report.

10. Mr. Lim Cher Kheng (Member for Changi) to move—

That this Assembly recognizes the paramount importance to Singapore of an incorruptible Public Service, and is of the opinion that a Commission of Inquiry under the provisions of the Inquiry Commissions Ordinance (Chapter 52) should be appointed (a) to inquire into and report on allegations of corrupt practices, if any, in the Public Service, the City Council, the Singapore Improvement Trust and the Singapore Harbour Board; and (b) to recommend measures for preventing, combating, and eradicating corrupt practices in the aforesaid Public Service and organizations.

11. Mr. David Marshall (Member for Cairnhill) to move—

That this Assembly notes:—

- (i) that the Banishment Ordinance (Cap. 127) now in force in this territory provides opportunities for completely unfettered and absolutely unchallengeable arbitrary exercise by the executive of the power to banish permanently domiciled aliens from their homes and their work and their normal surroundings;
- (ii) that the population of Singapore is unique in the very large proportion of domiciled persons who are technically aliens and potential victims of the Banishment Ordinance;
- (iii) that the Principles and Aims presented by the Labour Front to the electorate require *inter alia* “the investigation of the working of the Banishment law with a view to repeal and revision in conformity with basic concepts of democratic justice and the actual needs of the country and the removal of opportunities for injustice.”;

and calls upon the Government to present to this Assembly within 30 days a Bill amending or replacing the Banishment Ordinance (Cap. 127) and giving the domiciled aliens of Singapore adequate protection against arbitrary deprivation of their right to live and work in this territory.

12. Mr. David Marshall (Member for Cairnhill) to move—

That this Assembly recognising that it is of paramount importance to the development of the democratic process in Singapore that not only should the elected representatives of the people and public servants be incorrupt, but that they should be manifestly incorrupt, and their conduct should at all times be beyond suspicion, recommends to His Excellency the Governor that an Inquiry Commission be appointed with all the powers provided by the Inquiry Commissions Ordinance, of which the Chairman should be a High Court Judge, with legal assistance from either the Attorney-General's Department or the Singapore Bar, to enquire into public anxiety on the subject of the integrity of members of the Assembly and the City Council whether holding office or not and all public servants whether in Government service or in the service of Statutory bodies or of the City Council and report thereon, and to make recommendations as to what steps (including the formation of a permanent Court with special powers, and strengthening of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau) should be taken to enforce the highest standards of integrity and to develop the confidence of the public in their elected representatives and their public service.

†NOTICES RELATING TO ORDER OF THE DAY

†1. *Pawnbrokers (Amendment) Bill.*

Subject to this Bill passing its Second Reading, the Member in charge will move its Committee Stage and Third Reading.

The Assistant Minister to the Chief Secretary will move the following amendments to the Bill in Committee:—

- (i) *Clause 1, page 1, line 7:* at end, add “, and shall come into force upon such date as the Governor may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint”.
 - (ii) *Clause 3, page 3, lines 35 and 36:* to leave out “with two sureties”.
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****MEMORANDA******2. Clerks Employment Bill:**

Subject to the motion being agreed to, the Minister for Labour and Welfare will move the following amendments to the Bill on recommittal to a Committee of the whole Assembly:—

- (i) *Clause 27, page 21, line 27:* after “of”, to insert “subsection (1) of”.
- (ii) *Clause 28, page 22, line 3:* after “of”, to insert “subsection (1) of”.
- (iii) *Clause 29, page 22, line 14:* after “of”, to insert “subsection (1) of”.
- (iv) *Clause 46:*
 - (a) *Page 27, line 27:* after “46.”, to insert a dash and “(1)”.
 - (b) *Page 27, after line 44:* to insert the following new sub-clause (2):—

“(2) No answer which a person shall be legally bound to give under the provisions of paragraph (a) of the preceding subsection shall be proved against him in any criminal proceeding, except on a prosecution for giving false evidence by such answer.”.

****3. Shop Assistants Employment Bill:**

Subject to the motion being agreed to, the Minister for Labour and Welfare will move the following amendments to the Bill on recommittal to a Committee of the whole Assembly:—

- (i) *Clause 2, page 3, lines 16 and 18:* after “shop”, in each case to insert “or theatre”.
- (ii) *Clause 28, page 10, line 28:* after “of”, to insert “subsection (1) of”.
- (iii) *Clause 29, page 11, line 5:* after “of”, to insert “subsection (1) of”.
- (iv) *Clause 30, page 11, line 16:* after “paragraph (e) of”, to insert “subsection (1) of”.
- (v) *Clause 34, page 12, lines 2 to 4:* to leave out “which shall be the day on which the shop is required to remain closed in pursuance of the provisions of section 35 of this Ordinance”.
- (vi) *Clause 50:*
 - (a) *Page 17, line 14:* after “50.”, to insert a dash and “(1)”.
 - (b) *Page 17, after line 32:* to insert the following new sub-clause (2):—

“(2) No answer which a person shall be legally bound to give under the provisions of paragraph (a) of the preceding subsection shall be proved against him in any criminal proceeding, except on a prosecution for giving false evidence by such answer.”.

****7. Seamen's Registry Board Bill:**

Subject to the motion being agreed to, the Minister for Commerce and Industry will move the following amendments to the Bill on recommittal to a Committee of the whole Assembly:—

- (i) *Clause 3, page 17, line 8:* after “office”, to insert “or offices”.
- (ii) *Clause 5:*
 - (a) *Page 19, line 31:* to leave out “agreements for their employment”, and insert “articles”.
 - (b) *Page 19, lines 34 to 35:* to leave out “the agreement for employment”, and insert “articles”.
 - (c) *Page 19, line 41:* to leave out “seamen”, and insert “seaman”.