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Tuesday
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

DEWAN RA'AYAT
(HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE SECOND PARLIAMENT
OF MALAYSIA

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MALAYSIA

DEWAN RA'AYAT
(HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)

Official Report

Third Session of the Second Dewan Ra'ayat

Tuesday, 7th March, 1967

The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

PRESENT:

- The Honourable Mr Speaker, DATO' CHIK MOHAMED YUSUF BIN SHEIKH ABDUL RAHMAN, S.P.M.P., J.P., Dato' Bendahara, Perak.
- .. the Minister of Finance, TUAN TAN SIEW SIN, J.P. (Melaka Tengah).
- .. the Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications, TAN SRI V. T. SAMBANTHAN, P.M.N. (Sungei Siput).
- .. the Minister of Health, TUAN BAHAMAN BIN SAMSUDIN (Kuala Pilah).
- .. the Minister of Commerce and Industry, DR LIM SWEE AUN, J.P. (Larut Selatan).
- .. the Minister for Welfare Services, TUAN HAJI ABDUL HAMID KHAN BIN HAJI SAKHAWAT ALI KHAN, J.M.N., J.P. (Batang Padang).
- .. the Minister for Local Government and Housing, TUAN KHAW KAI-BOH, P.J.K. (Ulu Selangor).
- .. the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, TUAN SENU BIN ABDUL RAHMAN (Kubang Pasu Barat).
- .. the Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives, TUAN HAJI MOHAMED GHAZALI BIN HAJI JAWI (Ulu Perak).
- .. the Minister of Lands and Mines, TUAN ABDUL-RAHMAN BIN YA'KUB (Sarawak).
- .. the Assistant Minister of National and Rural Development, TUAN SULAIMAN BIN BULON (Bagan Datoh).
- .. the Assistant Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, ENSKU MUHSEIN BIN ABDUL KADIR, J.M.N., S.M.T., P.J.K. (Trengganu Tengah).
- .. the Assistant Minister of Education, TUAN LEE SIOK YEW, A.M.N., P.J.K. (Sepang).
- .. the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, TUAN IBRAHIM BIN ABDUL RAHMAN (Seberang Tengah).
- .. the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour, TUAN LEE SAN CHOON, K.M.N. (Segamat Selatan).
- .. the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, TUAN ALI BIN HAJI AHMAD (Pontian Selatan).

- The Honourable the Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister,
TUAN CHEN WING SUM (Damansara).
- .. TUAN ABDUL KARIM BIN ABU, A.M.N. (Melaka Selatan).
- .. WAN ABDUL KADIR BIN ISMAIL, P.P.T. (Kuala Trengganu Utara).
- .. TUAN ABDUL RAHMAN BIN HAJI TALIB, P.J.K. (Kuantan).
- .. TUAN ABDUL RAZAK BIN HAJI HUSSIN (Lipis).
- .. TUAN ABDUL SAMAD BIN GUL AHMAD MIANJI
(Pasir Mas Hulu).
- .. Y.A.M. TUNKU ABDULLAH IBNI AL-MARHUM TUANKU ABDUL
RAHMAN, P.P.T. (Rawang).
- .. TUAN HAJI ABU BAKAR BIN HAMZAH (Bachok).
- .. TUAN HAJI AHMAD BIN ABDULLAH, S.M.K. (Kelantan Hilir).
- .. TUAN AHMAD BIN ARSHAD, A.M.N. (Muar Utara).
- .. TUAN HAJI AHMAD BIN SA'AID, J.P. (Seberang Utara).
- .. PUAN AJIBAH BINTI ABOL (Sarawak).
- .. TUAN AZIZ BIN ISHAK (Muar Dalam).
- .. TUAN JONATHAN BANGAU ANAK RENANG, A.B.S. (Sarawak).
- .. PENGARAH BANYANG ANAK JANTING, P.B.S. (Sarawak).
- .. TUAN CHAN SIANG SUN, P.J.K. (Bentong).
- .. TUAN CHEW BIOW CHUON (Bruas).
- .. TUAN CHIN FOON (Ulu Kinta).
- .. TUAN D. A. DAGO ANAK RANDAN *alias* DAGOK ANAK RANDEN
(Sarawak).
- .. TUAN C. V. DEVAN NAIR (Bungsar).
- .. TUAN SYED ESA BIN ALWEE, J.M.N., S.M.J., P.I.S.
(Batu Pahat Dalam).
- .. DATIN HAJJAH FATIMAH BINTI HAJI ABDUL MAJID
(Johor Bahru Timor).
- .. TAN SRI FATIMAH BINTI HAJI HASHIM, P.M.N.
(Jitra-Padang Terap).
- .. TUAN GEH CHONG KEAT, K.M.N. (Penang Utara).
- .. TUAN HANAFI BIN MOHD. YUNUS, A.M.N., J.P. (Kulim Utara).
- .. TUAN HANAFIAH BIN HUSSAIN, A.M.N. (Jerai).
- .. TUAN HARUN BIN ABDULLAH, A.M.N., J.P. (Baling).
- .. WAN HASSAN BIN WAN DAUD (Tumpat).
- .. TUAN HUSSEIN BIN TO' MUDA HASSAN, A.M.N. (Raub).
- .. DATO' HAJI HUSSEIN BIN MOHD. NOORDIN, D.P.M.P., A.M.N.,
P.J.K. (Parit).
- .. TUAN HUSSEIN BIN SULAIMAN (Ulu Kelantan).
- .. TUAN HAJI HUSSAIN RAHIMI BIN HAJI SAMAN
(Kota Bharu Hulu).
- .. TUAN IKHWAN ZAINI (Sarawak).
- .. TUAN ISMAIL BIN IDRIS (Penang Selatan).
- .. TAN SRI SYED JA'AFAR BIN HASAN ALBAR, P.M.N.
(Johor Tenggara).
- .. PENGHULU JINGGUT ANAK ATTAN, Q.M.C., A.B.S. (Sarawak).
- .. TUAN KAM WOON WAH, J.P. (Sitiawan).

- The Honourable **TUAN LEE SECK FUN, K.M.N.** (Tanjong Malim).
- „ **TUAN LIM PEE HUNG, P.J.K.** (Alor Star).
- „ **DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD** (Kota Star Selatan).
- „ **TUAN T. MAHIMA SINGH, J.P.** (Port Dickson).
- „ **DATO' HAJI MOHAMED ASRI BIN HAJI MUDA, S.P.M.K.** (Pasir Puteh).
- „ **TUAN MOHD. DAUD BIN ABDUL SAMAD** (Besut).
- „ **TUAN MOHAMED IDRIS BIN MATSIL, J.M.N., P.J.K., J.P.** (Jelebu-Jempol).
- „ **TUAN MOHD. TAHIR BIN ABDUL MAJID, S.M.S., P.J.K.** (Kuala Langat).
- „ **TUAN MOHAMED YUSOF BIN MAHMUD, A.M.N.** (Temerloh).
- „ **WAN MOKHTAR BIN AHMAD** (Kemaman).
- „ **TUAN HAJI MOKHTAR BIN HAJI ISMAIL** (Perlis Selatan).
- „ **TUAN MUHAMMAD FAKHRUDDIN BIN HAJI ABDULLAH** (Pasir Mas Hilir).
- „ **TUAN HAJI MUHAMMAD SU'AUT BIN HAJI MUHD. TAHIR, A.B.S.** (Sarawak).
- „ **DATO' HAJI MUSTAPHA BIN HAJI ABDUL JABAR, D.P.M.S., A.M.N., J.P.** (Sabak Bernam).
- „ **TUAN MUSTAPHA BIN AHMAD** (Tanah Merah).
- „ **TAN SRI NIK AHMAD KAMIL, D.K., S.P.M.K., S.J.M.K., P.M.N., P.Y.G.P., Dato' Sri Setia Raja** (Kota Bharu Hilir).
- „ **TUAN NG FAH YAM** (Batu Gajah).
- „ **TUAN HAJI OTHMAN BIN ABDULLAH** (Hilir Perak).
- „ **TUAN OTHMAN BIN ABDULLAH, A.M.N.** (Perlis Utara).
- „ **TUAN QUEK KAI DONG, J.P.** (Seremban Timor).
- „ **TUAN HAJI RAHMAT BIN HAJI DAUD, A.M.N.** (Johor Bahru Barat).
- „ **TUAN RAMLI BIN OMAR** (Krian Darat).
- „ **TUAN HAJI REDZA BIN HAJI MOHD. SAID, P.J.K., J.P.** (Rembau-Tampin).
- „ **RAJA ROME BIN RAJA MA'AMOR, P.J.K., J.P.** (Kuala Selangor).
- „ **TUAN SANDOM ANAK NYUAK** (Sarawak).
- „ **TUAN SEAH TENG NGIAB, P.I.S.** (Muar Pantai).
- „ **TUAN SIOW LOONG HIN, P.J.K.** (Seremban Barat).
- „ **TUAN SENAWI BIN ISMAIL, P.J.K.** (Seberang Selatan).
- „ **TUAN SOH AH TECK** (Batu Pahat).
- „ **TUAN SULEIMAN BIN HAJI TAIB** (Krian Laut).
- „ **TUAN TAJUDIN BIN ALI, P.J.K.** (Larut Utara).
- „ **TUAN TAI KUAN YANG** (Kulim-Bandar Bharu).
- „ **DR TAN CHEE KHOON** (Batu).
- „ **TUAN TAN CHENG BEE, J.P.** (Bagan).
- „ **TUAN TAN TOH HONG** (Bukit Bintang).
- „ **TUAN TIAH ENG BEE** (Kluang Utara).
- „ **TUAN TOH THEAM HOCK** (Kampar).
- „ **TUAN HAJI ZAKARIA BIN HAJI MOHD. TAIB, P.J.K.** (Langat).

ABSENT:

- The Honourable the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Y.T.M. TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA AL-HAJ, K.O.M. (Kuala Kedah).
- .. the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of National and Rural Development, TUN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK BIN DATO' HUSSAIN, S.M.N. (Pekan).
- .. the Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Justice, TUN DR ISMAIL BIN DATO' HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN, S.S.M., P.M.N. (Johor Timor).
- .. the Minister of Transport, TAN SRI HAJI SARDON BIN HAJI JUBIR, P.M.N. (Pontian Utara).
- .. the Minister of Education, TUAN MOHAMED KHIR JOHARI (Kedah Tengah).
- .. the Minister for Sarawak Affairs, TAN SRI TEMENGGONG JUGAH ANAK BARIENG, P.M.N., P.D.K. (Sarawak).
- .. the Minister of Labour, TUAN V. MANICKAVASAGAM, J.M.N., P.J.K. (Klang).
- .. the Minister for Sabah Affairs, TUN DATU MUSTAPHA BIN DATU HARUN, S.M.N., P.D.K. (Sabah).
- .. the Assistant Minister without Portfolio, TUAN HAJI ABDUL KHALID BIN AWANG OSMAN (Kota Star Utara).
- .. the Assistant Minister of Finance, DR NG KAM POH, J.P. (Telok Anson).
- .. TUAN ABDUL GHANI BIN ISHAK, A.M.N. (Melaka Utara).
- .. WAN ABDUL RAHMAN BIN DATU TUANKU BUJANG, A.B.S. (Sarawak).
- .. TUAN HAJI ABDUL RASHID BIN HAJI JAIS (Sabah).
- .. DATO' ABDULLAH BIN ABDULRAHMAN, S.M.T., Dato' Bijaya di-Raja (Kuala Trengganu Selatan).
- .. TUAN HAJI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI MOHD. SALLEH, A.M.N., S.M.J., P.I.S. (Segamat Utara).
- .. O.K.K. DATU ALIUDDIN BIN DATU HARUN, P.D.K. (Sabah).
- .. DR AWANG BIN HASSAN, S.M.J. (Muar Selatan).
- .. TUAN CHAN CHONG WEN, A.M.N. (Kluang Selatan).
- .. TUAN CHAN SEONG YOON (Setapak).
- .. TUAN CHIA CHIN SHIN, A.B.S. (Sarawak).
- .. TUAN FRANCIS CHIA NYUK TONG (Sabah).
- .. TUAN EDWIN ANAK TANGKUN (Sarawak).
- .. TUAN S. FAZUL RAHMAN, A.D.K. (Sabah).
- .. DATU GANIE GILONG, P.D.K., J.P. (Sabah).
- .. TUAN GANING BIN JANGKAT (Sabah).
- .. TUAN HAJI HAMZAH BIN ALANG, A.M.N., P.J.K. (Kapar).
- .. TUAN STANLEY HO NGUN KHIU, A.D.K. (Sabah).
- .. TUAN KADAM ANAK KIAI (Sarawak).
- .. TUAN THOMAS KANA (Sarawak).
- .. TUAN KHOO PENG LOONG (Sarawak).
- .. TUAN EDMUND LANGGU ANAK SAGA (Sarawak).

- The Honourable **TUAN AMADEUS MATHEW LEONG, A.D.K., J.P. (Sabah).**
 .. **DATO' LING BENG SIEW, P.N.B.S. (Sarawak).**
 .. **DR LIM CHONG EU (Tanjong).**
 .. **TUAN LIM KEAN SIEW (Dato Kramat).**
 .. **TUAN PETER LO SU YIN (Sabah).**
 .. **TUAN C. JOHN ONDU MAJAKIL (Sabah).**
 .. **TUAN JOSEPH DAVID MANJAJI (Sabah).**
 .. **DATO' DR HAJI MEGAT KHAS, D.P.M.P., J.P., P.J.K. (Kuala Kangsar).**
 .. **TUAN MOHD. ARIF SALLEH, A.D.K. (Sabah).**
 .. **ORANG TUA MOHAMMAD DARA BIN LANGPAD (Sabah).**
 .. **TUAN MOHD. ZAHIR BIN HAJI ISMAIL, J.M.N. (Sungei Patani).**
 .. **TUAN ONG KEE HUI (Sarawak).**
 .. **TUAN D. R. SEENIVASAGAM (Ipoh).**
 .. **DATO' S. P. SEENIVASAGAM, D.P.M.P., P.M.P., J.P. (Menglembu).**
 .. **TUAN SIM BOON LIANG, A.B.S. (Sarawak).**
 .. **TUAN SNG CHIN JOO (Sarawak).**
 .. **TUAN SULAIMAN BIN ALI (Dungun).**
 .. **PENGIRAN TAHIR PETRA (Sabah).**
 .. **TUAN TAMA WENG TINGGANG WAN (Sarawak).**
 .. **TUAN TAN KEE GAK (Bandar Melaka).**
 .. **TUAN TAN TSAK YU (Sarawak).**
 .. **TUAN YEH PAO TZE, A.M.N. (Sabah).**
 .. **TUAN STEPHEN YONG KUET TZE (Sarawak).**

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker *in the Chair*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ENCHE' MOHD. SHARIFF, M.I.C. STATE TREASURER FOR NEGRI SEMBILAN—CITIZENSHIP

1. Dr Tan Chee Khoon (Batu) asks the Minister of Home Affairs if it is true that Enche' Mohd. Shariff, the M.I.C. State Treasurer for Negri Sembilan is not a citizen of Malaysia, and if so, to state what steps he has taken to remove Enche' Mohd. Shariff from the membership of the M.I.C.

The Minister of Lands and Mines (Tuan Abdul-Rahman bin Ya'kub): Mr Speaker, Sir, since the Honourable Member has not given the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs the full name of the person concerned, I am afraid

that the Ministry is unable to provide him with any of the information he requires. For the Commissioner of National Registration to detect and to confirm from his records that a person is or is not registered as a citizen, he needs the full name and identity card number of the person concerned. Attempt has been made to obtain the exact identity of Enche' Mohd. Shariff through the help of the Registrar of Societies, but in vain. This officer has gone through the applications for registration by thirty-three M.I.C. branches in Negri Sembilan and has come across no office bearer by such name. It is, therefore, not possible for the Commissioner of National Registration to certify whether or not the holder of the post of M.I.C. State Treasurer for Negri Sembilan is a citizen of Malaysia.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, on account of the fact that the Registrar of Societies should by now

have in his hands the full details of all office-bearers of any political party at national level, at State level and at branch level—by now all this information must be in the hands of the Registrar of Societies—consequently, that being so, can the Honourable Acting Minister of Home Affairs tell us what is the difficulty. If the Registrar of Societies first looks up the list of the office bearers of the M.I.C. in Negri Sembilan, it should be fairly simple to find out whether Enche' Mohd. Shariff is the State Treasurer or not. That is all that I ask; and if there is, I would ask him to find out whether he is a citizen or not.

Tuan Abdul-Rahman bin Ya'kub: Mr Speaker, Sir, in order to avoid any misconception, I am not the Acting Minister of Home Affairs; I am just answering on his behalf. I have already replied to that in my answer when I said the officer concerned, i.e., the Registrar of Societies, has already gone through the applications for registration by 33 M.I.C. Branches in Negri Sembilan and he has come across no office bearer—office bearer includes Treasurer, Chairman, Secretary and so forth—by such name.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: The Honourable Minister speaking on behalf of the Minister of Home Affairs told us that the Registrar of Societies has gone through the office bearers of 33 branch members. What I am concerned here is not with branch Members but with State officials. The second question that I wish to ask the Honourable, not Acting Minister, but Minister speaking on behalf of the Home Minister is that, will he bring it to the attention of the Registrar of Societies that my information is that quite a number of M.I.C. office bearers are not citizens of this country?

Tuan Abdul-Rahman bin Ya'kub: Mr Speaker, Sir, branches within the context of the Societies Act which this Dewan passed, and which the Honourable Member must have read very thoroughly because I remember he made a very long speech commenting on that Bill some time ago, include, whatever

he might like to call it, the main branches, the sub-branches, other than the National Headquarters, those are all branches, and, therefore, when I said 33 M.I.C. branches in Negri Sembilan, that includes the State level.

With regard to the second supplementary question he posed just now, he knows as well as anybody else knows that by operation of this Societies Act, no non-citizen can become a member of any political party. That is simple. If there is any party which has accepted a non-citizen to be a member of the political party, it is imperative upon that party to tell him that "We are very sorry, you cannot continue to be a member of our party". If he is, as he claims to be, aware of a number of people who continue to be members of the M.I.C. but who are not citizens of this country, the Ministry concerned would be very grateful for any assistance he can give to supply the names, the full names but not just the half names like this one, the full names of all the members in order to enable the Government to carry out full investigations into the matter.

FALSE DECLARATIONS OF MOSQUITO DESTROYER AS JOSS POWDER

2. **Dr Tan Chee Khoon** asks the Minister of Finance if it is true that a ship load of "mosquito destroyer" was recently found to be declared as "joss powder" and if so, to state what steps the Comptroller of Customs has taken to bring the culprits to book.

The Minister of Finance (Tuan Tan Siew Sin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to consignments of mosquito coils which were imported through Port Swettenham recently and which were declared to the Customs Authorities as joss paper, bean cake. As a result of investigations conducted by the Customs Department, 15 persons were charged in Court on 15th December, 1966, in connection with these imports and the case is to be heard on 1st June, 1967. Two individuals out of these 15 were also charged on other counts on 6th January this year and these further

charges will be heard on 6th June this year. All the mosquito coils involved have been seized and are now in Customs custody. As Court cases are pending on this matter, it would not be proper for me to comment further at this stage.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, nor do I want to comment on this particular case. The question that I wish to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance is this. False declaration of whatever goods it may be and getting away with such false declarations, perhaps, can only take place, if there is collusion on the part of officials of the Customs Department. Secondly, the sums involved are not petty ones of \$30 or \$40 that the petty smuggler tries to get across the Causeway, but such sums involved run in to perhaps a quarter million dollars—maybe more, maybe less. As such, it is imperative that there should be eternal vigilance on the part of the higher ups because this can only affect the higher ups in the Customs Department should it get through.

Tuan Tan Siew Sin: Mr Speaker, Sir, I can assure the Honourable Member that both the Treasury and the Customs Department are aware of the need for eternal vigilance.

NEW BY-PASS NORTH BOUND ROAD—OPENING OF

3. **Dr Tan Chee Khoon** asks the Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications the reason why the new by-pass north-bound road which has now reached Segambut has not yet been opened to traffic.

The Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications, Tan Sri V. T. Sambanthan: Mr Speaker, Sir, the new connection of the north-south express way to Segambut was opened yesterday to traffic (*Laughter*). The section of Club Road Roundabout to Ipoh Road/Circular Road/Maxwell Road Roundabout was completed earlier, but it was considered inadvisable to open this stretch of traffic without at the same time opening the Segambut connection

because there will be congestion at this roundabout.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Minister for Works, Posts and Telecommunications would have this House and this country believe that it was a mere coincidence that the road was officially opened by him yesterday. I rather take the opposite view, and the people in my constituency, because that road lies in my constituency take the view that a mere question for oral answer on the part of the Member for Batu has galvanised the officials of the Ministry of Works, Posts and Telecommunications (*Laughter*) into action and has prompted the Minister to declaring the road officially open and thereby beating the gun.

Tan Sri V. T. Sambanthan: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Member for Batu must be very conceited (*Laughter*) if he thinks that a question from him will be able to make us to complete a road within a few days. This road has taken about two years to complete, taken a lot of work, a lot of labour, and it so happened that he might have known, that this road was about to be ready and then jumped the gun—that is what he did (*Laughter*). (SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame!)

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, there has been no jumping the gun on my part, because I have been travelling on foot along that road many times while it was under construction. Can the Honourable Minister tell us, since there had been many announcements in the Press that the road would be ready by the end of 1966 the reason for this delay of two months in opening the road?

Tan Sri V. T. Sambanthan: We expect normally to work to schedule, but in construction there can always be delays, and in this case inclement weather and a number of other considerations, delayed the construction of this road. Among other things, for instance in the usage of roads we must be very careful that we take the most cautious step. For instance, we had to

synchronise the lighting facilities and the opening of the road and both had to be ready at the same time, because road users are not always very careful. Mr Speaker, Sir, to highlight this, I might give an example. I was driving along the dual carriageway to Parliament when in front of me there was a Mercedes Benz self-driven and yet hugging the road to the right, which is quite contrary to what any good road user would be expected to follow. I followed that car in my own Lancia and I tried to overtake him, but this chap was all the time hugging to the right; I looked around and I saw that it was the Honourable Member for Batu (*Laughter*). So, Sir, in planning a road we have got to be careful when Honourable Members like the Member for Batu can violate traffic rules. We have had, repeatedly, announcements over the Press, written on the road in big letters *IKUT KIRI* and when Members like the Member for Batu must do what they have done, and what I saw for myself, what can we do except be cautious! (*Laughter*).

