

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

STATE OF SINGAPORE

THIRD SESSION

ORDER PAPER

WEDNESDAY, 11TH JULY, 1962

No. 60

2.30 p.m.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

(Those marked ● are Orders of the Day.)

1. Inche Mohd. Ariff bin Suradi (Member for Ulu Pandan):
Mr. Chor Yeok Eng (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for National Development):

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE: That the Memorandum addressed to all Honourable Members of the Assembly dated 25th June, 1962, by the Chairman of the Singapore Trade Unions Working Committee (Committee of Liaison Officers of Trade Unions) contains threats to the Government back benchers in the following paragraphs:—

“45. Everyone of you in the Assembly are responsible for whatever that might follow if a few dictators in power are allowed to have their way in snatching away from the people the rights that they have gained at the cost of bitter struggles and great sacrifices.

“46. To those who are Government Backbenchers we wish to point out that it would be folly to think that they would not be held responsible by the people for the misdeeds of the Government leaders.

“47. It is in fact in your hands to check the Government from its fascist moves. Indeed it is with the support of the Backbenchers that they have committed all their treacherous acts and can continue to do so only if they continue to support them.

“48. Whatever happens the day is not far when the Government Backbenchers have to return to the people and live among them as ordinary men and women and for the rest of their life they will not be able to escape the people's reproach and wrath if they fail them now while those who are making use of these Backbenchers may have taken comfortable refuge elsewhere.

“49. This is the time when you can all clearly show that you are with the people in the defence of their democratic rights!”

and that the said paragraphs constitute a breach of the Privileges of this Assembly.

- 2. REFERENDUM ON REUNIFICATION OF SINGAPORE AND FEDERATION OF MALAYA: *Motion made and Question proposed (9th July, 1962)*, "That this House resolves that the people of Singapore be asked to express their choice on the mode and manner of the inevitable reunification of the two territories and that a referendum be held for the people to decide between the alternatives of reunification on the basis of

- (a) the constitutional arrangements set out in Paper Command 33 of 1961 giving Singapore autonomy in education and labour; or
- (b) a complete and unconditional merger as a state on an equal basis with the other eleven states in accordance with the constitutional documents of the Federation of Malaya."—(Prime Minister).

Original Question amended [10th July, 1962: at end, by adding "or

- (c) to enter Malaysia on terms no less favourable than the terms for the Borneo territories".—(Tun Lim Yew Hock)] as follows:—

"That this House resolves that the people of Singapore be asked to express their choice on the mode and manner of the inevitable reunification of the two territories and that a referendum be held for the people to decide between the alternatives of reunification on the basis of

- (a) the constitutional arrangements set out in Paper Command 33 of 1961 giving Singapore autonomy in education and labour; or
- (b) a complete and unconditional merger as a state on an equal basis with the other eleven states in accordance with the constitutional documents of the Federation of Malaya; or
- (c) to enter Malaysia on terms no less favourable than the terms for the Borneo territories."

Resumption of Debate on the Original Question as amended.

Mr. S. T. Bani (Member of Thomson) to move:

As an amendment, "at end, to add 'or

- (d) genuine merger of Singapore with the Federation of Malaya, with Singapore entering the Federation as the twelfth state and with all its Citizens automatically becoming Federal Citizens on Merger Day'."

3. Mr. David Marshall (Member for Anson):
Dr. Lee Siew Choh (Member for Queenstown):

REFERENDUM ON MERGER (FEDERATION OF MALAYA/SINGAPORE): That this Assembly calls upon the Government to make arrangements (a) to ascertain the will of the people of Singapore in respect of the proposed constitutional changes by way of a referendum on the following question only: "Do you accept the proposed closer constitutional relations with the Federation of Malaya as incorporated in Command Paper No. 33 of 1961, a copy of which is attached to the Order for this Referendum"; and (b) to name Polling Day as a day four weeks from the date of the Order therefor.

4. Dr. Lee Siew Choh (Member for Queenstown):
Mr. Chan Sun Wing (Member for Upper Serangoon):

MERGER (OPPOSITION'S STAND): That this House condemns the Government for its dishonest and malicious distortion of the Opposition's stand on the Merger issue, whereby it seeks to mislead and confuse the people in the forthcoming referendum.

5. Deputy Prime Minister:

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS: That this Assembly resolves that the following amendments, as recommended in paragraph 8 of the First Report of the Standing Orders Committee and contained in Paper L.A. 8 of 1962, be and are hereby made to the Standing Orders of this Assembly:—

(a) Standing Order No. 31:

Paragraph (2): In line 3, leave out “shall” and insert “may”.

(b) Standing Order No. 35:

(i) After “35”, insert—

“(1) No private Member’s motion shall be proceeded with unless, upon the notice of such motion being read, support thereof or in principle shall be signified to the Assembly by at least one Member then present in the Chamber or unless the notice of such motion has been signed by a supporter or supporters under the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 31 (Manner of giving Notices).”

(ii) Re-number paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) as (2), (3) and (4), respectively.”

6. Mr. S. T. Bani (Member for Thomson):

Mr. Low Por Tuck (Member for Havelock):

MEETINGS OF WORKERS, ETC., TO DISCUSS REFERENDUM BILL: That this House deplores the undemocratic action of the Government in preventing representatives of the workers, students, rural dwellers and professional organisations from exercising their civic rights in discussing matters of a national importance affecting all of them and condemns the Government for using its Police Force on 9th and 16th June, 1962, to intimidate and prevent meetings that were to be held at the premises of the Singapore Motor Workshop Employees’ Union to discuss the Referendum Bill; and calls upon the Government to immediately stop its repressive actions in denying the people and their organisations their fundamental democratic rights and civil liberties.