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, I did not know that I had the honour of being escorted by the Honourable Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications this morning. (*Laughter*). I looked particularly at my speedometer this morning and I saw that I was doing 60 m.p.h. (*Laughter*). Is the Honourable Minister wanting me to go further than 60 m.p.h. and do a 100 m.p.h. along the little stretch there?

Mr Speaker: The question, I believe, was that you were travelling on the right side of the road! (*Laughter*).

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a right to use the right side of the road as much as the Minister has, provided I do not go at a snail's pace of 20 m.p.h. As I said, I was doing 60 m.p.h. If he wants me to do 100 m.p.h., than please tell the Traffic cops not to arrest me (*Laughter*) when I knock into somebody, or when I refuse to allow his Lancia, which I know is more powerful than a Mercedes Benz, to overtake me.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the question I would like to ask the Honourable Minister is this he has told us that it was inclement weather and I think in this House we have heard of inclement weather being brought into Kelantan to punish the people of Kelantan for refusing to vote the Alliance; now, we are told that inclement weather has been one of the causes of the delay in the opening of the road; he spoke of other causes of the delay in the opening of the road; he spoke of other causes of delay—can he tell us what are the other causes that contributed towards the delay in opening the road?

Tan Sri V. T. Sambanthan: Mr Speaker, Sir, he does not expect me to repeat a series of reasons. The fact remains that this road has been built. It is a good road. It has been built carefully and it has been opened to traffic. As for the reasons, if he wants, he can come to my office one day. I could bring the officers and we could go into the matter detail by detail—the drains, the culverts, the bridges, the lighting, this, that and the other, a hundred and one things. If he wants to spare an hour or two, I could give him coffee, or tea and we could sit together (*Laughter*) but I regret very much that he still refuses to recognise or understand the point I made earlier, and that is that in a dual carriageway he was hugging to the right lane, which he should not do! (AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: hear, hear). I do hope that this point goes home to the Honourable Member for Batu and through him to many of his constituents, because he is going on the right of the road and after all he is a leftist (*Laughter*). What I want to say is that on a dual carriageway, hug to the left of the road; I do it myself except when I overtake. (*Laughter*).

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, I see the Honourable Minister wants to emphasise that I perhaps am trying to turn into a rightist. (*Laughter*). I will be very glad Mr Speaker, Sir, if he can get a ruling from the Police what constitutes hugging in terms of speed. If in terms of speed, 60 m.p.h. constitutes hugging, then I

will speed it up to 80 m.p.h. if I get a *surat* from the Honourable Minister then I can show it to any traffic cop, if I speed at 80 m.p.h. or 100 m.p.h. in the junk heap that I have.

Mr Speaker: Wouldn't it be easier if you move to the right? (*Laughter*).

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: For the life of me, I did not know that I was being escorted by a distinguished personage, otherwise, I would have quickly moved to the left (*Laughter*). Mr Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Minister was telling us about the safety precautions and yesterday, after leaving this House, I drove along the whole stretch of the road; and I am very glad he brought up the matter of safety, because there is one problem that I can foresee that can well cause plenty of trouble. Towards the Segambut end of the road the road is about 10 yards from the railway track. I see no safety precautions being built there. For example, I would have hoped a barrier there preventing pedestrians from moving up a little too close to the railway track, because as I drove along that road last evening, I saw a lot of school boys walking along that road. Will the Honourable Minister consider building a barrier at that stretch near the Segambut end where, I am sure, there are lots of pedestrians because, after all, from Segambut to any school in town along that road, it is fairly close.

Tan Sri V. T. Sambanthan: It is a sensible suggestion. I will look into it, Sir. (*Laughter*).

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Another thing I would like to bring to the attention of the Honourable Minister is this, Mr Speaker, Sir. As one goes along this road and as one reaches the Maxwell Road junction and roundabout, there is a straight road towards Segambut and there is another bifurcation to the right where one takes the roundabout and go into Maxwell Road—presumably that is the intention. Now, there are no signs at all at that junction, with the result, I saw a motorist in front of me going straight along the road towards Segambut, turning in and then going

to the roundabout. Will the Honourable Minister quickly put up a sign there—that you must *ikut kanan* if you want to turn round before there are accidents?

Tan Sri V. T. Sambanthan: This will be done. In fact, for the present we are making a survey. This is only an attempt in trying to work it properly. In the light of experience, we will be trying to improve this roundabout and the whole road throughout this section. In the meanwhile, I am sure Members will be interested to know that all along this route I have got the P.W.D. interested in the planting of some good wayside trees and at the circle at the Circular Road we intend having all types of *bunga raya* and we want to call it *Bunga Raya* Circles. The circle beyond that will be called Bougainvillaea Circle, with a lot of bougainvillaea of all types, and I do hope that the Member will request his constituents to look after these plants to see that nobody pilfers them. (AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Hear, hear).

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, the other question I would like to ask the Honourable Minister is this: is he aware that at the Maxwell Road Junction when you turn to the roundabout, as the traffic from the North comes towards the South, people want to enter into the town at the Maxwell Road Junction, they turn left and get into Ipoh Road, that that stretch of road from the dual carriage way to the Ipoh Road Junction is totally inadequate? There are two schools down there. The road is far too narrow at present and when I reached the Ipoh Road Junction along Maxwell Road, I had to wait hell of a long time to go round.

Mr Speaker: I beg your pardon! Did you say "Hell"? (*Laughter*).

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: I am so sorry, I had to wait a long time to get round that Roundabout at Ipoh Road. Will the Honourable Minister consider broadening the Maxwell Road between Ipoh Road and the new dual carriage-way so as to facilitate easier flow of traffic?

Tan Sri V. T. Sambanthan: These things are constantly under the purview of the Traffic Department of the Ministry of Works.

ADJOURNMENT *SINE DIE*

(Motion)

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr Lim Swee Aun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move,

That at its rising today the House shall stand adjourned *sine die*.

Tan Sri V. T. Sambanthan: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved,

That at its rising today the House shall stand adjourned *sine die*.

BILLS

RANG UNDANG² PERTUBOHAN BERITA NASIONAL MALAYSIA

Second Reading

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Tuan Senu bin Abdul Rahman): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya mohon mengemukakan Rang Undang² Pertubohan Berita National Malaysia supaya di-bachakan bagi kali yang kedua-nya.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, chita² untuk menubuhkan BERNAMA atau Berita National Malaysia ini telah timbul beberapa tahun dahulu lagi, dan tidak salah kalau saya katakan semenjak dari hari negara kita mencapai kemerdekaan hampir 10 tahun dahulu. Sabuah negara yang berdaulat dan merdeka sudah sa-mesti-nya lambat atau lambat mempunyai Pertubohan Beritanya sendiri di-samping berita² asing yang ada. Malang-nya bagi kita keadaan dari berbagai aspect telah tidak membenarkan kita melaksanakan chita² tersebut lebih awal dari ini. Tetapi bak kata pepatah "Biar lambat asalkan selamat". Pada hari ini chita² yang terpendam itu telah tercapai.

Saya merasa sangat bangga kerana dapat mengemukakan Rang Undang²

BERNAMA dalam Rumah yang berbahagia pada hari ini. Dalam pada itu, biar pun saya telah di-beritahu oleh pakar² dalam masaalah ini, ia-itu BERNAMA manakala berjalan kelak akan merupakan sa-buah Pertubohan berita yang tersendiri atau unique yang akan dapat di-chontohi oleh negara² lain terutama-nya yang baru merdeka sa-bagai Malaysia, namun demikian saya ingin mengingatkan Ahli² Yang Berhormat bahawa sa-bagai hasil perbuatan manusia tentu-lah tidak dapat merupakan satu perkara yang lengkap (perfection) sa-hingga tidak ada sedikit pun kekurangan²-nya. Sa-balek-nya saperti juga undang² atau perlembagaan² yang lain dalam negara demokrasi, perlembagaan BERNAMA juga akan melalui process perubahan dan pindaan manakala perubahan dan pindaan itu di-dapati mustahak untuk menjadikan BERNAMA lebih lagi lengkap dan berjaya pada masa akan datang.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, untuk menchapai chita² kebangsaan ini, sa-buah Jawatan-kuasa Kerja yang terdiri dari wakil² akhbar dan juga Jabatan² mass media Kerajaan telah di-lantek untuk memeriksa kemungkinan-nya dan juga membuat shor²-nya. Jawatan-kuasa ini juga mendapat bantuan dua orang pakar Bangsa² Bersatu tetapi mengambill masa yang agak lama untuk menyiapkan laporan-nya oleh sebab timbul-nya beberapa masaalah terutama-nya mengenai susunan pertubohan itu dan juga soal² kewangan-nya. Kata² sa-pakat perlu di-perolehi didalam soal² asas saperti ini Nyata-lah bahawa surat² khabar sendiri tidaklah sanggup membayar segala keperluan² BERNAMA dan mengharapakan Kerajaan memberi bantuan yang banyak. Di-samping itu mereka tidak-lah pula bersedia melihat pengaruh Kerajaan meresap ka-dalam pertubohan tersebut.

Ini-lah di-antara kesulitan² dan masaalah² yang di-hadapi. Jelas-lah satu tolak ansor terpaksa di-chari dan Rang Undang² yang ada pada kita hari ini ia-lah hasil dari tolak ansor tersebut.

Rasa-nya baik-lah juga saya mene-gaskan dari awal² lagi bahawa BERNAMA bukan-lah sa-buah pertu-bohan berita Kerajaan. Ia-nya akan merupai sa-buah perbadanan bebas berdasarkan perkongsian di-antara akhbar² dan Jabatan² mass media Kerajaan. Tujuan BERNAMA bukan-lah hendak menapis atau menyekat berita². Sa-balek-nya tugas utama-nya ia-lah hendak mengembangkan aliran berita dengan lebeh banyak lagi di-dalam negeri mau pun di-luar negeri.

Ada banyak faedah² yang jelas akan di-perolehi dengan penubohan sharikat ini. Mithal-nya, di-Malaysia ini sekarang ada lebeh kurang 35 sharikat² akhbar yang terlalu kechil untuk mengator liputan berita di-seluruh negara. BERNAMA akan dapat membantu mereka dan melalui akhbar² itu ia-nya akan dapat memberi kapada pembacha²-nya gambaran yang lebeh luas mengenai perkara² yang berlaku di-tanah ayer kita ini.

Aliran berita di-antara Malaysia Barat dengan Malaysia Timor pada masa ini sangat²-lah tidak memuaskan. Salah satu jalan yang paling berkesan untuk menyatu dan memupokkan rasa persafahaman di-antara kedua-nya ia-lah dengan jalan mencheptakan lagi aliran penerangan di-antara kedua²-nya. Ini akan menjadi salah satu tugas² BERNAMA.

Perkhidmatan BERNAMA akan juga di-beri kapada Jabatan² Kerajaan saperti Jabatan² Radio, Talivishen dan Perkhidmatan Penerangan. Saya yakin di-dalam masa yang singkat sahaja BERNAMA akan dapat menjimatkan lagi perbelanjaan mendapatkan berita² bagi Jabatan² itu.

Satu lagi sumbangan penting BER-NAMA kelak ia-lah memberi gam-baran yang lebeh tepat dan jelas mengenai Malaysia di-luar negeri. Di-sini Ahli² Yang Berhormat tentu sedia ma'alum bagaimana pada masa² yang lepas sharikat² berita luar negeri telah memberi gambaran² yang salah atau menitekberatkan perkara² yang kechil sa-mata² untuk menchari kegemparan atau sensation semata² tanpa memper-dulikan fact² yang sa-benar-nya. Jadi

BERNAMA akan bersedia memberi perkhidmatan-nya kapada sharikat² Berita Antarabangsa dan juga wartawan² asing yang tidak dapat dengan sendiri-nya mengutip berita mengenai Malaysia dengan tepat dan betul.

Di-dalam perlembagaan BERNAMA ada di-sediakan syarat² yang mem-bolehkan BERNAMA membuat per-janjian² dengan lain² sharikat berita untuk bertukar² bahan² berita. Peratoran itu akan di-serahkan bulat² kapada kebijaksanaan Lembaga Pengurus BERNAMA. Lembaga itu juga boleh membuat peratoran², di-satu masa yang sesuai kelak, untuk menerima dan menyebarkan berita² dari luar negeri.

Ahli² Yang Berhormat sakalian tentu bersetuju dengan saya bahawa Sharikat sa-macham BERNAMA ini tidak-lah boleh di-dirikan sa-kali gus sahaja. Ia-nya akan di-tubuhkan di-dalam dua peringkat. Peringkat yang pertama ia-lah peringkat persediaan, di-mana hanya peralatan² yang asas atau basic sahaja akan di adakan. Di-dalam peringkat ini kegiatan BER-NAMA hanya terhad kapada Ibu Kota dan tempat² yang berhampiran dengan-nya sahaja. Hanya di-dalam peringkat yang kedua sahaja kegiatan-nya akan di-perbesarkan sa-hingga termasuk Sabah dan Sarawak di-samping negeri² di-seluruh Malaysia Barat ini. BER-NAMA boleh-lah di-katakan menjadi sa-buah sharikat yang dewasa di-dalam peringkat yang ketiga apabila liputan-nya akan meliputi di-seluruh cheroch dan rantau negara kita ini.

Alat² yang akan di-gunakan oleh Sharikat ini ia-lah alat² yang paling moden yang boleh di-perolehi untuk menjaminkan segala berita² yang di-keluarkan-nya akan sampai kapada akhbar² melalui taliprinter di-dalam beberapa minit sahaja.

Sekarang suka-lah saya berchakap sadikit mengenai susunan dan structure Pertubohan ini. Ia-nya akan di-seleng-garakan oleh sa-buah Lembaga Pengurus (Board of Governors) yang terdiri dari 10 orang ahli² dan sa-orang pengerusi. 5 orang ahli² Lembaga itu ada-lah terdiri dari wakil² akhbar yang

berlanggan dengan BERNAMA. Dari yang 5 lagi itu, 4 orang akan mewakili Radio Malaysia, Talivishen Malaysia, Jabatan Penerangan dan Perkhidmatan Penerangan Luar. Ahli yang kelima akan mewakili Kerajaan. Pengerusi Lembaga itu pula akan di-lantek oleh Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong di-atas nasihat Jema'ah Menteri. Surat² akhbar akan juga di-minta fikiran-nya mengenai lantekan ini.

Di-sini suka-lah saya mengumumkan bahawa semua akhbar² yang telah di-wakili di-dalam Jawatan-kuasa Kerja dan mereka termasuk-lah akhbar² yang besar di-negeri ini, telah menyatakan bahawa mereka akan menyertai BERNAMA. Saya yakin akhbar² lain juga akan bersama² berlanggan dengan BERNAMA kelak. Kita telah juga menerima jaminan² dari beberapa buah sharikat² berita dan badan² lain yang mereka juga akan berlanggan dengan BERNAMA.

Polisi atau dasar BERNAMA pula akan menjadi tanggung-jawab Lembaga Pengurus dengan sa-penoh²-nya dengan di-ta'alok hanya oleh perlembagaan-nya sendiri sahaja. Lembaga ini juga-lah yang bertanggung-jawab mengenai pengambilan kakitangan² BERNAMA.

Sa-lain daripada Lembaga Pengurus, BERNAMA juga akan mempunyai sebuah Majlis Pengelola (atau Supervisory Council) yang akan bertanggung-jawab mengawasi supaya BERNAMA akan patoh kepada Perlembagaan-nya sa-tiap masa. Majlis ini akan mengandongi lima orang yang terkemuka dan di-ketuai oleh sa-orang Hakim Mahkamah Tinggi.

Jika sa-kira-nya ada pelanggan² kepada BERNAMA yang merasai bahawa Pertubohan itu telah menchabuli atau pun telah tidak mematuhi tugas² dan dasar² asasi-nya, maka boleh-lah pelanggan itu membuat aduan kepada Majlis Pengelola tadi. Majlis itu akan mengadakan penyiasatan di-atas aduan tadi dan memberi keputusan-nya yang bertulis kepada Lembaga Pengurus. Jika di-arahkan oleh Majlis, Lembaga Pengurus mesti-lah pula menyiarkan keputusan² dan juga chadangan² Majlis Pengelola.

Tidak-lah dapat di-nafikan lagi bahawa dengan ada-nya Majlis ini segala kebimbangan akhbar², jika maseh ada, di-atas kebebasan akhbar di-negeri ini akan terhapus sama sekali.

Dari masa ka-masa kita mendengar suara² sumbang yang menyatakan bahawa Kerajaan Perikatan telah mengganggu kebebasan akhbar negeri ini. Kita tidak pernah berbuat demikian, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, tidak pun pernah berniat hendak berbuat demikian. Rang Undang² BERNAMA ini dengan jelas-nya menunjukkan kejujoran Kerajaan di-dalam hal ini. Sa-bagai yang di-ketahui, pelanggan² besar kelak ia-lah Jabatan² Kerajaan ia-itu Radio dan Talivishen. Jika Kerajaan bertujuan hendak mengawal BERNAMA sudah tentu dari mula² lagi ia akan bertegas supaya mempunyai ahli yang lebeh ramai di-dalam Lembaga Pengurus. Kita tidak mahu berbuat demikian kerana ini akan menyebabkan BERNAMA akan di-tuduh sa-bagai alat propaganda Kerajaan pula. Sa-balek-nya Kerajaan dengan segala senang hati bersetuju pehak² akhbar mempunyai suara yang sama dan lantekan Pengerusi pun mesti-lah di-buat sa-telah berunding dengan pehak akhbar.

Boleh jadi ada pula yang merasai Kerajaan terlalu banyak dan terlalu murah hati di-dalam hal ini. Kapada mereka saya katakan Kerajaan menyokong penubohan BERNAMA bukan kerana hendak mengawasi berita atau pun menahan-nya dengan memberi gambaran yang berat sa-belah. Sa-balek-nya Kerajaan senentiasa suka jika berita² yang benar dan menguntongkan negara pada kesuluruhan-nya di-sebar-kan dengan sa-banyak-nya.

Akhir-nya, suka-lah saya memberi sedikit penjelasan mengenai pindaan² kecil yang telah di-buat di-dalam Rang Undang² ini. Pindaan² ini tidak-lah mengubah sedikit pun dasar² atau tujuan² asal BERNAMA. Namun demikian saya telah mengadakan perundingan² lagi dengan wakil² akhbar dan persetujuan mereka telah pun di-beri supaya pindaan² kecil ini di-buat sa-belum di-kemukakan di-Dewan yang mulia ini. Sa-bagaimana yang saya kata

tadi BERNAMA telah di-persetujui hasil dari tolak ansor dan perasaan muhibbah semua pehak. Pindaan² kechil ini bertujuan hendak mengemaskan lagi perlembagaan-nya sesuai dengan kehendak² negara kita. Pindaan yang pertama ia-lah fasal 4 (c) yang berbunyi "to report truthfully and fairly such information, news or news material or features" yang menggantikan ayat yang asal dalam bahasa Ingeris "to report truthfully and fairly without prejudice to public and national interest the views of all sections of the population of the Federation". Saya perchaya semua Ahli² Yang Berhormat akan bersetuju dengan saya bahawa sudah-lah sewajar-nya semua ahli² Lembaga Pengurus itu patut-lah terdiri dari ra'ayat negeri ini sendiri. Ini dapat di-laksanakan dengan meminda Fasal 5 (2). Dengan pindaan² ini perlembagaan BERNAMA akan menjadi lebeh padat dan kemas lagi. Di-samping itu ia-nya akan dapat memenohi hasrat dan kehendak² semua golongan yang berkaitan.

BERNAMA tidak akan berjaya jika tidak ada rasa tolak ansor dan muhibbah di-antara semua pehak. Sayugia diingat apa² perlembagaan pun, baik bagi sa-buah negara mau pun pertubohan saperti BERNAMA ini, saperti saya katakan tadi, ada-lah buatan manusia belaka. Ia mempunyai kelemahan² dan kekurangan serta dapat pula di-beri tafsiran² mengikut kacha mata masing². Oleh yang demikian sangat-lah penting perasaan muhibbah itu senentiasa ada dan saya tidak shak lagi dengan perlembagaan ini dan perasaan goodwill atau muhibbah yang ada, BERNAMA tetap akan berjaya.

Akhir sa-kali, saya suka mengambil peluang ini untuk menyatakan penghargaan saya kepada semua ahli² Jawatan-kuasa Kerja dan kepada Mr Roy Otake dan terutama sa-kali Mr D. J. Dallas yang telah di-hantar oleh UNESCO untuk membantu kita. Mr Dallas memainkan peranan yang besar di-dalam menggubal perlembagaan BERNAMA dan akan berada di-sini untuk beberapa bulan lagi bagi membantu pelancharan-nya. Mereka semua telah bekerja keras untuk menyiapkan Perlembagaan ini, yang saya di-beri

tahu, ada-lah satu Perlembagaan yang baik dan mempunyai sifat² yang ber-sendirian dan yang akan dapat menjadi model atau chontoh terutama bagi negara baru merdeka saperti Malaysia yang belum mempunyai Pertubohan Berita-nya sendiri.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, dengan tertuboh-nya baru² ini Pusat Latehan Kewartawanan bagi Tenggara Asia di-Kuala Lumpur dan dengan lahir-nya pula Pertubohan Berita Nasional Malaysia atau BERNAMA ini, maka salangkah lagi negara kita berjaya dalam usaha-nya meninggikan taraf pemikiran dan pendidekan ra'ayat sesuai dengan kehendak dan perinsip² demokrasi yang menjadi landasan kemajuan dan kejayaan kita masa ini dan akan datang.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya mohon.

Setia-usaha Parlimen kepada Menteri Kesihatan (Tuan Ibrahim bin Abdul Rahman): Tuan, saya mohon menyokong Rang Undang² ini.

Dato' Haji Hussein bin Mohd. Noordin (Parit): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya dengan perasaan sukachita bangun dengan penoh minat menyokong Rang Undang² pertubohan Berita National Malaysia atau dengan kata pendek BERNAMA. Kerana dengan tertuboh-nya BERNAMA kelak akan memainkan peranan dan tanggung-jawab yang besar memberikan berita² sa-chara bijak dan adil. Sementara itu akan menjadi mirror atau chermin negara kita untuk alat² perhubungan di-antara negara kita dengan negara² luar. Saya berharap BERNAMA akan memberi perkhidmatan-nya yang memuaskan saperti agensi² asing yang ada dalam negeri kita saperti U.P.I. dan A.P.

Dengan izin Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya ingin menarek perhatian Dewan ini tentang ucapan Ahli² Yang Berhormat dari Pasir Mas Ulu dan anggota² Pembangkang di-masa Dewan mendebatkan Rang Undang² Bahasa Kebangsaan, mengenai tuduhan, bahawa Kerajaan menyekat kebebasan akhbar² untuk menyiarkan berita² tentang gulungan² tertentu terhadap Rang Undang² Bahasa Kebangsaan ini. Tuduhan Ahli² Yang Berhormat itu

ada-lah tidak berasas dan nyata-lah sa-bagai satu fitnah besar. Tuduhan yang saperti itu, mengikut pandangan saya, hanya terbit daripada angan² Ahli² Yang Berhormat itu sendiri. Saya tahu benar bahawa Kerajaan tidak pernah, pada sa-barang masa, menyekat kebebasan akhbar² yang menyiarkan barita² yang menentang Rang Undang² itu. Jika Ahli² Yang Berhormat berlaku adil sedikit, maka tentu-lah Ahli² Yang Berhormat mendapati bahawa semua akhbar² di-negeri ini telah menyiarkan sa-chara adil dan bijak segala ucapan² anggota² Pembangkang dan mendapat tempat yang sa-wajar. Bagaimana pun akhbar² ada-lah alat² perhubungan dengan orang ramai yang bertanggung-jawab terhadap keselamatan negara. Akhbar² yang bertanggung-jawab tentu-lah tidak akan melayan siaran yang provocative dan subversive yang boleh menimbulkan kachau bilau dan pertumpahan darah yang hanya akan merugikan nyawa dan harta benda ra'ayat samata². Akhar² ada-lah sama bertanggung-jawab memelihara dan mengekalkan keselamatan national kita.

Saya rasa tanggung-jawab akhbar terhadap keselamatan negara ini lebeh besar dan lebeh bertanggung-jawab dari kenyataan sa-tengah² anggota Pembangkang saperti Ahli Yang Berhormat itu sendiri, yang hanya membuat kenyataan untuk menimbulkan api kebencian dan kekachauan perpaduan ra'ayat negara kita ini.

Dr Tan Chee Khoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting in his short speech sought to assuage the fears and trepidations of the Press. If I remember correctly, he used the words, "Kita tidak mahu mengawas, mengawal, menahan berita di-Negeri kita"—words to that effect. Obviously, he must know that despite the assurances given by the Prime Minister himself, and despite the hand-outs from the Department of Information, the Press in this country are very perturbed over not what is written in the BERNAMA Bill but what are the hidden motives behind BERNAMA and I shall presently show this House that their fears are justified.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in this country life is hazardous and complicated enough for the ordinary citizens of this country. In this so-called free and democratic country, you have the heinous Internal Security Act, which seeks to make everyone a "goody-goody", or else he has to be an enforced guest of His Majesty's Government in either Batu Gajah or Muar. You also have the Letter of Suitability which seeks to keep the younger generation who aspire to enter our institutions of higher learning in order, and you have the Farmers' Association Act which looks after the rural folks to see that they behave well and to see that they toe the Alliance line.

The occupational hazards of newspapers, journalists and printers are equally great. If newspapers and printers print anything that is really frowned upon by the Government, they are liable to have their licences not renewed. And, Mr Speaker, Sir, there must be very few countries in the free world which requires their newspapers and printers to have their licences renewed annually, in order that they will behave or else, "You don't get your licences renewed". True, Mr Speaker, Sir, the renewal does not lie in the hands of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

As for the journalists, in addition to dodging flying bullets when they are present at a demonstration, they have the additional hazard of a fine, or imprisonment should they record such incidents wrongly. On the surface of it there is nothing wrong with our Press and there is no overt form of censorship apart from the annual renewal of licences that I have already mentioned. But, in reality, there is a subtle form of censorship that is obvious to both local citizens and foreigners alike.

One glaring example will suffice. During President Johnson's visit to Kuala Lumpur on 30th October, 1966, a person by the name of Ong Chong was shot dead. The local Press had taken excellent pictures of the corpse and, of course, had intended to print them. Alas, there was a phone call

from a high Government source and the Press next day did not carry a single picture of the corpse of Ong Chong, although it was terribly newsworthy. The Press had to obey the directive and be a "goody-goody", because every editor is reminded almost every day that his licence has to be renewed every year and he does not want his licence not renewed. Let us take the *Straits Times*. It has invested millions in this country and it cannot afford to take that chance.

Unfortunately, for the Alliance Government, the newspapers had already sold these pictures to the foreign correspondents—foreign news agencies that swarmed into Kuala Lumpur on that day. And so you have the Gilbert and Sullivan situation where the world Press on the 31st October, 1966, carried pictures of the corpse of Ong Chong but the newspapers of Malaysia did not dare to print a single picture of him. If that is not subtle censorship, if that is not a suppression of the freedom of the Press, I want to ask the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, what is suppression of the freedom of the Press?

Let the Alliance Government not kid or fool themselves. Practically every foreign newspaperman whom I have met knows the true state of affairs. While they are here, either as guests of the Government, or on a visitors pass, they are polite and quiet in public, but when they go back they expose the cant, the hypocrisy and the sham regarding the freedom of the Press in this country.

It is against this background, Mr Speaker, Sir, of the suppression of the freedom of the Press that one has to consider why this BERNAMA Bill has roused a great deal of anxiety amongst not only newspapers and journalists as well but also the public. They are all afraid that it may become another "Antara News" in this country.

On the surface of it, one cannot complain or cavil with this BERNAMA Bill. It reiterates the freedom of speech and expression embodied in the Declaration of the United Nations

Conference on Freedom of Information of 1948 and guaranteed in our Constitution as well.

The objects of this Bill are impeccable. It is true that this Bill has been talked of for the last four years, and no one can cavil with the Government on the need for a National News Agency. But it is the hidden motives, as I have stated before, or objects behind this Bill which are not recorded in this BERNAMA Bill that is worrying both newspapers and the public.

It is no secret that the Alliance Government is not at all happy with the way the newspapers and foreigners are handling news in this country. Mr Speaker, Sir, in this country the newspapers are practically mouth-pieces of the Department of Information. Everything that the Ministers say and do are faithfully reproduced in the newspapers, and this goes for what other Alliance "Big-wigs" say and do as well. Of course, Mr Speaker, Sir, every misdeed on their part—for example, visits to cabarets almost every night with different female companions or to massage parlours, etc., etc.—is carefully kept out of the Press. Not a word of scandal about Alliance "big-wigs" must appear in the press. And still the Alliance Government is not satisfied with our docile and insipid Press and seeks to control it further with this BERNAMA Bill.

I have already touched on one example of Press censorship in this country regarding the suppression of the printing of pictures of the corpse of Ong Chong. I shall now give another, if indeed further examples are needed.

This Budget Session has lasted since the 19th January, 1967. The Press in this country naturally prints, apart from what the Ministers say, speeches by Alliance backbenchers and Opposition Members. And in this battle for space in our newspapers a number of the Alliance have lost out to us, Members of the Opposition.

Thus one day a high Alliance personage met an equally high personage of the *Eastern Sun* and complained

of the space given to speeches of Opposition Members in the *Eastern Sun*. Then, Mr Speaker, Sir, *mirabile dictu*, wonderful to relate, for the next two days in succession the *Eastern Sun* carried only speeches by Alliance Ministers and by Mr Tan Toh Hong, Member for Bukit Bintang to the total exclusion of

Tuan Tan Toh Hong (Bukit Bintang): Before I ask my point of clarification, I am surprised that a parliamentarian like the Honourable Member for Batu should forget Standing Order 36 (5), which says:

“No member shall refer to any other member by name.”

I am surprised he did that. However, my point for clarification is, what day's publication of the *Eastern Sun* the Honourable Member is referring to?

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: If I have faulted, I merely wanted to repeat what the newspaper said. I have qualified myself by saying that the “Member for Bukit Bintang” I am not trying to derogate what the Honourable Member for Bukit Bintang said. The issues of the *Eastern Sun*, he can easily look at them.

Mr Speaker: You have committed a breach of the Standing Orders, though!

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: If I have committed, *mea culpa*, Mr Speaker, Sir!

Tuan Tan Toh Hong: Mr Speaker, Sir, he has not still answered my point of clarification, Sir. I asked what are the dates of the publication the Honourable Member referred to?

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: I have noticed particularly these two issues of the *Eastern Sun*—not only myself but lots of people have drawn my attention to these two issues. If the Honourable Member for Bukit Bintang wants, I can easily phone up either his office or his house to give him the dates of the two issues that I am referring to, if that will satisfy him.

Tuan Tan Toh Hong: Mr Speaker, Sir, it just goes to show that the Honourable Member for Batu has not

studied or thought about whatever he wants to say in this House carefully and properly. He does not even know the dates of the publication and yet he makes allegations in this House. Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this shows that what he says is most vague, and I would ask the Honourable Member to withdraw those statements that he said just now.

Mr Speaker: Under those circumstances, since you cannot testify your statement, I think you better withdraw it!

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to withdraw. I will produce to you the two copies of the *Eastern Sun*

Mr Speaker: It is not enough producing them to me at a later date. It is *now* that you must give the dates.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: It appeared in the *Eastern Sun* in the middle of the week before last. It appeared in the *Eastern Sun* on two successive dates. Unfortunately, if he wants me to work backwards, I can easily work backwards (*Laughter*). It is about the 1st and the 2nd of this month.

Tuan Tan Toh Hong: Mr Speaker, Sir, it just goes to show that he was not sure of what he was saying and since he is bringing up this point in this debate, I think this House is entitled to know here and now which days of publication he is referring to. But, Sir, I have the issue of the *Eastern Sun* here—I do not have all the issues of the *Eastern Sun*—of February the 21st, 1967. On page 2, I see that mistakes are being made in the paper, and one must understand that human beings are subject to errors and mistakes, but in this February 21st issue, in the headline itself, they have spelt my surname wrongly and they called me “Mr Toh”—I am not “Mr Toh”; and I found that in the February 21st issue of the *Eastern Sun*, I have been attributed to have made a lot of points on rent control. The whole publication is here, but what I found is that the names of, I think, three or four

Honourable Members of Parliament who made speeches were, unfortunately, left out—while their speeches were published, their names were left out. Since they published my speech and then followed it by the speeches of other Honourable Members of Parliament where names were left out, it could be mistaken that I made the whole lot, when, in fact, it was actually made by three or four Members. Unfortunately, the names of three or four Members of Parliament have been left out in the paper, and mistakes are being made by the paper, and I sincerely urge the Honourable Member for Batu to study carefully what he has to bring to this House. Thank you, Sir.

Mr Speaker: It is the rule of the House that whenever you make a statement, that you are able to verify your statement; otherwise don't make it!

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Yes, I am able to testify. If you yourself want, or the Member for Bukit Bintang wants, I can easily give the exact dates.

Mr Speaker: Are you prepared to stop your speech now and continue after you have verified that point?

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: No, Mr Speaker, if the Member for Bukit Bintang wants, I will give him the dates. I can provide him with dates, but I do not see how that is that important. I am merely trying to illustrate the control of the Press, and if I did mention the name of the Member for Bukit Bintang, it is just incidental.

Mr Speaker: It may not be important to you, but it seems to be important to the Honourable Member on the other side of the House, since it is a castigation on his ability or character.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: No, Sir. I want to make it quite clear. I am not casting aspersions on the integrity of the Member, because I state a "high official", not the Member for Bukit Bintang—"and an equally high personage of the *Eastern Sun*". I want to make it clear that I was not referring

to the Honourable Member for Bukit Bintang, if that will satisfy him. I was not referring to the Member for Bukit Bintang in connection with that directive.

Tuan Tan Toh Hong: Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker: (To *Dr Tan Chee Khoon*) He seems to be satisfied.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Against such a backdrop, can we blame both the Press and the public if they suspect the objects of BERNAMA?

Now, what are the genuine fears of the Press and the public? One is that this is a subtle form of censorship. At his post-Cabinet Press Conference held on 16th November, 1966, the Prime Minister referred to the proposed establishment of a Malaysian News Agency which would be of considerable value in telling the world at large the facts about Malaysia. In addition, it would also be collecting and disseminating news within the country effectively. He also pointed out that factual reports issued by BERNAMA would eliminate erroneous ones carelessly sent out of the country by correspondents of publications overseas. BERNAMA would look at the news before it was sent out for world consumption. I quote,

"Any discrepancy found between a report issued by the national news agency and the one sent out by a private correspondent would naturally be investigated by the editor concerned and only the correct version would get to be published."

May I repeat these words of the Prime Minister:

"Only the correct version would get to be published."

May I also in passing ask, correct version in the eyes of whom? Correct version in the eyes of the Department of Information, in the eyes of the Government or in the eyes of BERNAMA? And I shall come to BERNAMA's composition a little while later. If this is not a crude form of censorship, I want to know what is.

This naturally led to inquiries as to whether the Prime Minister had said that news reports going out of the country would be censored with the

establishment of BERNAMA. The next day, the Government realising the fear that has struck the hearts of the Press both here and abroad quickly through Mr Ali Thambyrajah, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, denied that at the aforesaid Press Conference the Prime Minister, suggested news censorship of any kind. The credibility gap of the Alliance Government is so bad and wide that one has to and must suspect every statement made by the Alliance Government.

It is no use the Alliance Government denying that it will not use BERNAMA as a subtle form of censorship. It has stated that local correspondents of foreign news agencies can co-exist with BERNAMA. Let BERNAMA not interfere with the work of foreign news agencies that exist in this country. And let the Government assure both the local and foreign Press that one of the functions of BERNAMA is not to see that only the correct version would be published. This crudely means that if there are two versions of any story, the correct version will be that by BERNAMA and hence its version will only be allowed to be sent out of this country. This, of course, also assumes that the other version by any local news agency of the foreign Press is incorrect and hence cannot and will not be allowed to be sent out, or that the stories going out will be vetted and watered down by BERNAMA. This, of course, is a crude form of censorship and one that any foreign news agency worth its salt will not accept. They will rather close down and move out of the country rather than submit to this form of censorship. If the Government is interested in truth, then time will tell who is telling the truth. "What is truth?" said Jesting Pilate, and would not stay for an answer. Shakespeare in one of his sonnets said:

"Time's glory is to calm contending kings.
To unmask falsehood and bring truth to light."

In the Apocrypha it is written:

"Magna Est Veritas et praevalet."

freely translated it means:

"Great is Truth and it prevails."

The Government must not assume that BERNAMA's version is the correct and truthful one and that any other version of the story is incorrect. Only time will tell.

The other genuine fear is that BERNAMA will be used as a form of censorship of incoming news. This is particularly so, if all incoming news has, with the passage of this Bill, to be channelled through BERNAMA. Let me give some examples. When we debated the Development Estimates, I quoted a *London Times* story that our defence plans were too ambitious and costly. I got this story not from reading the *London Times* but from the *Straits Times* which carried this story. Then some months ago the *Straits Times* carried an Associated Press story from the *Manila Times* that Malaysia was a Police State. Clearly, both these stories annoyed the Alliance Government. What the Press in this country and the public are afraid is that with the establishment of BERNAMA there will be censorship of incoming news, so that the two stories that I have quoted will be blacked out from the local Press. This will mean that we will in future live in a fool's paradise, for we will not know what the foreign Press thinks or says of us. Let the Government state categorically that there will be no censorship of incoming news and that the local Press can still subscribe to the various news agencies that still exist in this country.

Another anxiety of the Press relates to Section 4 (1) (c). In the original draft Bill it reads, "to report truthfully and fairly without prejudice to the public and national interest the views of all sections of the population in the Federation". In the Bill introduced to the House on 26th January, 1967, the words "to report truthfully and fairly the views of all sections of the population of the Federation" were omitted. This, of course, relieves the agency, that is BERNAMA, of the duty of reporting impartially the views of all sections of the population. Then, in the Bill before us here today, the words "without prejudice to the public and national interest" were omitted.

These amendments, of course, have struck consternation in the heart of the Press both locally and abroad. A national news agency to be of any use must be committed wholeheartedly and specifically to the reporting of the views of all sections of the population. I am glad that the Minister of Information and Broadcasting has seen the truth and the light and has brought an amendment which has restored the original Section 4 (1) (c).

This Bill, Mr Speaker, Sir, was drafted by Mr D. J. Dallas, a UNESCO expert. Now, Mr Dallas was a former Reuters man and wherever he has gone he has been able to sell Reuters to the national news agencies of the countries concerned. It is no secret that Reuters will be absorbed into BERNAMA once it is established. Let the Government give an assurance, again I call on it, that in doing so other news agencies will not be excluded from the presentation of news in this country.

It is also well-known that the mass media, T.V. and Radio Malaysia, very often plays down, if not completely excludes the views of the Members of the Opposition. Thus, in the recent debate on the National Language Act the long speech by the Member for Pasir Puteh was blacked out by Radio and T.V. Malaysia. If BERNAMA is to be an impartial body as it purports to be, then can we have an assurance from the Minister that there will not be Governmental interference and that the views of the Opposition Members and Opposition Parties will have an impartial hearings?

There is the other fear that interviews with the Press by Ministers, and in particular by the Prime Minister, will be curtailed, if not stopped altogether, and that all news will be channelled through BERNAMA. Already there is a start in this direction because often, when the Press want to interview either Ministers or high Government Officials, they have been referred to the D.O.I., i.e., the Department of Information. Let the Prime Minister and the Minister of Information and Broadcasting assure this

House that this will not be so with the establishment of BERNAMA.

It is obvious that there are very few people in this country qualified to staff BERNAMA. If it is necessary let us not be afraid to get experts to help us staff BERNAMA temporarily. Let me make myself quite clear that they must really be experts who must have experience in manning such a national news agency and that they are only here to help out local personnel. And in the recruitment of local staff, let there not be jobs for the boys in UMNO, M.C.A. and M.I.C. Lots of them fancy themselves to be very good reporters or correspondents. If BERNAMA were to do so, it will be a laughing stock to the Press both here and abroad and no one abroad will, I am sure, subscribe to it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister just now referred very briefly to the composition of the Board of Governors. It is stated that the Chairman will be appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, there will be six representatives from the Government and six from the Press. Let us have an assurance from the Minister that the Chairman will be not a former or a present member of any of the component parts of the Alliance Party. That the Chairman will be a person well versed in newspaper work because one hears of so many Alliance big-wigs being tipped as Chairman of BERNAMA. The other thing is that I myself feel that the Government composition in this is overloaded, and that if BERNAMA is to live up to its expectation in this Bill then the Governmental representation should be cut down and that of the Press increased because they have no axe to grind.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, Sir, let the Government give us an assurance in this House that BERNAMA will not be a subtle form of censorship either coming in or going out or of domestic news agencies in this country will be allowed to co-exist side by side with BERNAMA. Let the Government not enchain the Press in this country. Let the Government free the Press of this

country from the chains of bondage that it is now encompassed, so that we in this country will truly have a free Press. Thank you.

Tuan Haji Othman bin Abdullah (Hilir Perak): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya memberikan sokongan saya kepada Rang Undang² Pertubuhan Berita National Malaysia ini yang telah di-kemukakan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri sa-bentar tadi, dan di-dalam ucapan beliau telah menyatakan betapa mustahak dan penting-nya satu Berita National bagi Malaysia ini patut wujud di-dalam sa-buah negara yang merdeka seperti Malaysia ini.

Memang, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, sa-patut-nya berita nasional kita yang seperti ini, patut sudah ada sa-waktu kita lahir lagi menjadi sa-buah negara yang merdeka, sama seperti negara² lain yang telah merdeka, mempunyai berita nasional-nya sendiri, di-mana berita nasional-nya itu dapat memainkan peranan bukan sahaja bagi menggambarkan keadaan negara itu di-dalam negeri-nya sendiri, tetapi memberikan gambaran yang jelas tentang negara itu ka-luar negeri.

Telah menjadi pengalaman kita 10 tahun merdeka ini, banyak gambaran² di-Malaysia ini yang telah di-wartakan ka-luar negeri dengan bentok yang kabor², sa-hingga ia merupakan tidak senang kita membacanya dan tidak senang telinga kita mendengar-nya. Ini ia-lah kerana semua kejadian² atau pun bentok negara kita ini, kita serahkan sahaja kepada berita luar negeri untuk memberikan laporan tentang negeri kita ini, yang bagi mereka mempunyai dasar pula, ia-itu untuk kepentingan negara mereka dan untuk kepentingan berita yang mereka kutip daripada negeri kita ini. Dan tidak dapat kita kesalkan kalau sa-kira nya mereka, atau pun pemberita² dari berita luar negeri itu, menchari sa-suatu berita yang boleh menimbulkan pandangan luar negeri kepada negeri kita ini.

Sa-umpama mithal-nya banyak-nya, atau pun kejadian² waktu lawatan Presiden Johnson di-Malaysia ini, yang Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Batu telah

menyebutkan tadi, di-mana kata dia dalam negeri ini tidak ada suatu surat khabar pun yang telah menyiarkan berita kejadian itu, dan tidak pula pernah menyiarkan gambar di-mana sa-orang ahli daripada Parti Buroh telah terbunuh oleh kerana tunjok perasaan itu. Dan saya harap Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Batu, yang tadinya telah menudoh surat² khabar negeri ini tidak bebas, tolong ambil ingatan—sa-benar-nya, ada gambar yang telah di-siarkan, chuma malang-nya Yang Berhormat itu tak pandai barangkali membaccha tulisan jawi, atau pun tidak mengikuti semua surat khabar, atau Political Secretary dia bergaji dengan tidak bekerja, maka dia berchakap salah di-dalam Dewan ini mengatakan bahawa gambar-nya tidak di-siarkan.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, boleh jadi berita² yang seperti itu-lah yang di-ambil oleh berita² luar negeri untuk menarek perhatian luar negeri kepada kejadian² yang ada dalam negeri kita ini, yang pada pandangan kita merugikan kita sendiri dan merugikan kepentingan nasional kita. Maka oleh kerana itu, nasib kita ini dari sudut berita, tidak-lah dapat kita serahkan kepada berita² luar negeri sa-mata² dengan tidak kita sendiri mempunyai berita nasional kita sendiri, yang melaporkan kedudukan yang sa-benar-nya dalam negeri ini.

Telah terang di-nyatakan, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, di-dalam Fasal 4 tentang tujuan² daripada berita BERNAMA ini yang tujuan-nya ia-lah hendak memberikan penjelasan dengan sa-benar, hendak memberikan penjelasan dengan betul-nya, dengan tidak ada berat sa-belah dan kerana kepentingan negeri dan kerana kepentingan nasional. Tuan Yang di-Pertua, telah kita ketahuī dan telah di-berikan jaminan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri, bahawa berita ini akan benar dan chara yang akan di-lakukan di-dalam pemberitaannya itu ia-lah Board of Governor berita BERNAMA itu sendiri, terdiri daripada beberapa orang yang di-pandang penting macham orang² surat khabar, daripada Radio dan T.V. dan daripada orang Kerajaan sendiri, yang

Pengerusi-nya kita harapkan tidak daripada orang surat khabar dan tidak daripada Radio dan Talivishen dan tidak pula daripada Kerajaan, tetapi orang yang tengah² yang akan dapat memberikan pemikiran yang adil tentang pemberitaan itu.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, sa-bagaimana yang di-katakan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri, bahawa kita mustahak dan perlu sa-kali mempunyai berita nasional kita, yang kita namakan dengan BERNAMA ini, supaya hal² yang berlaku di-dalam negeri ini akan dapat kita berikan gambaran² yang jelas-nya ka-luar negeri. Tidak saperti yang berlaku sekarang ini di-mana kebebasan² akhbar itu maseh ada. Tidak ada suatu undang² yang menyekat kebebasan² akhbar atau kebebasan² berita² luar negeri, yang dudok di-Ibu Kota ini melaporkan apa sahaja yang mereka temui dan apa sahaja yang mereka dengar. Tetapi, bagi kita adalah wajib, ada-lah mustahak bagi kita sendiri mengeluarkan berita yang sumber-nya saheh dan benar daripada berita BERNAMA ini. Dengan demikian akan menghilangkan banyak kekeliruan keadaan kita di-luar negeri.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, image Malaysia ka-luar negeri, beberapa tahun yang lalu ini, telah di-kaburkan oleh orang², terutama sa-kali orang² yang telah di-upah oleh sa-sabuah parti politik untuk memenangi parti politik-nya di-luar negeri. Pernah orang² luar negeri, atau pun orang² yang tidak mempunyai kepentingan di-dalam negeri ini, memberitakan atau mencheritakan kedudukan sejarah tanah ayer kita ini sa-bagai chontoh di-kemukakan-nya bahawa orang Melayu ini tidak mempunyai sejarah-nya sendiri. Orang² Melayu kata-nya, berasal daripada lanun² di-laut, perompak² dan sa-umpama-nya. Gambaran yang saperti itu, di-kemukakan dan di-buat oleh orang² yang tidak mempunyai kepentingan-nya dalam negeri ini tetapi mempunyai kepentingan kewangan daripada parti politik yang hendak memenangi negeri ini dan yang hendak menguasai negeri ini dengan memberikan sumbangan atau memberikan wang kepada orang luar negeri menunjokkan

betapa jahat-nya orang Melayu yang telah menjadi bangsa yang merdeka itu.

Pada satu masa dahulu hal ini telah berlaku dalam negeri kita dan ini menjadi suatu sejarah yang gelap di-dalam kewartawanan yang telah di-lakukan oleh wartawan² yang tidak adil, yang tidak menggunakan pemikiran dan pandangan-nya yang adil, yang sempurna untuk kepentingan nasional. Dan oleh kerana ini-lah pada fahaman saya, Yang Berhormat Menteri tadi menerangkan patut-nya berita ini sudah lama di-keluarkan, tetapi oleh kerana hal² teknik dan sa-umpama-nya jangan-lah kita mengadakan hanya atas nama ada sahaja, dengan tidak mendatangkan kesan. Maka nampak-nya makan masa yang agak lama juga sa-hingga dia lahir-lah suatu berita nasional kita yang akan kita beri nama dengan BERNAMA itu. Dan perkakas² yang akan di-gunakan, kita Menteri Yang Berhormat tadi, ia-lah perkakas² dan alat² yang terlalu modern yang hendak di-pesan untuk kegunaan BERNAMA ini. Kita mengharap, dan kita mendo'akan supaya BERNAMA benar² menjadi lidah ra'ayat Malaysia, bukan lidah daripada satu² parti politik, pandangan ra'ayat Malaysia, bukan pandangan daripada satu² parti politik, pandangan dan chita² negara Malaysia, bukan pandangan dan chita² daripada negara yang luar daripada Malaysia.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, tentang kebebasan akhbar yang menjadi keraguan oleh sa-tengah² Ahli Yang Berhormat tadi, yang mungkin akan di-tekan oleh Rang Undang² ini, atau oleh Kerajaan, di-sebabkan kata-nya, akan tertekan-lah segala berita² yang hendak di-siarkan di-dalam surat khabar. Pada fahaman saya sendiri, pemberita² di-surat² khabar sekarang ini tidak-lah tersekat, dengan ada-nya Rang Undang² ini. Mereka boleh menjadi pemberita bebas juga di-mana² di-dalam negeri ini. Dan mereka boleh mengambil dan mengutip berita di-mana juga di-dalam negeri ini untuk surat khabar mereka. Tetapi bagi kita, BERNAMA ini ia-lah sumber berita yang saheh yang hendak kita keluar-kan dari dalam negeri ini ka-luar

negeri, supaya jangan-lah orang lain menggunakan kesempatan untuk mengaborkan keadaan kita di-Malaysia ini. Jadi soal pemberita² surat khabar di-dalam negeri ini tidak timbul sama sa-kali. Tidak patut di-ragukan saperti-lah juga Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Batu meragukan² tentang perbahathan tentang Rang Undang² Bahasa Kebangsaan yang baharu kita luluskan ini, yang kata-nya tadi, Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Pasir Puteh berchakap berbueh² mulut-nya, berjam², tak dapat berita pun di-dalam talivishen, tetapi mendapat berita yang lain pula.

Tetapi, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kita hendak-lah merasakan adil—adil di-dalam pemberitaan. Mithal-nya pada satu waktu, Yang Teramat Mulia Tunku Perdana Menteri beruchap. Dan waktu itu juga Ahli dari Hilir Perak beruchap. Yang mana satu berita yang patut di-siarkan di-dalam talivishen, Ahli dari Hilir Perak punya berita-kah yang mesti di-kemukan atau Perdana Menteri di-belakang. Atau Perdana Menteri harus di-kemukakan dan berita dari Hilir Perak di-cancel, ditinggal, di-black-outkan sahaja. Pada fahaman saya adil rasa-nya kalau berita daripada sa-orang Ahli itu di-tiadakan asalkan saja ucapan atau pun penerangan daripada Perdana Menteri yang memegang tampok Kerajaan negeri ini di-siarkan dengan begitu luas.

Siaran di-dalam Talivishen tentang persidangan Dewan Ra'ayat ini hanya memakan masa 10 minit bahasa kebangsaan dan barangkali juga 10 minit bahasa Inggeris. Saya rasa 10 minit hendak menceritakan semua peristewaya yang ada di-dalam Dewan Ra'ayat ini semua sa-kali cherita hendak di-cheritakan dalam 10 minit, rasa saya, agak susah sadikit sedangkan Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Pasir Puteh mithal-nya dia berchakap 1½ jam, Perdana Menteri berchakap 1 jam dan yang lain² berchakap berjam² jadi di-dalam berjam² ini 10 minit hendak di-terangkan bagaimana, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kita hendak melakukan keadilan tentang ini. Jadi untuk menimbangkan soal itu mana yang mustahak-nya kita harus-lah mengemukakan dahulu, terutama sa-kali tentang Rang Undang² Bahasa Kebangsaan itu

dan atas alasan yang saperti itu, rasa saya, tidak munasabah sedangkan di-dalam surat khabar, di-dalam *Utusan Melayu* mithal-nya, ucapan Yang Berhormat dari Pasir Puteh memakan muka hampir satu muka. Kalau sa-kira-nya satu muka *Utusan Melayu* itu di-berikan kepada Rothmans mithal-nya, Rothmans akan membayar lima ribu ringgit satu muka tetapi Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Pasir Puteh mithal-nya satu sen tak bayar kepada *Utusan Melayu* tetapi mendapat muka yang penoh di-dalam siaran *Utusan Melayu*. Bukan-kah ini menunjukkan bahawa kita ini juga mempunyai kebebasan di-dalam akhbar melaporkan apa saja.

Bukan saja itu, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, bukan saja di-dalam soal² saperti itu sa-hingga-nya bagaimana tunjok perasaan atau pun perasaan yang liar yang berlaku di-Kolej Islam, mithal-nya, yang hari ini di-siarkan di-dalam surat khabar *Utusan Melayu* juga di-siarkan oleh surat khabar *Utusan Melayu* kerana mereka menentang Rang Undang² Bahasa Kebangsaan. Ini satu chontoh bagaimana negeri ini mengamalkan demokrasi dan memberi kebebasan kepada surat² khabar menjalankan peranan-nya di-dalam pemberitaan. Tetapi pada fahaman saya, di-dalam Rang Undang² BERNAMA ini tidak langsung di-chuba hendak menyekat kebebasan pemberita² atau pun kebebasan surat khabar dalam penyiaran yang ada dalam negeri ini hanya manakala dia hendak di-beritakan keluar negeri maka dia merupakan satu berita BERNAMA yang sumber-nya saheh, betul dan dapat di-perchaya² tidak saperti wartawan² janggut yang hanya melaporkan apa yang di-dengar-nya saja atau pun yang di-sogokkan oleh tuan-nya kerana dia telah menerima bayaran daripada-nya. Bukan kerana itu, itu sa-bagai satu chontoh saja, Tuan Yang di-Pertua.

Maka oleh kerana itu, kebimbangan² di-dalam Rang Undang² tentang berita nasional Malaysia ini, pada faham saya, tidak-lah patut di-bimbangkan sama sa-kali oleh kerana tujuan-nya tidak berat sa-belah bukan oleh kerana Parti Perikatan, bukan oleh kerana

sa-suatu parti politik tetapi kerana nasional, kerana kebangsaan, dan sukachita saya mendengar-nya, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, oleh kerana Yang Berhormat Menteri telah menyatakan didalam Dewan yang mulia ini bahawa surat² khabar dan sharikat² akhbar telah memberi sokongan-nya yang penoh kepada berita BERNAMA ini dan juga Kerajaan akan memberi bantuan yang sa-perlu-nya untuk berita BERNAMA ini maka dengan demikian kedua² pehak ini telah sa-kata, telah setuju demi kepentingan nasional dan berita negeri kita, maka dua pehak yang mengeluarkan surat khabar dan satu pehak lagi daripada Kerajaan telah sa-pakat membuat nama berita nasional kita ini dengan nama BERNAMA ini dan daripada sumber itu-lah di-harapkan gambaran negeri kita ka-keluar negeri akan bertambah cherah dan akan tidak di-ragu²kan oleh orang dari luar negeri. Oleh kerana itu, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya menyokong Rang Undang² ini.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua: Persidangan di-tempohkan sa-lama 15 minit.

Sitting suspended at 11.40 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 12 noon.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

RANG UNDANG² PERTUBOHAN BERITA NATIONAL MALAYSIA

Second Reading

Debate resumed.

Tuan C. V. Devan Nair (Bungsar): Mr Speaker, Sir, whatever soothing noises are made in this House, the uneasy suspicion will remain in many sections of the community, in some cases amounting to certitude, that the real intention of BERNAMA was to realise the prophecy about "one voice" uttered by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting in this Chamber on a number of occasions. If BERNAMA were to evolve in this direction, just like national news agencies in other countries, then the public must be ready to face the eventual prospect of all doors being closed except for such

chinks of light as may be beamed through BERNAMA Productions Limited. If we really believe in an open society and in the free dissemination of news, then, I submit, there would be no need for BERNAMA.

The proclamation that the object of the news agency is to present "complete, objective and impartial information on matters of national and public interest", is an irrelevant bit of piety. As far as I know, this is also the proclaimed objective of other news agencies dedicated to the sustenance of one voice, a voice, which I am convinced in this particular case, would sound very much like that of the Alliance. I submit that the real purpose of this very expensive outfit will not be to disseminate objective news, but doctored news.

In a way, the advent of BERNAMA is consistent with a party and a Government which is becoming more and more unsure of its ability to win in the battle of ideas. There may be a case for containing and conscribing through legislation those who seek to win political power and influence by unconstitutional and violent means. Naked force, terror and intimidation must be met by legitimate force. But BERNAMA, I submit, is a kind of emergency regulations to win in the battle of ideas. This BERNAMA will seek to do by ensuring that only "one voice" is heard by the people, and that only one set of ideas reaches them. True, BERNAMA has not closed as yet all doors that open out to other ideas, other landscapes, but I have little doubt that these other doors will also be closed, little by little. They must be, otherwise BERNAMA cannot achieve its objective.

Once people know that BERNAMA is a vehicle for doctored news, and once people realise that it is no more than a factory for Alliance propaganda, they will turn hungrily for truth and enlightenment to other windows—even if only no more than a chink of light is allowed to filter through them. So, we may expect pressure from the supporters of BERNAMA for the closing of all

other doors. Only when all other doors are so shut, so it will be argued, will the people be obliged to turn their sullen gaze to the light of presumed truth shed by BERNAMA.

Even now, a great many thinking people are aware that our newspapers and radio are not altogether reliable guides to truth. It is not merely that news are selective (for neither newspapers nor radio nor television can publish all the news they have), but that there is an increasing tendency to select news with a view to misleading the public about realities. That is why a great many people turn to gossip and rumours to supplement the deficient fare served out by newspapers and the even more deficient fare served out by radio and T.V. Though generally gossip and rumours are unreliable, it is significant that they tend to become increasingly accurate and reliable. In recent months, many members of the public picked up gossip and rumours of significance, such as the recent one about the Malayan Banking, which were picked up by newspapers weeks and months later.

The advent of BERNAMA will in a way defeat the purposes of BERNAMA. Far from people turning to the newspapers and radio for reliable news, they will lose such little faith as they have in the reliability of newspapers and radio, especially when the news items they carry bear the imprint of BERNAMA. As for foreign newspapers and agencies, I do not see them turning to BERNAMA for "complete, impartial and objective news" unless, of course, the Government eventually gets rid of foreign correspondents and foreign news agencies.

I am not saying, Sir, that all news by BERNAMA will be unreliable. I will have no reason to doubt their weather forecasts or the golf results or news which are not worth doctoring. The sin that BERNAMA is likely to commit will be the sin of concealment or distortion in the interests of the Alliance Government.

It is a matter for regret that a newspaper like the *Straits Times*, for

example, has not so far acknowledged that a Government-sponsored news agency, whatever its proclaimed objectives may be, must become an instrument for producing a servile and an inert press. BERNAMA, as at present constituted, is an unequal alliance in which the Press has been mobilised, with no more than a whimper from them, to serve the Alliance. If there has been so far no spirited criticism by the Press of this Bill, it is largely because they have allowed themselves to be beaten into a pulp of subservience long before this Bill made its appearance.

For many years past, Sir, newspapers like the *Straits Times* had played up to the Alliance at the expense of other legitimate Opposition interests, in the belief that by being servile to the Alliance, they could still preserve some remnants of a free Press. I have no doubt that this was the motive, and I can well sympathise with newspapers which have to zig-zag in this fashion to preserve the diminishing freedoms they believe in. A newspaper, after all, is a complex and sensitive enterprise, involving large capital outlays. It is not always easy for a newspaper to resist the pressures of an intolerant Government. The price of maintaining a free Press dedicated to truth and impartiality may be no Press at all, and it needs newspaper proprietors and editors with greater dedication to the values of a free Press than to profits. All this, I understand, but that should not preclude me from pointing out that with the advent of BERNAMA, the Press has conceded that it has chosen to survive at any price—even at the price of casting aside all pretence of a free and impartial Press.

Our Press has given in so much and so often to pressures that it has lost the will to be free, or stand up in the defence of its interests. If newspapers adhere to the real purposes of BERNAMA, then it is only a matter of time before they cease to be newspapers and become news-vendors—that is, men dedicated not to the dissemination of significant news, but merely to the buying and selling of news in the most profitable and safest

fashion. It will require journalists and editors of great dedication and self-respect to be able to preserve the dignity of a free Press, now that BERNAMA has been launched. Instead of newspapers, dedicated to the impartial and the fearless dissemination of meaningful news and judgments, we will get newspapers versed in the arts of concealment and sycophancy.

As I said, I am well aware that newspapers here have had to work under difficult circumstances. It needs courage to be impartial in the face of a Government which divides the nation into two classes—the loyal citizens who invariably support Government, and the disloyal ones who do not. It is a Government which does not believe in the free conflict of ideas as a means of getting at the truth. It resents criticisms, not only within Malaysia, but criticisms of it, outside Malaysia—for example, in the British and in the Australian Press. Given such a Government and such an attitude local newspapers have tended to sacrifice objectivity and truth and fairness, in order to be on the right side of the Government on whom they depend for the annual renewal of their licences. Such tactics have resulted in the Government making more and more demands on newspapers to depart from the canons of objectivity and fairness. Whenever newspapers, including the *Straits Times*, showed some spirit, there were Alliance backbenchers to make demands that this or that newspaper should be proceeded against for the newspaper concerned to relapse into servility, silence and sycophancy.

Now, at long last, the Government has sufficiently conditioned the Press for it to become involved in BERNAMA. No newspaper man, Sir, really believes that BERNAMA is there to help the Press to be more objective and impartial. It is there to harness the Press to move in a more disciplined fashion in the direction which the Government decides. The Press knows, newspaper men know, that with the advent of BERNAMA, newspaper readers will be inclined to place even less credence on news and views bearing the BERNAMA imprint. The Press

must, therefore, increasingly fall into disrepute as a source of sound and impartial information. As in other countries, where the regimented Press and the radio have become objects of suspicion, people will turn to rumours, gossip and foreign newspapers, and radio for reliable information and understanding. They will know that not all the news that are fit to print will get into the newspapers, and those that do are not fit to print in any case.

It is going to be difficult, therefore, for newspapers to maintain a reputation for integrity and honesty, living as they do under the shadow of BERNAMA. They will need far more strength of character and respect for the values of a free Press, values of their profession, to maintain even the little independence of spirit they have shown so far. If, on the other hand, they eventually capitulate absolutely, they become, as I said, not newspapers but news-vendors. On all these counts, Sir, I am obliged to register the most vehement protest against this Bill.

Tan Sri Nik Ahmad Kamil (Kota Bharu Hilir): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya berdiri ini ia-lah kerana hendak mengalu²kan pembentangan Rang Undang² yang hendak mendirikan Pertubuhan Berita Nasional Malaysia. Saya semenjak pagi tadi dan sa-kejap ini telah mendengar ucapan daripada dua orang Ahli Yang Berhormat daripada bangku Pembangkang, sa-orang daripada-nya ia-lah Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Batu. Dalam ucapan-nya tadi, sungguh pun beliau mengaku bahawa pada luar-nya kata-nya Rang Undang² BERNAMA ini tidak ada-lah menunjukkan apa² kechachatan, tetapi di-belakang-nya ada-lah niat² yang tidak baik daripada pehak Kerajaan.

Demikian juga Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Bungsar yang baharu ini berchakap dan sekarang ini telah under keluar daripada Dewan ini telah menuduh Kerajaan berkenaan Rang Undang² ini dengan beberapa tuduhan yang pada anggapan saya sangat²-lah melampau. Ada-kah dia itu boleh menganggap bahawa pehak surat² khabar yang telah bersekutu dengan Kerajaan merundingkan Rang Undang²

ini sa-bagitu bodoh yang mereka itu boleh menerima Rang Undang² ini yang telah di-gubalkan dengan pertolongan sa-orang pakar yang telah mahir, yang biasa mengadakan undang² mendirikan sa-buah Pertubohan Berita Nasional sa-umpama yang kita chadangkan hendak di-tubuhkan sekarang ini? Ini sa-memang lazim-lah perkataan² yang sa-umpama itu keluar daripada pehak Pembangkang di-dalam Dewan ini. Mereka sa-mata² membangkang kerana sebab hendak membangkang sahaja atau sebab kerana faedah sendiri atau pun faedah satu² puak.

Pada anggap saya dengan pembentangan Rang Undang² ini, Kerajaan kita, Kerajaan Perikatan, telah memberi isi dan ma'ana kepada negara kita yang berdaulat dan merdeka ini. Tujuan yang sa-benar-nya betapa-kah di-adakan Undang² ini memang telah di-sebutkan dengan terus terang di-dalam huraian kepada Rang Undang² ini. Dengan hendak di-tuduhkan Kerajaan Perikatan hendak menggunakan Pertubohan BERNAMA sa-bagai lidah parti, itu-lah saya anggap satu tuduhan yang sangat² tidak patut, tidak munasabah dan tidak adil. Jikalau sa-kiranya Kerajaan Perikatan hendak menyipar—mengikat dan menutupkan mulut surat khabar di-dalam negeri ini, saya perchaya sudah lama-lah Kerajaan Perikatan boleh buat, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, tetapi dunia boleh perhati dan boleh tengok bagaimana-kah semenjak kita merdeka 10 tahun yang lepas kita telah membenarkan dan menggalakkan perkembangan surat² khabar di-dalam negara kita ini sa-bagai lidah ra'ayat negara ini.

Tadi sahabat saya Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Hilir Perak telah menerangkan dengan panjang lebar bagaimana-kah susah dan payah-nya sa-tengah² surat² khabar mengisikan, katakan semua ucapan² yang di-buat di-dalam Dewan ini daripada semua Ahli, terpaksa-lah surat² khabar itu kena memileh, tengok apa di-anggap-nya penting atau tidak penting bagi pengetahuan orang ramai. Jikalau hendak di-isikan semua ucapan² yang mengambil masa daripada pukul 10 pagi hingga sampai pukul enam sa-tengah petang barangkali akan memakan sa-

kurang²-nya dua, tiga, empat muka tiap² surat khabar yang berkenaan, itu pun boleh menjadi tuduhan daripada pehak Pembangkang mengatakan pehak Kerajaan ada menggunakan kuat kuasanya menahankan surat² khabar itu daripada menyiarkan apa² ucapan yang di-fikirkan atau di-tuduhkan Kerajaan tidak suka di-siarkan kepada orang ramai.

Kita hidup di-dalam negara yang mengaku falsafah-nya ia-lah falsafah demokrasi. Pada keperchayaan saya yang telah memerhati di-dalam pengalaman saya, sa-sabua Kerajaan yang memerintah dengan sa-chara demokrasi yang berparlimen pada mana² bila masa pun akan mempertahankan apa yang terkandung di-dalam Undang² Perlembagaan tuboh kita atas kebebasan perchakapan atau tulisan sa-lagi perchakapan atau tulisan itu tidak terkeluar daripada batasan Undang² Perlembagaan tuboh dan tidak keluar daripada batasan adab sopan yang baik. Ini memang saya perchaya dan pada fahaman saya ia-lah berjalan di-mana² negara yang mengamalkan chara demokrasi berparlimen. Bagi pehak Pembangkang, saperti Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Bungsar, Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Batu, menudoh menyekatkan kuasa penyiaran daripada surat² khabar itu ia-lah saperti mana saya kata tadi, saya anggap satu tuduhan yang tidak patut dan tidak adil.

Ada pepatah orang Ingeris mengatakan pena itu lebeh sakti lagi daripada pedang. Betul! Zaman dahulu, negara² menggunakan pedang kerana berperang untok menawan, atau menewaskan sa-sabua negara. Tetapi pada zaman modern ini kita gunakan pena ia-lah kerana mengatasi segala apa yang bersangkutan paut dengan pelajaran, kebodohan dan lain²-nya, supaya anak negara kita boleh menchapai ilmu² yang boleh menjadi berguna. Kita gunakan pena itu ia-lah kerana menyampaikan ma'alumat² yang patut di-ketahui oleh warganegara kita. Tetapi, jikalau pena di-gunakan kerana membawa berpechah belah, tumpah darah di-antara kita sama² sendiri, maka kata saya itu di-gunakan pena dengan salah, atau kuasa pena dengan salah.

Di-dalam penubohan ini, dengan di-adakan sharat² satu badan pengurus, atau Board of Governors dengan mengandongi bilangan ahli-nya sa-imbang antara pehak surat² khabar atau wakil surat khabar, dengan ahli² daripada pehak Kerajaan yang mewakili sa-umpama-nya Radio, Talivishen, Jabatan Penerangan dan lain², dengan sa-orang pengerusi yang di-lantek oleh Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong, maka saya perchaya, sa-buah badan yang sa-umpama ini akan boleh menjagakan kebebasan BERNAMA pada menjalankan segala tugas² yang di-cha-dangkan di-dalam Undang² ini. Dan saya sendiri, dengan ini suka mengshor-kan kepada Yang Berhormat Menteri yang berkenaan, bahawa pemilehan sa-orang Pengerusi itu hendak-lah dengan teliti-nya, supaya sa-orang yang men-jadi Pengerusi di-antara wakil² di-dalam satu badan yang ada wakil² daripada surat² khabar dan wakil² daripada Kerajaan, hendak-lah Penge-rusi itu sa-orang yang sa-benar²-nya boleh di-terima dan di-perchaya² oleh semua anak negeri warganegara ia-lah sa-bagai sa-orang yang berdiri tengah dengan tidak mengambil pehak ka-situ atau ka-sini.

Demikian lagi dengan di-sharatkan ada juga satu badan yang di-namakan Majlis Pengelola atau Supervisory Council, ini sa-langkah lagi undang² menentukan supaya pekerjaan BER-NAMA itu akan terpelihara daripada apa² juga tuduhan saperti yang di-bangkitkan oleh Ahli dari Batu dan Ahli dari Bungsar tadi.

Kalau kita perhati, kita tengok Clause 7, Ahli Supervisory Council, atau Majlis Pengelola itu, terdiri dari-pada sa-orang Tuan Yang di-Pertua, hakim mahkamah yang maha tinggi. Tak kurang pangkat-nya daripada sa-orang hakim daripada mahkamah yang maha tinggi. Ini tidak-kah menunjok-kan bahawa dalam ingatan Kerajaan bahawa pekerjaan BERNAMA ini akan terpelihara daripada apa² kecha-chatan atau kelemahan bagaimana yang di-tudoh atau di-anggap, dan di-katakan tadi, terkeluar daripada mulut dua orang Ahli Pembangkang tadi.

Mereka tidak ada lain sahaja-lah sa-mata² memikirkan yang Kerajaan se-lalu-nya berniat tidak baik. Ia menudoh jikalau sa-buah surat khabar ada membuat atau menulis sa-suatu makalah yang menyentoh Kerajaan Perikatan, bahawa ahli back-bencher Perikatan ini selulu-lah bangkit atau berdiri dalam Dewan yang mulia ini, marah kapada surat² khabar itu.

Memang kita ada berhak, kita amali chara² demokrasi. Sa-siapa pun ada berhak bertutor kata, sama ada di-dalam atau di-luar Dewan yang mulia ini. Tetapi bagaimana saya kata tadi, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, asalkan jangan terkeluar tutor kata tulis menulis itu daripada batasan yang di-luluskan oleh undang², untok bagi keselamatan, ketenteraman dan kesejahteraan negara kita yang di-kasehi ini.

Yang saya faham daripada ucapan Yang Berhormat Menteri tadi bahawa BERNAMA ini akan di-lancharkan menerusi atau melalui tiga tingkat. Pertama-nya ia-lah tingkat persediaan. Ini memang sedia ma'alum, tentu-lah kita kena buat persediaan hingga sampai kapada tingkat yang ketiga, yang boleh di-anggapkan ia-lah tingkat yang akhir. Dan di-sini saya berharap BERNAMA akan mencapai kejayaan yang boleh memenohi kehendak² negara dan ra'ayat, supaya apa² sebaran, perkhabaran dan ma'alumat menerusi BERNAMA ini akan menjadi satu perkara yang boleh sampai kapada semua segi dan cheroK negara kita ini, dan juga ma'alumat kapada negara² luar. Oleh sebab itu saya sendiri berharap akan BERNAMA mendapat kejayaan yang sa-penoh-nya daripada satu tangga ka-satu tangga. Dan jika ada kewajipan kita kena meminta pertolongan pakar² atau orang² yang pandai mengator dan menyusunkan pekerjaan ini, itu pun satu jalan yang elok dan baik.

Tetapi tadi saya merasa dukachita mendengar daripada Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Batu mengatakan oleh sebab sa-orang daripada pakar dari-pada United Nations yang mari me-nolong jawatan-kuasa merangka atau

menggubal Undang² ini orang itu ialah asal-nya daripada Reuter, maka Reuter-lah akan mendapat satu tempat yang lebeh di-dalam pertubohan ini, akan mendapat suara yang lebeh atau suara yang boleh menarek pandangan yang baik. Itu pun saya anggap satu tuduhan yang tidak adil kepada Kerajaan dan juga kepada beliau yang berkenaan, atau kepada kumpulan yang di-gelarkan Reuter. Sebab, bagaimana saya kata tadi, saya perchaya dengan ada-nya satu Board mengandongi wakil² daripada dua pehak dan juga satu Majlis Pengeloa, saya perchaya bahawa pekerjaan BERNAMA ini akan di-lanchar dan di-jalankan dengan teliti dan sa-wajar-nya untok kehendak² dan tujuan Kerajaan menubuhkan Pertubohan Berita Nasional Malaysia ini. Demikian-lah, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya memberi sokongan yang sa-penoh-nya kepada Rang Undang² ini.

Wan Hassan bin Wan Daud (Tumpat): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya ingin berchakap sedikit berkenaan dengan Rang Undang² BERNAMA yang ada di-hadapan kita ini.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, chadangan untok menubuhkan satu sharikat berita sendiri ini ada-lah satu chadangan yang amat baik bagi sa-sabuah negeri. Sapatut-nya BERNAMA ini telah ditubuhkan lama dulu ia-itu sa-baik² saja negara kita ini menchapai kemerdekaan. Tetapi, bagaimana kata Yang Berhormat Menteri, dalam mengemukakan Bil ini tadi, untok menyiapkan sesuatu yang baik itu memang terpaksa mengambil masa yang panjang, maka saya pun menyokong pendapat-nya itu dan kata-nya biar-lah lambat asalkan selamat dan saya harap yang telah ber-lambat ini memang-lah betul² akan selamat daripada awal hingga ka-akhir-nya.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kami meng-alu²kan penubohan BERNAMA ini kerana dengan ini, dengan tertuboh-nya BERNAMA ini, merupakan satu lagi sumber penerangan kepada negara kita ini; bukan itu saja bahkan ia-nya akan dapat memberikan gambaran yang jelas dan tulin mengenai Malaysia ini, kita berharap tidak ada lagi dan tidak akan terdengar lagi ejekan²

Alex Josey yang orang Melayu ra'ayat Malaysia ini berketurunan lanun, atau pun bagaimana tulisan wartawan daripada Free World dari Amerika Sharikat baru² ini yang mengatakan orang² Melayu membela babi dan di-samping itu biar-lah kalau ada berita² yang sa-macham ini, BERNAMA ini akan dapat bertugas untok menafikan berita² atau pun tuduhan² yang tidak kena pada tempat-nya yang di-buat terhadap negara kita Malaysia ini.

Bagaimana pun, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kami berharap biar-lah BERNAMA ini akan berjalan dengan erti-kata sa-buah Sharikat berita yang benar² bebas, yang benar² tidak terikat, dan memang-lah suara² yang sa-macham ini telah di-suarakan oleh beberapa pehak Pembangkang dari tadi lagi yang saya rasa ini ada-lah menyakitkan telinga dan hati pehak² Kerajaan, tetapi ini terpaksa kami suarakan kerana boleh jadi walau pun asal tujuan-nya benda ini baik takut kalau² di-salah gunakan oleh pehak Kerajaan. Sa-sungguh-nya mengingatkan perkara yang baik itu di-harap akan memberi faedah kepada pehak Kerajaan. Biar-lah sharikat berita ini akan dapat memberi berita² yang tulin saperti sharikat² berita UPI, AP, Reuters dan lain² lagi. Jangan-lah ia-nya di-jadikan saperti Radio dan Talivishen Malaysia ini hanya sa-bagai menjadi propaganda Parti Perikatan saja, *Straits Times* sa-bagai propaganda British-nya, *Utusan Melayu* boleh di-katakan sa-tiap hari di-penohi dengan berita² UMNO, *Nanyang Siang Pau* dan *Sin Chew Jit Poh* dengan berita² China-nya, *Tamil Nesan* penoh dengan berita² dari tanah besar India-nya.

Mengenai Talivishen, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, bagaimana Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Hilir Perak yang beruchap sa-kejap tadi, kata-nya memang-lah Talivishen ini telah berlaku adil kerana kata-nya kalau ucapan Tunku itu di-siarkan sa-penoh-nya 10 minit masa siaran itu dan pehak Talivishen mengenenpikan semua sa-kali ucapan Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Hilir Perak itu sendiri pun memang-lah, kata-nya, ini satu perkara yang adil dan saya pun meng-aku² ini satu perkara yang adil kalau

uchapan Tunku di-siarkan sa-penohnya dan kalau ucapan Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Hilir Perak itu diketepikan semua sa-kali pun, itu memang adil kerana ta'-lah besar gunanya saya katakan kalau Tunku dalam ucapan-nya mengemukakan Bil telah mengulas dengan panjang lebar tentang dasar² Kerajaan chuma bangun Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Hilir Perak untok tukang mengampu dan tukang sokong itu tidak perlu di-besar²kan lagi.

Tetapi ucapan Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Pasir Puteh yang mana memakan masa lebeh kurang 1½ jam baru² ini kalau di-ketepikan langsung dengan tidak ada di-sebut sa-patah pun di-dalam Talivishen, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya rasa ini memang-lah tidak adil. Ini sa-olah² menutupkan semua sa-kali suara² Pembangkang di-dalam Dewan Ra'ayat ini sa-olah² Bil yang di-kemukakan oleh Kerajaan itu tidak di-bangkang oleh sa-siapa pun dalam Dewan ini. Ini saya rasa memang menchachatkan demokrasi berparlimen di-dalam negara kita ini dan saya rasa kalau-lah untok keadilan memang-lah patut ucapan Tunku sa-bagai Perdana Menteri memberi keterangan tentang dasar² Kerajaan dalam Bil Bahasa Kebangsaan baharu ini di-siarkan-lah kita kata ini 9½ minit, sa-patut-nya beri-lah peluang ¼ minit kepada ulasan², pendapat Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Pasir Puteh yang beruchap sa-lama 1½ jam itu, saya rasa ini memang adil kalau tidak adil sa-penoh²-nya boleh-lah di-katakan adil sedikit².

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kita juga mengalu²kan sa-bagaimana yang di-katakan di-dalam Rang Undang² itu, ia-itu sharikat ini akan di-kendalikan dan di-jalankan dengan dua bahasa ia-itu bahasa Inggeris dan bahasa kebangsaan tetapi hendak-nya biar-lah apa yang terchatit dalam Rang Undang² ini di-jalankan dengan sa-penoh²-nya manakala di-kuatkuasakan nanti. Saya membuat ingatan ini, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kerana telah ada beberapa kelalaian, kechuaian dan alasan² yang tidak munasabah yang telah di-

buat oleh Menteri Penerangan dan Penyiaran ini di-beberapa Jabatan berita di-negara ini. Jabatan² itu sa-bagaimana yang di-sungut²kan hari ini ia-lah Jabatan Penerangan, Radio Malaysia dan Talivishen Malaysia.

Yang Berhormat Menteri telah ber-kali², malahan tiap² tahun manakala di-tanya bila-kah Jabatan² tersebut akan menjalankan kerja-nya 100 peratus dalam bahasa kebangsaan, jawab-nya ia-lah tidak lama lagi atau kita sedang meranchangkan dan yang paling menghairankan, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, ia-lah beliau mengatakan kita tidak mempunyai kakitangan² yang chukup yang boleh mengendalikan kerja² itu di-dalam bahasa kebangsaan.

Sa-benar-nya jawapan ini boleh di-buat atau pun boleh di-katakan oleh beliau 7 atau 10 tahun yang lampau, tetapi bukan-lah tahun ini ia-itu tahun bahasa Melayu yang akan di-ishtihar-kan sa-bagai bahasa kebangsaan dan bahasa rasmi yang tunggal di-Malaysia ini sa-olah² Menteri Yang Berhormat ini telah menchuaikan kerja² dan tidak menjalankan dasar² yang telah di-buat oleh-nya sendiri. Kita tahu mengapa perkara itu berlaku, kita tahu juga sebab²-nya perkara ini berlaku. Pertama, Menteri Yang Berhormat itu tidak bersungguh² hendak menjalankan dasar yang telah di-buat-nya. Kedua, kerana pegawai² yang di-tugaskan membuat persediaan² itu tidak mempunyai minat langsung. Ini mungkin di-sebabkan pegawai itu bangsa asing yang tidak tahu berbahasa dan bekerja dengan bahasa kebangsaan. Saya perchaya oleh sebab itu-lah pegawai tersebut tidak boleh dan tidak mahu menjalankan-nya. Apa yang lebeh memalukan kita ia-lah sa-orang Pegawai kanan Melayu di-Jabatan ini sendiri memberikan sa-ribu alasan di atas impossibility. Kapada-nya sa-olah² menjalankan kerja² Jabatan ini 100 peratus dalam bahasa kebangsaan ada-lah satu perkara yang mustahil. Konon-nya bahasa kebangsaan ini tidak layak untok kerja² itu dan tambahan pula konon-nya dengan tindakan menukarkan kerja² itu ka-dalam bahasa kebangsaan akan membunoh rezeki, akan memotong rezeki

beberapa orang pegawai di-Jabatan itu yang tidak boleh bekerja atau pun yang tidak begitu tahu dalam bahasa kebangsaan.

Di-sini saya ingin bertanya mana-kah yang lebeh mustahak memelihara rezeki beberapa orang pegawai itu-kah yang lebeh mustahak atau pun menjalankan dasar² bahasa kebangsaan dasar Kerajaan untuk mendaftarkan bahasa kebangsaan ini yang lebeh penting. Hendak-nya, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kegagalan Menteri Yang Berhormat di-ketiga² tempat itu jangan-lah pula berjangkit atau terbawa² pula ka-dalam BERNAMA ini. Kalau sa-lama ini Menteri Yang Berhormat terlena di-ayon² oleh kaki-tangan² di-Jabatan Penerangan Radio dan Talivishen itu, maka saya menyeru supaya Menteri Yang Berhormat ini supaya sedar-lah dengan segera. Kalau kelahiran bahasa kebangsaan yang telah kita tunggu² sa-lama 10 tahun itu di-lahirkan dengan chachat, jangan-lah hendak-nya BERNAMA ini yang telah kita tunggu dengan hati yang berdebar² sa-bagitu lama, akan lahir dan akan di-jalankan dengan chachat pula dan menghampakan chita² ra'ayat negeri ini.

Apa yang kita mahu sekarang, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, ia-lah supaya kaki-tangan² BERNAMA yang akan diambil ini biar-lah mereka yang benar² jujur hendak menjalankan polisi pertubohan ini ia-itu mengeluarkan berita² di-dalam bahasa Inggeris dan bahasa kebangsaan sa-tiap kaki-tangan daripada pengarah urusan-nya sa-hinggalah kepada teleprinter operator-nya hendak-lah mereka yang tahu dan boleh membuat kerja² dalam bahasa kebangsaan. Kesalahan yang telah di-buat di-Radio dan Talivishen dan Jabatan Penerangan itu biar-lah menjadi pengajaran kepada kita. Tindakan tegas hendak-lah di-ambil dari sekarang juga untuk membetulkan sa-belum terlewat, sa-belum kuasa akan terjatoh ka-tangan orang lain hendak-nya dosa yang telah di-buat di-ketiga² Jabatan itu jangan-lah pula di-ulangi lagi oleh Menteri Yang Berhormat ini kepada Sharikat BERNAMA yang telah lahir dengan rupa yang chantek dan kulit yang lichin ini.

Satu lagi yang ingin saya perkatikan, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, ia-lah saperti yang di-ketahui umum bahawa Sharikat berita ada-lah memerlukan kechepatan bekerja kerana berita² perlu di-sebarkan dengan sa-bepara segera dan chepat yang boleh terutama ka-dalam negeri dan ka-luar negeri, tetapi saya takut nanti penyakit Jabatan Penerangan Malaysia berjangkit pula kepada Sharikat ini. Jabatan ini, menurut saperti sa-buah renchana dalam akhbar baharu² ini, merupakan Jabatan yang paling tidak berguna. Kita dengar cherita dari pemberita² dari wartawan² bahawa mereka lebeh chepat menerima naskhah ucapan anggota Pembangkang dalam Dewan Ra'ayat ini daripada ucapan Menteri Penerangan dan Penyiaran sendiri. Ucapan Menteri Pelajaran lebeh chepat di-dapati oleh pemberita² dan wartawan² daripada ucapan Menteri Penerangan sendiri. Barangkali penyakit takut untuk menjalankan inisitif sendiri saperti yang disebutkan oleh Yang Berhormat Timbalan Perdana Menteri di-Ipoh baharu² ini juga ada pada ketua bahagian akhbar dalam Jabatan Penerangan ini, tetapi saya tidak salahkan ketua Jabatan ini. Saya mahu salahkan Menteri yang berkenaan. Barangkali dia tidak mahu mengambil tahu langsung akan kerja² pegawai² yang di-bawah-nya itu.

Saya harap perkara ini tidak berlaku kepada BERNAMA dan kalau ini berlaku surat² khabar yang merupakan pelanggan yang terutama kepada Sharikat ini akan tidak menaruh keyakinan dan tidak menaruh keperchayaan lagi.

Sa-bagai penutup-nya, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya juga ingin menhadangkan supaya semua wartawan² yang akan diambil oleh BERNAMA yang akan berkhidmat dalam Sharikat BERNAMA ini lebeh dahulu di-beri penerangan² yang sa-chukup-nya mengenai semua liku² dalam pentadbiran negara kita terutama sa-kali Perlembagaan dan dasar luar negeri kita supaya dengan itu nanti semua perkara itu telah berada di-dalam pengetahuan wartawan² kita ini yang mana kalau mereka berkhidmat di-negara² asing kalau timbul soalan², kemushkilan², itu mereka

akan dapat menjawab-nya dengan mudah dan mereka juga akan, sa-chara tidak langsung, menjadi duta yang tidak rasmi bagi negara kita. Sekian, Tuan Yang di-Pertua.

Wan Abdul Kadir bin Ismail: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya rasa bagi tiap² sa-orang warganegara Malaysia ini yang chintakan negara-nya dan tanah ayer-nya, yang ta'at setia-nya bulat kapada negara ini tidak ada jalan lain bagi-nya melainkan menyokong dan mengalu²kan Rang Undang² ini. Orang² yang tidak menyokong dan menentang Rang Undang² ini sahaja mahu menempah malang kapada diri-nya dan malang kapada nasib negara ini di-masa hadapan.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya mendengar tadi ucapan Ahli dari Bangsar dan sa-tiap kali saya mendengar ucapan-nya dan chara-nya dia ber-uchap dan lenggang lenggok suara-nya dan turun naik suara-nya, nada suara-nya yang menurun dan menaik. Saya kadang² tidak dapat hendak melupakan dari ingatan bahawa Ahli dari Bungsar ini lebeh layak jadi padri daripada jadi ahli politik. Chara beliau chara berkhatubah, tetapi sayang-nya khatubah atau sermon beliau ini tidak dapat di-terima oleh pendengar². Padri dari Bungsar ini, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, yang membawa gambaran yang sangat gelap bagi surat khabar² di-Malaysia bagi BERNAMA juga ia-lah kerana beliau sendiri memakai chermin mata hitam atau memang kerana hati-nya sendiri sudah hitam dan tertutup pintu. Tidak ada satu perkara yang baik yang di-jalankan atau di-ranchangkan oleh Kerajaan ini yang tidak menguntongkan parti-nya yang di-sambut dengan baik oleh Ahli dari Bungsar ini.

Saya teringatkan satu pepatah Melayu yang mengatakan orang yang takutkan hantu ini segala tunggul disangka hantu. Ini-lah barangkali sikap Ahli dari Bangsar, Ahli dari Batu, yang sangat takut bahawa chara mereka menjalankan diayah dan propaganda mereka—propaganda parti mereka—dengan chara berbelit² itu tidak dapat tempat lagi. Itu-lah yang sa-benar-nya yang sangat merunsingkan ahli² itu. Ada-kah dengan menga-

dakan BERNAMA ini maka erti-nya Kerajaan hendak mengadakan one voice di-Malaysia ini. Kalau Kerajaan hendak mengadakan one voice di-Malaysia ini saya rasa sudah lama Malaysia ini menjadi sa-bagai Singapura yang betul² one voice yang tidak membenarkan langsung segala jenis suara membangkang timbul, dan kalau ada pilihan raya besar atau kecil pun semua pakai menang tidak bertanding, itu-kah chara demokrasi yang hendak di-tegakkan?

Saya hairan Ahli dari Bangsar, Ahli dari Batu, yang sa-tiap masa mengatankan Kerajaan Perikatan ini menindas surat² khabar, yang Kerajaan Perikatan ini mengawasi surat² khabar dan memarah dan menekan surat² khabar. Apa-kah yang di-tekan oleh Kerajaan Perikatan ini?

Saya sa-bagai sa-orang penyokong Kerajaan, bukan sa-kali dua kali berasa sakit hati atas chara² surat² khabar menyiarkan berita² yang membahayakan kepentingan national kita, tidak ada langsung suatu gangguan di-buat. Saya rasa apa yang berlaku didalam surat² khabar di-negeri kita ini ia-lah sa-buah negara yang berjiran dengan kita terlalu sangat memeras dan mengawal surat² khabar sa-hingga tidak apa yang di-benar di-siarkan didalam surat² khabar itu yang biasanya keluaran-nya yang di-keluarkan di-sana dan keluar di-sini lebeh kurang sa-rupa tidak di-benarkan apa yang sedikit menguitkan keadaan negara jiran di-sabelah, tidak di-benarkan langsung. Kata Ahli dari Bangsar kita mahu free press, kita mahu free, complete and impartial news. Apa dia free, complete and impartial news? Kita sudah tengok baharu² ini bagaimana Kerajaan negara di-sabelah jiran menekan pemogokan buruh² di-sana dan free complete of ideas yang di-benarkan ia-lah menyiarkan tiap² patah perkataan Ketua Kerajaan negara itu saperti yang di-kehendaki oleh pehak Goebbel-nya ia-itu Ketua Menteri Penerangan atau Menteri Kebudayaan atau Menteri apa nama-nya di-sana, dan jawapan daripada pehak buruh tiap² patah semuanya yang di-kehendaki oleh Kerajaan tidak boleh lebeh dan tidak boleh

kurang, tiap² patah sa-bagaimana dikehendaki yang telah di-taip dan di-susun dalam Jabatan Penerangan atau Jabatan Kerajaan Negara sa-belah jiran itu, itu yang di-benar di-siarkan. Ini-kah dia free, complete and impartial news yang hendak di-bawa ka-Malaysia ini?

Ini yang kita tidak mahu benarkan, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, sa-hingga pada masa ini, negara yang menjadi pujaan Ahli dari Bungsar ini, orang tidak tahu apa yang berlaku di-sana—bagaimana kedzaliman yang di-lakukan kepada pegawai² Kerajaan yang chuba menjalankan dasar fikiran bebas sedikit, apa yang berlaku dalam pentadbiran Kerajaan, dan sa-bagai-nya, tutup semua-nya. Dan ini yang hendak kita elakkan. Dan ini telah di-jamin dalam Undang² BERNAMA ini bahawa segala berita yang di-laporkan mesti merupakan berita yang objective, berita yang benar dan berita yang tidak merosakkan muslihat negara—(national interest) atau pun public interest.

Perjalanan BERNAMA ini di-kawal oleh sa-buah Majlis Penyelia yang bebas, dan Majlis ini-lah yang akan mengawal jikalau pertubohan Berita BERNAMA ini menyeleweng atau tidak menyeleweng, perkara yang tidak boleh kita mimpikan ada dalam sa-barang organisasi pertubohan berita di-negeri lain. Maka saya bersetuju-lah dengan ucapan Yang Berhormat Menteri tadi yang menyatakan bahawa BERNAMA ini suatu organisasi yang unique, yang tidak ada tolok banding-nya, tidak ada perbandingan-nya dengan lain² pertubohan berita di-luar negeri.

Yang sa-benar-nya sa-kali, yang sangat menyakiti hati Ahli dari Bungsar dan rakan-nya Ahli dari Batu ini ialah dengan ada-nya BERNAMA maka kita ada satu suara yang lantang ka-luar negeri membawa gambaran yang benar daripada apa yang berlaku di-Malaysia ini keluar, sa-hingga tidak ada lagi distortion (berita² yang di-putar-belit) sa-bagaimana berlaku-nya berita² yang telah tersibar pada masa lawatan Perdana Menteri Singapura masa dia dalam Malaysia kelmarin lagi pergi ka-Australia di-iringi dengan bermacham² berita yang distorted, yang

karut, yang di-putar-belitkan bahawa ada ketegangan, bahawa ada racial disharmony dan ada macham² perkara di-Malaysia ini sa-mata² hendak meninggikan image Perdana Menteri Singapura itu pada masa dia dalam Malaysia ini masa dia di-luar negeri.

Saya perchaya dengan ada-nya berita BERNAMA ini kelak, perkara yang sa-bagai itu yang merosakkan national interest bagi negara ini tidak akan berlaku sama sa-kali. Maka ini-lah yang sangat sakit hati Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Bungsar ini bagi membangkang Rang Undang² ini kerana perkara saperti itu tidak dapat hendak di-lakukan lagi kelak bila Ahli dari Bungsar pergi ka-Delhi-kah, pergi ka-Cairo-kah atau pun ka-mana tempat yang biasa dia pergi sa-bagai konon-nya sa-orang tokoh buroh atau gerakan buroh di-negeri ini. Saya perchaya ini-lah satu sebab besar maka beliau tidak menyetujui akan Rang Undang² ini.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya merasa bahawa tidak ada yang lebih baik dapat hendak kita inginkan bagi pertubohan berita BERNAMA ini sa-lain daripada rangka susunan yang telah di-buat di-dalam Rang Undang² ini. Dan saya sendiri merasa, walau pun Yang Berhormat Menteri mengatakan, biar lambat asalkan selamat, saya merasa kita lambat sangat. Sa-patut-nya memang telah lama dari dahulu BERNAMA ini lahir ka-dunia—lahir ka-dunia menjadi kantor berita national bagi negara kita ini. Maka tidak-lah berita negara kita ini hanyut di-tengah² dunia international.

Tentang berita² dalam negeri, saya telah puas hati-lah dengan syarat² dalam Rang Undang² ini yang dengan wujud-nya BERNAMA tidak menyekat surat² khabar dalam negeri ini mengadakan wartawan²-nya sendiri dan pemberita²-nya sendiri untuk mengutip berita yang di-pandang sesuai oleh surat khabar itu untuk di-siarkan sa-lain daripada berita² yang di-keluarkan menerusi BERNAMA.

Saya suka-lah, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, hendak membetulkan satu perkara yang di-ulang² oleh Ahli Pembangkang daripada PAS tentang Talivishen

Malaysia. Saya menengok-lah Talivishen Malaysia ini pada hari perbincangan Rang Undang² Bahasa Kebangsaan yang konon-nya tuduhan di-katakan di-mulakan oleh Ahli daripada Pasir Mas Ulu di-sokong oleh Ahli daripada Tumpat, konon-nya ucapan Ahli daripada Pasir Puteh sapatlah pun tidak di-siarkan oleh Talivishen Malaysia. Saya mengatakan dengan terang—bohong, saya telah menengok Talivishen itu siaran-nya pukul 7, pukul 8, pukul 9 dan Laporan Parlimen-nya dan di-tiap² siaran itu sedutan ucapan yang terpenting daripada ucapan Ahli daripada Pasir Puteh itu di-siarkan dengan amanah-nya dan dengan benar-nya oleh Talivishen Malaysia. Kenapa-kah pembohongan sa-bagai ini hendak di-ulang²kan dalam Dewan ini sa-hingga menjadi-lah sa-bagai chara yang di-lakukan oleh Goebbel pada masa Hitler dahulu “kamu ulang²kan suatu perkara yang bohong itu hingga orang ramai per-chaya perkara itu betul”, pada hal saya sendiri melihat dengan mata ini, dan dengan telinga ini mendengar-nya bahawa ucapan Ahli Pasir Puteh itu di-siarkan sedutan-nya dan tentu-lah ucapan orang lain pun tidak dapat di-siarkan sa-penoh-nya. Saya ber-harap-lah taktik Goebbel tidak lagi di-ulang oleh sahabat² saya daripada Parti PAS.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, oleh kerana masa hendak habis dan kita hendak berbinchng tidak bagitu panjang sangat, saya hendak mengambil kesempatan ini hendak menyampaikan, mengirim, suatu pantun kepada saudara saya Ahli daripada Pasir Mas Hulu yang pada masa perbincangan Rang Undang² Bahasa Kebangsaan dia mengeluarkan pantun yang tidak patut yang mengatakan macham² kepada saya. Saya ingat oleh kerana dia tidak ada di-sini, saya kirim-lah sa-buah pantun kepada Ahli Pasir Mas Hulu ini yang asal-nya memang-lah daripada Kabul:

Angkat bakul berisi lada,
Berjalan melenggang pergi
kuala;
Anak Kabul jangan mengada,
Perangai samsing fikiran gila
(Ketawa).

Mr Deputy Speaker: Meshuarat ini di-tanggoihkan hingga pukul 4.00 petang ini.

Sitting suspended at 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 4.00 p.m.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

RANG UNDANG² PERTUBOHAN BERITA NATIONAL MALAYSIA

Second Reading

Debate resumed.

Tuan Senu bin Abdul Rahman: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya di-dalam menjawab berkenaan Rang Undang² BERNAMA ini menguchapkan sa-tinggi² terima kaseh kepada Ahli² Yang Berhormat yang telah membuat ucapan² menyokong di-atas penubohan BERNAMA dan juga memberi pujian di-atas chadangan untok menubuhkan BERNAMA ini.

Sa-belum saya masokkan satu per-satu di-dalam tegoran² yang di-buat oleh Ahli² Yang Berhormat itu, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya suka-lah menarek perhatian Rumah ini kapada kechaman² dan perkataan² yang di-keluarkan oleh beberapa orang Ahli² Opposition terutama sa-kali kapada Ahli² dari Batu dan Bungsar.

The Member for Batu, Mr Speaker, Sir, says that there is no freedom of the Press in Malaysia. However, I like to ask him what he exactly means by “freedom of the Press”? All the best definitions that I have seen by some of the greatest men in this field say that a good free Press is one which reflects faithfully and sympathetically the hopes and aspirations of its community—the worries and frustrations, the problems and difficulties, the joys and sorrows. I challenge the Member for Batu to say that the Press of Malaysia has not fulfilled this duty with honour. Can he give this House one single instance of a major public issue that has not been adequately aired by the Press? If the Member for Batu—unfortunately, Mr Speaker, Sir, he is not here today—feels that the Press in Malaysia has reported delicate issues with restraint, I fully agree with him. If he feels that

our newspapers have always been careful to omit sensational items which could have disruptive effects, I agree also with him. But I cannot agree that all this is wrong; I cannot agree with him that the Press is free if it panders to the lower instincts of men or indulges in sensational, irresponsible reporting. This kind of journalism may satisfy the peculiar taste of some people, but we cannot afford it in a multi-racial country like ours. The prime duty of everyone in Malaysia and, in particular, the politicians and the Press is to maintain the right sort of atmosphere in which racial harmony can be preserved. This requires from us all a high degree of restraint in discussing delicate matters, a degree of restraint which may not be necessary in other countries which do not have our problems. I am proud to be able to say that the Press of Malaysia has discharged its responsibility faithfully. It exercises restraint which it has imposed upon itself entirely voluntarily.

The Member for Batu spoke about the death of a young man who was shot during the visit of President Johnson. He told this House that no Malaysian newspaper published pictures of the corpse. I agree with him that this was so, but I cannot agree that this was evidence of a controlled Press. In his usual fashion, the Member for Batu conveniently omitted to mention the fact that the death was fully reported in our newspapers; and that the subsequent inquest into the death was also fully reported. Our editors chose on their own and chose wisely not to publish the gruesome picture which appeared in some foreign newspapers. I am proud to say that our newspapers have for a long time observed the tradition of not publishing gruesome and shocking pictures of dead bodies. I do not think that such pictures promote the cause of racial harmony, progress and freedom of the Press. I would like to remind Members of the Opposition that it has always been the tactics of the Communists to make cynical use of people who may be killed in such circumstances. We have seen examples of neighbouring countries where Communists have deli-

berately caused the death of young people and then paraded their bodies through the streets in order to inflame the population. Are these the sort of tactics the Member for Batu is advocating? Is he so inhuman as to want to exploit the death of a young man for his own, selfish, political purposes?

Members of the Opposition have claimed that there is widespread anxiety among Malaysian newspapers over BERNAMA. They claim that BERNAMA is to be used to control the newspapers. The Member for Bungsar says that after this our newspapers will have to operate under the shadow of BERNAMA. Perhaps, these Honourable Members are totally unaware of the fact that the newspapers of Malaysia were fully represented on the Working Committee which drafted the BERNAMA Bill. This Working Committee was set up largely as a result of their own initiative about five years ago. Since then they have gone into the problems of setting up a news agency with great care and this Bill owes a great deal to their contribution. They have persistently fought for the principles which they believe in and these principles have been incorporated in the Bill as a result. I should also like to point out that the Chairman of the Constitution Sub-Committee, which was mainly responsible for this Bill, is one of Malaysia's most prominent newspaper editors. Far from being worried about BERNAMA, the newspapers of Malaysia are willing partners in this undertaking.

From his performance today we are able to see that the Member for Bungsar is a remarkable inventor of dreams and fantasies. Obviously, he too could find nothing wrong with the Bill. So, he set out to draw up a list of all the sins which BERNAMA could possibly commit at some future time and then proceeded to attack them with great vehemence. He condemns not what happens today but what may happen tomorrow. He has judged events even before they have taken place. This morning the Member for Bungsar tried to pose as a champion of the Press of Malaysia, but he did this in a very remarkable manner. He began by

insulting Malaysia's journalists and newspaper editors. He said they were no longer honest and independent newspaper men but have become mere news vendors. They were spineless creatures who have been cowed and beaten into submission by the Government. They were men who stood not for principles but only for profit. Their slogan in life was to survive at any price. That was stated by the Honourable Member from Bungsar. After having insulted the Press and the journalists in Malaysia in this fashion, the Member for Bungsar then assumed the role of chief spokesman for them—since they were too frightened to speak up for themselves, he would speak for them. I would like to know what the journalists and editors of Malaysia think of this description of them. I have far more respect for the newspaper men of Malaysia. I worked closely with them over this Bill. I spent long hours talking with many of them and I can assure the Honourable Members on the other side that they can be very tough in matters concerning the freedom of the Press. They never hesitate to speak up. We saw further evidence of this only a fortnight ago when two of the leading newspapers in this country publicly criticised in their editorials, some minor aspects of the Bill which did not satisfy them. I can assure the Honourable Member for Bungsar that they are not news vendors but newspaper men of honesty and integrity. They have become partners in BERNAMA not because they were dragged into it by the Government, but because they chose on their own to join it and make it an agency of which they and the people of Malaysia could be proud of. The Member for Bungsar has done the Press of Malaysia, and Malaysia itself, a great injustice by humiliating it in this way. The Member for Bungsar also alleged this morning that the intention of BERNAMA is to control the Press and introduce one voice in this country. This is really an echo from a previous meeting of this House when other men were present. They too alleged—I hope the House understand what I meant

when I mentioned "other men" were present—they too alleged, as the Member for Bungsar alleged today, that the Government was afraid and unsure of its ability to win the support of the people. In the last elections the candidates put up by those men lost their deposits even. The Member for Bungsar should heed that warning for he too may suffer the same fate, if he tries to mislead the people this way. He claims that we are closing the doors and windows of freedom one by one, so that the people will eventually be forced to listen only to Alliance propaganda. Is the Member for Bungsar aware that Malaysia is one of the few countries in the world where foreign news agencies are allowed to operate independently and distribute their news directly to subscribers? The Member for Bungsar spoke about rumours and gossips. In a democracy such as ours people are free to do this if they wish, and even Members of Parliament spread malicious rumours as we have seen in recent weeks. The conflict of ideas which he talks about prevails at all levels in this country and events of the last few days over the National Language Bill have provided further proof of this.

One other point that I would like to clarify is the charge that BERNAMA will be used to control foreign news supplied by international news agencies. One day BERNAMA may undertake the distribution of such foreign news but its constitution contains a guarantee against any kind of censorship of such news. Its constitution provides that any subscriber to BERNAMA may, if he wishes, get the full unedited service of the foreign news agency distributed by BERNAMA. There can be no greater guarantee than this and the newspapers of Malaysia are completely satisfied with it. There has been a great deal of talk about BERNAMA'S version on public events, as though this will be the only version. Nothing in this Bill will prevent newspapers from having their own correspondents and from getting their own versions of news events. BERNAMA will supplement their efforts.

Finally I think it will be useful to look again at the objects of BERNAMA. They are to seek and present complete and impartial information/news and features on any matter of public and national interest and also to report truthfully and fairly the views of all sections of the people. No one in this House has been able to find anything in the Bill he can reasonably object to. Even Members of the other side must know that no Government wishing to control the Press would ever promote such a Bill. BERNAMA is being set up with the active assistance of the United Nations. UNESCO sent two experts to help us and these men have been equally concerned as everybody else to ensure that BERNAMA will function as an objective and impartial news agency. In fact, the UNESCO definitions of a news agency are incorporated in this Bill. I was shocked to listen to the unfair and totally unjustified attack by the Member for Batu on one of these experts, Mr Dallas, who is in fact still with us. Mr Dallas was selected by UNESCO to help us with BERNAMA for two reasons: firstly, his wide experience in this field, and secondly, his proven record as a man of integrity and impartiality. There is not a single grain of truth in the charge that he has been trying to sell us the services of any news agency. The newspapers will testify that he has been strictly impartial in discharging his duties. In making this charge the Member for Batu has been the spokesman for mischief makers. Indirectly, he is challenging the integrity of the United Nations itself, which has helped Malaysia so much in so many different sphere.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, sa-lain daripada Ahli² Yang Berhormat daripada pehak Pembangkang, saya suka mengambil peluang ini juga mengucapkan sa-tinggi² terima kaseh kepada Ahli² Yang Berhormat yang telah berchakap mengenai Rang Undang² BERNAMA ini dan yang telah memuji akan tujuan Kerajaan menubuhkan BERNAMA. Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Parit, Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Hilir Perak, Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Kuala Trengganu

Utara telah menjawab kebanyakan daripada keritik² dan tegoran² yang telah di-buat oleh wakil² daripada pehak Pembangkang tadi dan atas apa yang telah di-buatkan oleh mereka itu saya mengucapkan sa-tinggi² terima kaseh.

Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Tumpat di-dalam masa memuji² tentang Pertubuhan BERNAMA ini telah membuat juga beberapa tegoran² yang sa-tengah-nya ada membenas, yang sa-tengah²-nya tidak begitu membenas. Tetapi, saya di-sini, suka mengambil peluang menegaskan sa-kali lagi, bahawa BERNAMA yang akan ditubuhkan ini sama sa-kali tidak akan menjadi alat atau perkakas Kerajaan, kerana di-dalam Undang² BERNAMA itu sudah sedia di-sebut yang akan menjalankan BERNAMA ini ia-lah satu badan yang merdeka sama sa-kali daripada control pehak Kerajaan.

Bagitu juga Ahli Yang Berhormat dari Tumpat tadi telah menyentoh berkenaan dengan Jabatan akhbar di-dalam Kementerian saya. Saya tidak tahu apa-kah maksud di-belakang tegoran yang di-buat oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat itu, tetapi perchaya-lah bahawa daripada masa ka-satu masa saya sentiasa mengambil berat, memerhatikan dan memperbaiki keadaan perjalanan di-dalam Jabatan² di-bawah tanggungan saya, termasuk-lah juga Jabatan atau pun Bahagian Akhbar yang ada di-bawah Jabatan Penerangan itu, dan saya sendiri merasa sangat puas hati dengan pegawai² yang menjalankan pekerjaan pada hari ini. Tetapi, jikalau sa-kira-nya terlambat atau sa-suatu kejadian yang tidak memuaskan hati, sa-bagaimana yang di-sebut oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat itu tadi terjadi, itu bukan-lah kerana pegawai² menjalankan pekerjaan dengan chuai, tetapi ia-lah kerana keadaan pada masa ini tidak chukup kaki²tangan yang ada dan juga dengan keadaan² yang mengenai negara kita yang tidak dapat kita menambahkan pegawai² saperti yang kita kehendaki. Pada hal pekerjaan² yang di-hadapi oleh Kementerian saya ini baik dalam Jabatan Penerangan, atau pun Talivishen atau Radio

dan Filem Negara, sa-makin bertambah² daripada satu hari ka-satu hari.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, sekian-lah sahaja jawapan daripada saya dan sa-kali lagi saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Ahli² Yang Berhormat yang telah membuat tegoran² terutama sa-kali yang telah memberi sokongan dan pujian kepada tujuan menubuhkan BERNAMA ini.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4—

Tuan Senu bin Abdul Rahman: Tuan Pengerusi, saya suka membuat pindaan sa-bagaimana yang telah di-edarkan, ia-itu Clause 4 (1) (c) sa-bagaimana berikut,

“to report truthfully and fairly, without prejudice to public and national interest, the views of all sections of the population of the Federation.”

Amendment put, and agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5—

Tuan Senu bin Abdul Rahman: Saya hendak mengemukakan satu pindaan kepada Clause 5 (2), ia-itu:

- (1) Insert the words “who shall be citizens” in between the words “the following members” and the word “namely”.
- (2) Delete the words “all of whom shall be citizens” appearing at the end of paragraph (c).

Amendment put, and agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 6 to 24 inclusive ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported with amendments: read the third time and passed.

THE FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Second Reading

The Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives (Tuan Haji Mohamed Ghazali bin Haji Jawl): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya pohon mengemukakan Rang Undang² yang bergelar “Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan (Pindaan) 1967” yang diganti bertarikh 4hb Mach, 1967 di-bacha kali yang kedua.

Dewan ini maseh ingat lagi ia-itu pada awal bulan Jun, 1965, Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan telah di-luluskan dan Undang² ini berjalan kuatkuasa-nya pada 30hb Jun, 1965.

Lembaga ini telah di-tubuhkan dengan rasmi-nya pada 30hb September, 1965 dan sa-panjang tahun 1965 itu kerja²-nya ada-lah di-tumpukan untuk menyediakan kerja² Lembaga itu seperti menchari pejabat dan kaki²-tangan-nya. Kerja² penyiasatan awal telah di-jalankan oleh Lembaga itu pada awal tahun 1966 bagi menyediakan ranchangan² pemasaran untuk mengatasi kesulitan² pemasaran padi dan ikan.

Tujuan Rang Undang² ini ia-lah untuk memberi beberapa kuasa sa-bagai tambahan kepada kuasa² yang telah pun ada di-dalam Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran Persekutuan, 1965. Di-dalam Rang Undang² (Pindaan) ini, kuasa² yang hendak di-beri kepada Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan ia-lah seperti berikut:

- (i) mengadakan tabong bagi Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan ia-itu supaya Lembaga ini dapat menjalankan segala urusan kewangan dengan lebeh lichin lagi;
- (ii) menambahkan lagi denda² ka-atas kesalahan² yang berlaku di-bawah Undang² Pemasaran itu ia-itu bagi menchegeh berlakunya perkara² yang tidak di-ingin.
- (iii) tafsiran perkataan “hasil pertanian” (agricultural produce).

- (iv) kuasa untuk melaksanakan ranchangan².
- (v) mengadakan perubahan berkenaan dengan kuasa Undang² syarat² perkhidmatan.

Kuatkuasa tambahan yang di-kehendaki bagi mengetatkan Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran itu ada-lah disebabkan oleh beberapa kemungkinan yang di-dapati pada waktu Lembaga Pemasaran itu meranchangkan segala ranchangan²-nya dan di-dapati ada-lah kuatkuasa² sa-bagaimana yang terdiri di-dalam Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran 1965 itu tidak menchukupi. Di-bawah Undang² yang ada, Lembaga Pemasaran tiada dapat hendak mengambil bahagian di-dalam perusahaan kilang-mengilang (processing), mengadakan kemudahan pengangkutan-nya sendiri untuk perniagaan-nya dan mengeksepotkan barang²-nya sendiri ia-itu berkenaan dengan barang² yang telah menjadi tanggung-jawab Lembaga itu memasarkan. Dan lagi beberapa perkara di-dalam Undang² Pemasaran itu tidak berapa terang, mithal-nya, berkenaan dengan ma'ana yang di-beri kepada perkataan² "hasil pertanian" (agricultural produce). Lagi pula di-bawah Undang² seperti yang terdapat sekarang ini tiada pula di-beri kuasa kepada Lembaga Pemasaran untuk menjalankan kuatkuasa Undang² itu dengan lengkap-nya.

Maka tersangat-lah mustahak bagi mana² ranchangan pemasaran supaya kuatkuasa bagi melaksanakan segala kuatkuasa² di-bawah Undang² Pemasaran itu dengan sempurna-nya supaya segala chita² ranchangan itu dapat di-jayakan. Dengan tiada-nya kuasa² bagi melaksanakan kuatkuasa Undang² di-bawah Undang² seperti yang terdiri sekarang ini, maka tak dapat-lah Lembaga melaksanakan maksud² Undang² itu dengan jaya-nya. Mithal-nya bagi mengelakkan daripada berlakunya perniagaan haram, maka mustahak juga di-beri kuasa kepada Lembaga mencheegah pergerakan barang² itu daripada satu tempat ka-satu tempat yang lain yang tidak di-izinkan di-bawah Undang² itu. Jika sa-kira-nya perniagaan yang haram itu tidak dapat di-cheгах, maka ranchangan pemasaran

itu tidak dapat berjalan dengan jayanya.

Oleh itu ini-lah di-chadangkan di-bawah Undang² Pemindaan ini supaya section 5 Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan 1965 itu di-pinda sa-bagaimana yang ada pada Fasal 2 (a), (b) dan (c).

Sekes 9 (1) Undang² Lembaga yang ada sekarang ini menentukan ia-itu "perbelanjaan² Lembaga itu atas berapa banyak yang di-persetujukan oleh Menteri bagi sa-suatu tahun hendak-lah di-belanjakan daripada wang yang di-untokkan oleh Parlimen." Undang² ini tiada perbekalan untuk mengadakan satu Kumpulan Wang (Fund). Ini adalah di-fikirkan tidak sa-imbang dengan peratoran yang tertentu di-mana semua badan² yang berkanun seperti FLDA, MARA, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Lembaga Perusahaan Nanas, Lembaga Pemulehan Tanah Kebangsaan dan lain² ada di-beri kuasa mengadakan Kumpulan Wang-nya sendiri.

Dengan tiada-nya kuasa itu dalam Undang² Lembaga ini, maka Lembaga ini ada-lah berjalan seperti sa-buah Pejabat Kerajaan ia-itu bertentangan dengan tujuan yang asal pada masa hendak menubuhkan Lembaga ini. Oleh itu ada-lah di-chadangkan supaya Lembaga ini di-beri kuasa mengadakan Kumpulan Wang-nya dan pindaan dibuat dalam Undang² yang ada sekarang ini dengan menambah satu seksen baharu sa-bagaimana di-sebutkan dalam Fasal 3 Rang Undang² Pindaan ini.

Semenjak di-tubuhkan Lembaga ini, ia ada mengemukakan beberapa ranchangan pemasaran dan dari pengalamanan yang di-dapati dalam masa meranchangkan ranchangan² itu, Lembaga ini ada mengalami beberapa kesulitan dan mustahak di-tambah kuasa²-nya.

Di-dalam Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran yang ada sekarang ini, kuasa berkenaan dengan melaksanakan Undang² itu ada-lah longgar. Apa² kejadian yang melanggar Undang² itu chuma dapat di-cheгах dengan chara menyaman pehak yang melakukan-nya dan tidak pula ada kuasa² bagi pehak Lembaga Pemasaran mencheгах-nya

dengan chara tahanan, tangkapan dan siasatan berkenaan dengan-nya.

Oleh itu di-chadangkan di-dalam Undang² Pindaan ini supaya kuasa² yang perlu di-bekalkan bagi maksud pelaksanaan itu di-adakan dengan chara di-masokkan ka-dalam Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran Persekutuan 1965, di-antara Bahagian II dan Bahagian baru IV, suatu Bahagian III yang baru yang melengkapkan Undang² itu dengan perbekalan² saperti berikut:

- (i) Kebenaran bagi pegawai² menjalankan kuatkuasa di-bawah Bahagian ini (Seksyen 17);
- (ii) Kuasa bagi menangkap mereka yang melanggar Undang² (Seksyen 18);
- (iii) Melakukan rampasan dengan berwaran (Seksyen 19);
- (iv) Melakukan rampasan dengan tiada barwaran (Seksyen 20);
- (v) Membolehkan pegawai² yang bertauliah menahan dan memereksa kenderaan² (Seksyen 21);
- (vi) Kuasa menjalankan siasatan (Seksyen 22);
- (vii) Chara menda'awa (Seksyen 23).

Di-bawah Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan, perkataan "marketing" (memasarkan) berbunyi demikian:

"The sale and purchase, and storage for the purposes of sale, of any agricultural produce." (Part III, Section 17 of the Act).

Di-bawah ma'ana ini maka Lembaga tidak-lah dapat mengambil bahagian di-dalam perusahaan kilang-mengilang, dan oleh itu tidak-lah terdaya Lembaga itu menjalankan rancangan pemasaran-nya berkenaan dengan hasil² pertanian saperti padi, kopi, ikan, teh, sayur² dan hasil² yang lain lagi. Maka tersangat²-lah mustahak bagi Lembaga Pemasaran ini di-beri kuasa juga untuk mengambil bahagian di-dalam perusahaan kilang-mengilang, mengadakan pengangkutan-nya sendiri, mengumpul segala barang²-nya itu, dan juga jika mustahak, mengeksepotkan barang² itu supaya dengan chara² ini dapat-lah Lembaga itu berjaya memasarkan hasil² pertanian itu dengan chara yang memuaskan.

Oleh itu ada-lah di-chadangkan di-bawah Rang Undang² Pemindaan ini ia-itu supaya Section 5 Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan 1965 di-pinda dengan di-tambah suatu perenggan kepada sub-section (3), perkataan² tersebut:

"(e) powers with respect to processing, collecting, assembling, transporting and exporting of the said produce by the Board established under Section 6."

Di-bawah Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran ma'ana yang di-beri kepada "agricultural produce" berbunyi demikian:

"any agricultural or horticultural produce (whether processed or otherwise) and includes farm and farm-yard animals (whether alive or slaughtered), the flesh or hide of such animals, poultry, dairy produce, fish and fishery produce."

Ma'ana ini pula di-hadkan oleh perenggan yang mengikuti Section 3 (1) (c) di-bawah Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran itu yang berbunyi:

"agricultural produce shall not include any agricultural produce in respect of which an authority charged with the responsibility of marketing such produce has been established, and in respect of which methods of marketing have been provided for, under any written law."

Oleh sebab ini, telah berbangkit soalan ada-kah Lembaga Pemasaran itu berkelayakan bagi memasarkan hasil pertanian saperti padi. Bagi mengelakkan soalan² itu maka mustahak di-mansokhkan perenggan yang tersebut itu daripada Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran, dan di-beri ma'ana yang baharu kepada perkataan² "agricultural produce" (hasil pertanian) dengan chara memotong ma'ana saperti yang ada sekarang ini di-dalam Undang² itu dan di-gantikan dengan perkataan² yang berbunyi demikian:

"(a) any agricultural or horticultural produce (whether processed or otherwise) and includes farm and farmyard animals (whether alive or slaughtered), the flesh or hide of such animals, poultry, dairy produce fish and fishery products; and

(b) such other produce as may be prescribed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong but shall not include pineapple and rubber."

Fasal 8 memberi kuasa kepada Menteri untuk melantek pegawai² dan kaki²-tangan Lembaga itu dan menentukan syarat² perkhidmatan mereka.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, itu-lah penjelasan-nya dan saya mengemukakan Rang Undang² ini di-bacha pada kali yang kedua.

Tuan Khaw Kai-Boh: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya menyokong.

Tuan Haji Ahmad bin Abdullah: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya mengambil bahagian sedikit di-dalam Rang Undang² yang ada di-hadapan kita ini.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, tujuan Yang Berhormat Menteri yang berkenaan mengemukakan Bil yang ada di-hadapan kita ini ia-lah untuk mendapat kuat-kuasa yang lebeh yang di-pandang mustahak untuk membolehkan Lembaga Pemasaran ini berjalan dengan jaya-nya. Saya tahu bahawasa Lembaga Pemasaran ini sedang mengalami bermacam² tekanan daripada pehak² kaum kapitalis, dengan bertujuan supaya perjalanan pemasaran ini, Lembaga ini, dapat di-lemah dan di-matikan.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kita tahu Kerajaan telah mendirikan, di-masa RIDA dahulu, banyak kilang² yang memproseskan getah² dan Kerajaan telah membelanjakan berjuta² ringgit wang dengan tujuan supaya dapat-lah getah² yang di-keluarkan oleh orang² yang mempunyai kebun² kecil supaya mereka itu dapat di-belakan oleh Kerajaan daripada tindasan² dan tipu daya orang² tengah, tetapi ka-manakah Rubber Processing Plants itu?

Saya tahu, dalam tahun yang lepas boleh di-katakan semua-nya daripada kilang² getah itu telah di-kuborkan dengan tidak ada kubor-nya. Ini ia-lah hasil daripada tekanan² dan konfrontasi yang telah di-adakan oleh kaum kapitalis. Sekarang ini saya dapat ketahui bahawasa Lembaga Pemasaran ini sedang di-konfrontasi pula oleh kaum kapitalis. Saya tahu bahawasa ada di-Telok Anson Kilang Kerajaan membeli padi di-sana dan sekarang ini tidak dapat membeli padi lagi. Wal hal Kerajaan membayar berpuluh² ribu ringgit gaji kepada pegawai² yang berkhidmat di-dalam kilang padi ini. Sebab-nya maka kilang padi di-Telok Anson itu tidak dapat membeli padi ia-lah kerana kilang² persendirian yang

bertabor² di-sana sedang membeli padi² seperti padi Malinja mereka itu membeli dengan harga \$18 sa-pikul dan lain daripada Malinja mereka itu membeli dengan harga \$17. Walau padi tidak kering 100 peratus sa-kali pun di-bayar juga dengan harga yang paling tinggi ia-itu dengan harga \$18 bagi padi Malinja, dan \$17 padi yang bukan Malinja. Dengan yang demikian, ra'ayat kaum tani di-sana telah menjual padi² mereka itu semua-nya kepada kilang² persaoangan. Maka dengan yang demikian kilang Kerajaan tidak dapat membeli padi sama sa-kali. Ini satu perkara yang paling berbahaya bagi kedudukan FAMA kerana mereka ini bertujuan hendak melumpuhkan dan mematikan chita² yang hendak di-jalankan oleh FAMA ini.

Sekarang ini kita telah dengar pula bahawasa FAMA akan mendirikan satu pemasaran-nya di-Krian tempat pemasaran di-Krian. Apabila kaum kapitalis telah mengatahui bahawasa Kerajaan akan mendirikan pemasaran-nya di-Krian, mereka itu telah menaikkan harga padi pula di-sana. Jadi, saya suka-lah hendak bertanya kepada Yang Berhormat Menteri, apa-kah tindakan Lembaga Pemasaran ini, terhadap mereka² yang sedang menkonfrontasi perjalanan FAMA yang ada-lah tujuan perjalanan FAMA ia-lah untuk membela kaum² tani. Kalau sa-kira-nya Lembaga Pemasaran ini tidak ada mempunyai kuat-kuasa untuk di-jalankan ka-atas mereka itu, atau pun langkah² tidak dapat Kerajaan menjalankan ka-atas orang² kaum kapitalis untuk menchegeh mereka itu mengkonfrontasikan Lembaga Pemasaran ini, maka saya tidak tahu bagaimanakah jalan-nya maka Lembaga Pemasaran ini dapat menjalankan kerja²-nya itu.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya dahulu telah bertanya kepada Yang Berhormat Menteri yang berkenaan pada 15hb Jun, 1966, ada-kah benar getah dan tembakau akan di-masokkan dalam senarai barang² yang akan di-pasarkan oleh FAMA. Jawapan yang telah diberikan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri di-bawah itu, buat bagi jawapan mulut, ia-itu (b), hasil² pertanian termasuk

juga getah dan tembakau, yang berma'ana bahawasa Lembaga Pemasaran ini akan memasarkan hasil² pertanian termasuk juga getah dan tembakau, tetapi mengikut Bil yang ada di-hadapan kita pada ini hari getah itu di-keluarkan daripada senarai barang² yang akan di-pasarkan oleh Lembaga Pemasaran ini. Ini berma'ana bahawasa berjuta² orang kita yang ada-lah pencharian mereka dan pendapatan mereka itu datang-nya daripada getah tidak dapat di-belakan oleh badan pemasaran ini. Ini ada-lah satu perkara yang menyedehkan kerana kita tahu paktani² kita mendapat pendapatan mereka itu daripada dua perkara yang paling besar sa-kali di-dalam Tanah Melayu kita ini. Pertama-nya daripada padi dan yang kedua yang besar sa-kali-nya ia-lah daripada getah, dan kita tahu orang kita yang mendapat mata pencharian mereka itu daripada getah sedang di-tindas dan di-tipu oleh kaum tengah sudah boleh di-katakan sa-lama 70-80 tahun.

Tetapi nampak-nya hingga sampai sekarang ini belum lagi mereka itu dapat satu pembelaan daripada pehak Kerajaan, boleh jadi Kerajaan akan menjawab bahawa ada-lah getah dan nanas ini ada mempunyai badan-nya sendiri—board-nya sendiri. Kalau sa-kira-nya begitu, saya harap-lah Board ini menjalankan tugas² mereka itu kerana tidak guna Kerajaan mengadakan Board bagi pineapple untuk memasarkan pineapple tetapi tidak menjalankan tugas-nya kerana pineapple yang saya lihat di-Meru dua tiga hari yang sudah, bahawa sa-orang kita di-sana terpaksa menjualkan buah nanas dengan tiga empat sen sahaja sa-biji; wal hal di-kedai² di-sini nanas itu di-jual 15 sen sa-biji—itu pun yang paling kecil. Ini berma'ana lebeh daripada 200% untong yang dapat kapada penjual² di-bandar² ini daripada darah yang di-hisap oleh mereka itu daripada petani² kita. Kalau sa-kira-nya Kerajaan tidak dapat membela nasib mereka, maka ini ada-lah perkara yang sangat² menyedehkan.

Sekian, Tuan Yang di-Pertua.

Tuan Ahmad bin Arshad (Muar Utara): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya

bangun menyokong Rang Undang² Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan ya'ani pindaan yang telah di-kemukakan oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Pertanian dan Sharikat Kerjasama.

Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya hanya hendak menyentuh dalam perkara pentafsiran hasil pertanian. Menurut apa yang di-fahamkan hanya boleh di-usahakan oleh Lembaga ini pada sa'at sekarang dalam bidang pertanian ia-itu hasil padi dan haiwan. Jadi, tadi Ahli Yang Berhormat daripada PAS telah mengemukakan berhubung dengan getah walau pun dalam pindaan ini di-kecualikan getah. Getah ini, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, ia-lah hasil daripada pertanian juga dan tuan punya kebun getah terutama sa-kali pekebun kecil tidak sunyi juga kena tekan bagaimana penanam² padi. Kerajaan telah mengadakan 12 kilang kerana hendak membantu penanam² getah ini daripada pekebun kecil—satu di-Gerisek, Johor; akhir-nya kilang² ini sekarang telah gagal dan kilang² ini telah di-tutup. Jadi saya mahu, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, kalau boleh, Lembaga ini pada satu masa akan datang akan memasokkan juga getah. Kilang² yang ada sekarang di-ambil oleh FAMA daripada MARA dalam kawasan yang ada itu buat-lah bagaimana pindaan yang ada. Getah yang ada di-tempat itu boleh di-jual kapada kilang yang tersebut di-usahakan oleh FAMA, atau memberi keuntongan kapada ahli² yang menjual getah itu bukan terhad kapada orang Melayu bagaimana yang dahulu bahkan kapada yang bukan Melayu. Jadi dengan ini saya fikir dapat satu kemajuan kapada petani² kita dan kapada peladang², dan bagi pehak Kementerian Perdagangan dan Perusahaan hendak menolong sama ini ia-itu segala lesen membeli getah kering dalam kawasan itu hendak-lah di-haramkan, di-tarek balek, segala getah semua di-jual kapada kilang. Ini boleh membantu FAMA dalam hal usaha membeli getah pada kilang² yang saya sebutkan itu.

Kalau dalam kawasan padi kita boleh buat begitu kerana apa dalam

kawasan sharikat getah ini kita tidak boleh buat? Kemudian mereka yang mempunyai lesen getah itu kita meminta dia bersama² masok dalam sharikat kilang getah yang telah di-buat sekarang.

Kemudian, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya hendak sebutkan lagi berhubung dengan Lembaga ini supaya dapat meluaskan dalam pemasaran buah²an, sayoran² dalam pemasaran ternakan, dalam pemasaran kelapa. Kalau haiwan dan padi sahaja kita ambil usaha-nya pada masa sekarang bagaimana nasib peladang² kita dalam hal buah²an, sayoran² yang kena tinds daripada orang tengah, begitu juga dalam ternakan Kerajaan menggalakkan berternak, hidup ayam, hidup kambing, tetapi bila pasaran—merosot, terutama sa-kali yang banyak menternak dalam kawasan Yang Berhormat Tuan Yang di-Pertua di-Batu Pahat. Bila di-hidupkan ayam banyak², telur ayam hendak di-jual di-mana? Tidak ada pasaran, kena tekan. Ini patut diperhatikan oleh Lembaga ini dan Kerajaan juga patut menolong ternakan yang di-keluarkan oleh Lembaga patut bagi pehak Jabatan² Kerajaan membeli, ia-itu daripada hospital, daripada kantin² Kerajaan, beli-lah telur dan ayam itu, baharu-lah orang² yang berternak itu dapat nafas baharu. Ini bila bawa ka-kantin, "Saya sudah contract dengan orang ini", dia tidak mahu beli, akhir-nya orang yang berternak ayam gagal sahaja menjalankan usaha. Kalau hendak menolong ra'ayat biar tolong terus² jangan sa-kerat² sahaja. Ini dalam haiwan tolong, dalam hal padi tolong, hidup ayam di-suroh tetapi bila hendak jual tidak ada pasaran. Begitu juga kelapa, tekanan kelapa pun sama juga, Tuan Yang di-Pertua pun tahu kawasan Tuan Yang di-Pertua banyak kelapa, tekanan-nya sama. Pada orang pekebun² kechil khas-nya bumiputera di-tekan oleh orang tengah; ini juga usaha yang patut di-ambil oleh FAMA dalam usaha memasarkan kelapa. Kalau boleh, saya shorkan supaya di-buat kilang kelapa, daripada kilang kelapa ini tidak payah di-keringkan, tidak payah di-masak, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, mengikut satu pakar dari

Amerika. Kelapa yang mentah² itu boleh di-keluarkan minyak. Kalau ini di-usahakan mendatangkan faedah kapada bumiputera kita.

Akhir-nya, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, menurut apa yang saya fahamkan, kalau saya salah Yang Berhormat Menteri Pertanian dan Sharikat Kerjasama boleh membetulkan saya, Lembaga ini hanya menghadkan kapada 6 buah negeri sahaja. Betapa hal tujuh negeri yang ada dalam Malaysia ini—Sabah, Sarawak, Johor dan negeri² lain dalam perkara pertanian ini, hendak di-biarkan ra'ayat ini tinggal, hendak hidupkan enam negeri sahaja? Ini juga saya fikir patut di-fikirkan, buat satu pindaan supaya di-lengkapkan kapada tiga belas buah negeri dalam Malaysia dalam bidang pertanian yang saya bangkitkan ini.

Sekian-lah, terima kaseh.

Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya menguchapkan tahniah kapada Menteri yang berkenaan yang telah berjaya mengeluarkan Act yang menambahkan kuasa Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority ini. Ini berma'ana bahawa Kerajaan telah memberi kapada Lembaga ini gigi untuk memamahkan apa saja yang menentang kejayaan authority ini. Kalau-lah kita dirikan satu authority yang sa-macham ini tetapi tidak memberi langsung kuasa, tentu-lah tidak dapat authority ini menjalankan apa² kerja-nya dengan kerana kerja authority bersangkutan dengan orang² lain yang mana interest orang² itu tentu-lah berchanggh antara authority dengan Lembaga ini.

Umpama-nya kalau authority ini, Lembaga ini, masok di-dalam bidang membeli padi dan orang² lain juga pada masa sekarang ini membeli padi, dengan ada-nya Lembaga ini tentu-lah keuntongan yang dulu tersangat lebeh kapada orang² tengah ini akan kurang dan orang² ini tentu-lah memberi helah supaya dapat mereka menentang atau pun menyekat kerja² Lembaga ini. Dengan ada-nya Act ini maka dapatlah Lembaga ini melawan apa² chara yang di-buat oleh orang² lain untuk menyekat kerja Lembaga ini.

Tetapi, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya berasa kluatir sedikit berkenaan dengan memberi kuasa. Tiap² kali kita memberi kuasa pada sa-saorang, kalau tidak di-jaga, kuasa ini boleh di-salahgunakan. Berkenaan dengan kuasa yang di-beri dalam Act ini, pada satu masa akan timbul-lah perkara yang mana pegawai daripada Lembaga ini terpaksa menggunakan kuasa yang di-berikan kepada-nya dan apabila ia-nya menggunakan kuasa ini yang akan mendatangkan kerugian pada orang² lain maka timbul satu chara untuk mengatasi soal ini oleh orang yang kena tekan oleh Act ini dengan chara memberi sugu hati atau apa². Jadi kalau perkara yang sa-macam ini timbul tentu-lah kejayaan Lembaga ini akan kurang.

Saya tak tahu-lah akan pegawai² di-dalam Lembaga ini ada-kah terta'alok kepada General Order Kerajaan, tetapi kalau tidak patut-lah kita tegaskan kepada pegawai² itu ia-itu kalau-lah timbul perkara yang mana sungguh pun ada tanda² yang kuasa ini telah di-salahgunakan tetapi payah sedikit menchari keterangan² yang jelas, kalau ada sahaja tanda² ini, tindakan yang keras patut-lah di-ambil ka-atas mana² pegawai yang menyalah-gunakan kuasa yang di-beri di-bawah Act ini. Ini adalah satu perkara yang mustahak yang mana kalau tidak kita berani menggunakan kekerasan terhadap pegawai kita sendiri, maka Act ini akan tidak mendatangkan faedah sama sa-kali.

Satu daripada perkara² yang ada di-dalam Bill ini ia-lah berkenaan dengan kuasa mengeluarkan lesen. Saya faham bahawa kuasa ini pada masa dahulunya ada-lah di-tangan Negeri² di-Persekutuan Tanah Melayu ini. Chara² mengeluarkan lesen² ini oleh Negeri² ia-lah mengikut kehendak masing². Ada sa-tengah² Negeri memberi lesen ini chuma kepada orang² yang telah pun dapat chukup keuntongan² daripada usaha² lain, umpama-nya ada negeri² yang memberi lesen kepada orang China untuk kilang besar dan bukan kilang kecil membeli padi. Ini berma'ana membantu orang² yang kaya supaya jadi lebih kaya. Saya perchara bahawa Lembaga ini tak akan menggunakan kuasa mengeluarkan lesen

dengan chara ini dan mengeluarkan lesen membeli padi ini kepada orang² yang patut di-beri lesen, ini bukan kepada sa-golongan yang kecil. Ini tentu-lah akan mendatangkan tentangan daripada orang² yang dahulu memegang lesen² membeli padi ini, tetapi saya berharap kalau ada tentangan daripada mana² pihak sa-kali pun Lembaga ini tak akan menarek diri daripada menjalankan kerja-nya seperti yang di-tetapkan di-bawah Act yang membolehkan FAMA ini tertuboh.

Satu lagi kuasa yang di-beri di-dalam Bill ini ia-lah berkenaan dengan processing. Di-dalam perusahaan padi ini berma'ana undang² ini membenarkan FAMA mendirikan kilang² padi. Saya berharap ini bukan-lah satu tanda ia-itu FAMA akan mendirikan kilang² padi di-seluruh Malaysia ini. Saya fikir lebih baik jika Bill ini di-jadikan satu amaran sahaja kepada pekilang² besar yang ada di-Tanah Malaysia ini. Kalau-lah FAMA mendirikan kilang-nya sendiri tentu-lah mendapatkan kerugian yang besar kepada pekilang². Saya tak ingin supaya mereka mendapat rugi yang besar, tetapi kalau mereka ini menjalankan kerja² yang menyekat kejayaan FAMA, saya harap supaya FAMA dapat menggunakan kuasa ini untuk mendirikan kilang² dan kalau-lah apabila kilang² FAMA di-dirikan maka timbul-lah bermacam² chara yang di-jalankan oleh kilang² besar yang lama ini supaya gagal usaha FAMA di-dalam mendirikan kilang² padi baharu, saya shorkan di-sini juga ia-itu kepada Menteri yang berkenaan patut-lah ingat kalau ada tentangan yang sa-macam ini daripada pekilang² besar kita patut memikirkan berkenaan dengan nationalisation of all kilang² besar yang ada di-dalam negara kita ini. Jadi saya

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: On a point of clarification, Mr Speaker, Sir, do I take it that the Honourable Member for Kota Star Selatan wants to nationalise kilang² besar, bermacam² kilang besar?

Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, Ahli daripada Batu selalu-nya datang daripada kelinik-nya lambat dan masuk tengah² sa-paroh

uchapan orang lain, dan membuat soalan² yang tidak berasas. Saya chuma berchakap berkenaan dengan kilang² padi yang besar dan untok penerangan kepada Ahli Yang Berhormat daripada Batu, apa yang saya chadangkan di-sini bukan-lah pada masa sekarang ini patut kita nationalise semua kilang² padi yang ada tetapi kalau-lah pekilang² besar yang ada di-Tanah Malaysia ini chuba menghalang kerja² FAMA ini supaya usaha FAMA dalam menjalankan tugas-nya gagal, kita tak akan berhenti sa-takat mengadakan kuasa untok processing sahaja, kita patut memberi amaran kepada mereka ia-itu kita akan nationalise semua kilang² besar kalau mereka menentang kerja² FAMA.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Untok penjelasan, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, tahu-kah Ahli Yang Berhormat wakil Kota Star Selatan perkataan ini nationalise ia-lah perkataan yang busok tentang Kerajaan Pusat.

Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I better explain in English. There is no such thing as a smell attached to the word "nationalisation". It all depends on how you look at it. There are instances when nationalisation can do things good for the country. For example, we have the railway services which is a nationalised institution. We also have the C.E.B. which is also nationalised. The only thing is that we don't say so loud and clear as the Member for Batu. So, the word nationalisation is not as filthy as the Member for Batu would like to make it out, and if he likes it, most of the time I like it sometime, and in this particular instance I think I like it quite a lot if it is useful in making FAMA a more effective authority. Thank you.

Tuan Haji Mohamad Ghazali bin Haji Jawi: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya mengambil peluang menguchapkan terima kasih kepada Ahli² yang telah memberi sokongan dan memberi tegoran², chadangan terhadap undang² pindaan kepada Lembaga Pemasaran Pertanian Persekutuan tahun 1967 ini.

Ahli Yang Berhormat daripada Kelantan Hilir telah pun menerangkan dengan panjang lebar berkenaan dengan keadaan perchubaaan konferantasi FAMA oleh orang² tengah. Jadi saya rasa sa-hingga hari ini belum-lah ada keadaan yang demikian itu berlaku kerana FAMA sendiri belum pun menjalankan apa² tindakan atau langkah-an berkenaan dengan ranchangan pemasaran itu.

Berkenaan dengan Kilang Kerajaan Telok Anson tak dapat beli padi, saya rasa saya tak dapat-lah hendak menjawab kerana saya sendiri tak tahu keadaan yang ada di-Kilang Kerajaan Telok Anson, tetapi yang saya dapat tahu harga² padi pada hari ini telah pun meningkat tinggi; ada yang sampai \$19 dan di-Kedah sampai \$21 sunggoh pun harga yang di-tetapkan oleh Kerajaan chuma \$16 sahaja. Kemudian beliau telah pun bertanya apa-kah langkah-an FAMA akan di-ambil terhadap orang² yang menjalankan konferantasi ini, ia-itu dengan menaikkan harga, dan beliau juga telah menerangkan ia-itu tujuan kita menubuhkan FAMA ia-lah hendak memberikan harga yang lebeh atau menaikkan harga supaya petani² mendapat harga yang lebeh bagi hasil pertanian mereka itu.

Jadi di-sini saya suka-lah menerangkan kepada Ahli Yang Berhormat tujuan kita menubuhkan FAMA bukan-lah hendak menchari keuntongan, dan tujuan FAMA bukan juga hendak menaikkan harga melambong bahkan tujuan utama FAMA ia-lah hendak menetapkan harga atau stabilise harga dan supaya petani² dan peladang² mendapat harga yang berpatutan dengan penat lelah yang mereka beri itu. Chontoh-nya saya dapat sebutkan di-sini Kerajaan telah menetapkan harga padi \$16 bagi tiap² satu pikul. Tetapi pada masa dua tahun yang sudah dalam tahun 1965 terutama sa-kali padi² yang di-beli daripada petani² itu ada kala-nya turun sa-hingga \$11 atau pun \$12. Jadi pehak Kerajaan atau FAMA tidak pula hendak yang harga padi itu naik melambong tetapi kita berkehendak

supaya peladang dan petani itu mendapat harga yang berpatutan. Kalau kita tetapkan \$16 dia patut-lah mendapat \$16 atau pun lebih kurang \$16 itu. Jadi itu-lah tujuan utama yang di-jalankan oleh FAMA ini.

Yang kedua, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, berkenaan dengan

Tuan Haji Ahmad bin Abdullah: Saya fikir sa-kira-nya pihak FAMA hendak membeli dengan harga yang telah di-tetapkan oleh Kerajaan \$16 sa-pikul tetapi harga pasaran sekarang ini \$17 atau \$18 jadi kalau sa-kira-nya FAMA mendirikan satu tempat pemasaran-nya, kata-lah di-Tanjong Karang dan harga padi di-sana sudah naik lebih daripada \$16 ia-itu \$17 atau \$18, jadi FAMA tidak-lah dapat berjalan dan kalau tidak dapat berjalan apakah tanggungan FAMA di-atas gaji² pegawai²-nya yang mesti di-bayar pada tiap² bulan dan di-tempat² lain juga. Sa-kira-nya harga padi sekarang ini sudah tetap \$17 sa-pikul kata-lah di-Krian, dan chadangan FAMA untuk hendak mengadakan pemasaran-nya di-sana tetapi apabila FAMA melihat harga telah tetap \$17 FAMA pun barangkali tidak lagi mengadakan pasaran di-sana, ini-lah peluang yang di-tunggu² oleh kaum tengah untuk hendak mematikan perjalanan FAMA.

Tuan Haji Mohd. Ghazali bin Haji Jawi: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya belum jawab habis memberi penerangan, tetapi telah di-sampok di-tengah jalan, jadi saya dukachita-lah sedikit.

Jadi untuk meneruskan penerangan saya tadi, sa-bagaimana yang saya sebutkan, tujuan FAMA bukan-lah hendak mencari keuntungan. Saya sendiri telah pun mendirikan atau meluluskan empat ranchangan di-dalam negeri ini ia-itu Ranchangan Pemasaran Padi dan Beras bagi kawasan Tanjong Karang dan bagi kawasan Krian, bagi kawasan Pulau Pinang dan Perlis, tetapi chuma di-Tanjong Karang sahaja FAMA akan menjalankan urusan pembelian dan penjualan padi tetapi di-kawasan² tiga yang lain itu urusan pembelian dan penjualan tidak di-jalankan chuma urusan kawalan.

Pada hari ini harga padi di-Krian, Pulau Pinang dan Perlis sudah naik lebih daripada \$16 sa-pikul dan saya rasa tidak-lah payah lagi FAMA menjalankan urusan pembelian atau penjualan dengan sebab petani² di-sana telah pun mendapat harga yang baik tetapi kalau sa-kira-nya datang satu ketika orang² tengah ini memainkan pula perangai jahat-nya menurunkan harga, maka pada masa itu dengan ada Undang²-nya, dengan ada peratoran-nya dan dengan ada badan-nya, FAMA boleh menjalankan pembelian atau pun pemasaran-nya dan ini dapat menyelamatkan petani² dan peladang² di-sana, tetapi kalau sa-kira-nya peladang² dan petani² hari ini mendapat harga yang lebih baik daripada apa yang di-tetapkan oleh Kerajaan maka tidak payah-lah FAMA menjalankan urusan perniagaan-nya.

Jadi dalam masaalah ini saya sukalah menerangkan kepada Ahli Yang Berhormat kedudukan FAMA dengan badan perniagaan ada-lah berlainan kerana FAMA menjalankan perniagaan-nya dengan modal yang di-berikan oleh Kerajaan. Dia tidak kena bayar² interest bank, dia tidak kena bayaran itu dan ini, chuma bila di-kehendaki di-ambil wang di-jalankan perniagaan. Tetapi bagi kawasan Tanjong Karang, ini ada menimbulkan kesulitan sedikit dengan sebab Kerajaan menetapkan harga padi \$16 dan orang tengah hari ini membeli padi dengan harga \$19 atau \$17 kita kata-lah, maka dengan sebab itu terpaksa-lah FAMA menchari jalan untuk menyelesaikan dengan sempurna-nya manakala dia menjalankan perniagaan kelak.

Ahli Yang Berhormat itu juga telah pun menegur berkenaan dengan atau pun menerangkan berkenaan dengan jawapan saya ia-itu tembakau dan getah ada-lah termasuk ta'arif hasil pertanian. Saya berkata demikian dalam jawapan itu barangkali saya sendiri tidak ada kertes² berkenaan dengan itu, tetapi menurut pindaan ini, Yang di-Pertuan Agong dapat menentukan apa juga perkara² yang patut di-pasarkan oleh FAMA dan kalau sa-kira-nya sampai satu ketika kelak

yang getah pun mesti-lah di pasarkan oleh FAMA maka saya akan membawa pula barangkali satu pindaan kepada Undang² ini membatalkan pindaan berkenaan dengan mengeluarkan nanas dan getah itu. Jadi itu tidak-lah menjadi satu soalan besar tetapi dengan keadaan hari ini saya memikirkan FAMA ada-lah lebeh baik menumpukan terutama sa-kali kepada padi, ikan dan jenis² tanaman yang lain, kerana getah telah pun ada badan yang menguruskan-nya dan nanas juga telah pun ada satu badan terkanun yang menguruskan masaalah nanas. Jadi berkenaan dengan hal ini saya akan berunding dengan

Tuan Haji Othman bin Abdullah: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya minta penjelasan. Sa-orang pegawai FAMA telah datang ka-dalam kawasan saya di-Hilir Perak dan telah menerangkan dasar² FAMA dan kemudian di-dalam meshuarat yang kami adakan yang di-pengerusikan oleh Dato' Ketua Jajahan dalam meshuarat itu telah di-bahathkan apa-kah benda yang patut di-pasarkan oleh FAMA. Dalam kawasan saya itu, sa-lain daripada padi yang patut di-pasarkan maka juga ia-lah kelapa, sebab kawasan itu juga macham kawasan Bagan Datok ada kawasan kelapa yang luas bagitu juga getah, jadi pegawai itu telah pun membuat janji bahawa perkara ini akan di-kemukakan kepada jabatan-nya dan kalau mungkin kedua² perkara itu di-masokkan di-dalam senarai benda² yang akan di-ambil perhatian oleh FAMA. Jadi dukachitalah saya mendengar-nya kalau Menteri Yang Berhormat mengatakan sa-takat ini belum lagi hendak di-ambil bahagian pasaran kedua²-nya itu—kelapa dan getah itu. Saya merayu kepada Menteri Yang Berhormat supaya kedua² perkara ini dapat di-ambil aleh sama oleh FAMA.

Tuan Haji Mohd. Ghazali bin Haji Jawi: Tuan Yang di-Pertua, Pengerusi dan Timbalan Pengerusi FAMA telah pun menyampaikan hasrat penduduk² atau pun peladang² kebun kelapa ini dan berkenaan dengan kelapa ini juga telah pun di-masokkan di-dalam senarai untuk di-timbangkan berkenaan

dengan kajian dan siasatan bagi mengadakan ranchangan.

Ahli Yang Berhormat daripada Muar Utara telah mengeshorkan supaya bagi masa akan datang FAMA akan mengambil aleh atau mengambil bahagian di-dalam pemasaran getah. Jadi saya telah terangkan perkara ini sa-kira-nya mustahak perkara itu akan di-bawa kepada Parlimen bagi masa akan datang ini.

Kemudian beliau telah bertanya apakah hal buahan², ayam dan jenis haiwan dan sa-bagai-nya, dan beliau telah mengeshorkan supaya Jabatan² Kerajaan membeli ayam² daripada peladang² itu. Jadi berkenaan dengan perkara ini saya suka-lah menerangkan pegawai² daripada Jabatan Haiwan dan Jabatan Pertanian daripada satu masa ka-satu masa ada-lah berhubung dengan pegawai² daripada jabatan² yang lain supaya jabatan² itu, sa-umpama Jabatan Kesihatan, Jabatan Penjara, Jabatan Pelajaran dan lain² supaya mengambil bahan² ini daripada sharikat kerjasama dan daripada badan² yang di-uruskan atau di-pimpin oleh Kerajaan. Jadi ada juga di-antara perundingan itu berjaya dan perkara² itu daripada satu masa ka-satu masa akan di-uruskan.

Ahli Yang Berhormat itu juga telah menyatakan Lembaga ini chuma di-hadkan kepada 6 buah negeri sahaja dan apa hal negeri² yang lain. Beliau telah mengeshorkan supaya di-buat pindaan berkenaan dengan itu. Jadi di-dalam Undang² yang ada ini badan² pemasaran dapat di-buat bagi satu² kawasan atau pun bagi kawasan² yang tidak lebeh daripada sa-tengah bilangan negeri² di-dalam Persekutuan ini. Jadi kalau sa-kira-nya sampai satu ketika, mithal-nya, badan pemasaran padi sampai pada satu ketika yang kita mesti buat untok 8 buah negeri mithal-nya, maka perkara itu saya akan rujokkan balek kepada Parlimen kerana ini ada-lah keputusan Parlimen dan sa-kira-nya mustahak sampai ketika-nya, maka perkara ini saya akan rujokkan kembali kepada Parlimen. Jadi ini tidak-lah menjadi satu masaalah bagi saya menjalankan tugas² berkenaan dengan penubohan ranchangan² pemasaran ini.

Ahli Yang Berhormat daripada Kota Star Selatan telah menerangkan, ia-itu kejayaan FAMA ada-lah bergantung terutama sa-kali kepada kejujoran, keikhlasan pegawai²-nya dan supaya pegawai² ini jangan-lah pula pada masa akan datang dapat di-beli, atau pun di-suap oleh orang² tengah dan sa-bagai-nya. Beliau telah bertanya ada-kah pegawai² ini terta'alok di-bawah Penal Code atau sa-bagai-nya. Jadi saya suka-lah menerangkan ia-itu perkara ini dapat juga di-awasi oleh Ahli itu sendiri kerana Ahli itu ada-lah pada hari ini menjadi Ahli Lembaga itu sendiri. Dan di-atas soal yang kedua, ada-kah terta'alok di-bawah Penal Code: saya suka-lah menerangkan, pegawai² ini ada-lah terta'alok kepada :

"Any officer appointed under sub-paragraph 1 (A) as well as any member of the Authority shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Penal Code in force in the States of Malaya, or of any written law corresponding thereto in force in the States of Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore"—

tetapi Singapore itu kita akan potong-lah.

Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad (Kota Star Selatan): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya tak sebutkan Penal Code. Saya sebut General Orders—G.O.

Tuan Haji Mohamed Ghazali bin Jawi: Jadi, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya perchaya Ahli itu mengetahui ia-itu pegawai² ini ada-lah terta'alok di-bawah kuasa authority itu sendiri dan mereka itu chuma pada satu² perkara ada-lah terta'alok—di-ma'anakan sa-bagai pegawai Kerajaan di-bawah Code itu sahaja.

Berkenaan dengan pengeluaran lesen yang di-keluarkan oleh negeri² dan sekatan² yang di-lakukan oleh kilang² yang besar terhadap kejayaan rancangan FAMA dan sa-bagai-nya, beliau telah juga menhadangkan supaya di-luaskan pengeluaran kepada lesen² kepada kilang² kecil. Berkenaan dengan ini, saya perchaya perbadanan yang di-tubuhkan itu akan memeberi timbangan.

Kemudian satu amaran yang di-beri, ia-itu sa-kira-nya orang² tengah ini, atau pun kilang² besar ini, tidak memberi sokongan atau pun menghalang-

kan kemajuan FAMA, minta supaya di-jadikan kilang² itu hak milek negara. Jadi bagi pehak Kerajaan, saya tidak ada comment. Sa-takat ini-lah, Tuan Yang di-Pertua.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill.

Bill considered in Committee.

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Clauses 1 to 8 inclusive ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported without amendment: read the third time and passed.

Mr Deputy Speaker: Meshuarat ini di-tangguhkan sa-lama lima belas minit.

Sitting suspended at 5.30 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 5.45 p.m.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

THE CONTROL OF RENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Second Reading

The Minister of Local Government and Housing (Tuan Khaw Kai-Boh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled, "an Act to amend the Control of Rent Act, 1966," be read a second time.

Sir, this House will recall that when I moved the Control of Rent Act during the June session of Parliament last year, I assured the House that I would not hesitate to effect amendments to the Act, if ever I found it justified and necessary. Since then, representations have been made to me that the factors that should be taken into consideration in determining the "fair rent" as set out in section 6 of the Control of Rent Act, 1966, is by itself insufficient to enable the landlord and the tenant to come to an early agreement on "fair rent." Honourable Members of this House, no doubt, are aware of the hue and cry

of the public through the Press and the confusion that has ensued in the absence of a ceiling on the "fair rent." It has also been reported that in the absence of such a ceiling on the "fair rent", landlords and chief tenants are demanding exorbitant rents from tenants and sub-tenants of both dwelling houses and business premises, in some cases ranging from 500 to 1,000%. The Government, having regard to the fact that the absence of a ceiling on "fair rent" can be abused by unscrupulous and opportunistic landlords, has therefore decided that the Control of Rent Act should be amended to include a proviso limiting the "fair rent" that can be charged. Accordingly, Clause 2 (a) of the draft Bill before the House seeks to amend section 5 (2) of the Control of Rent Act, so as to include a proviso that the amount of "fair rent" per mensem of any controlled premises should not exceed one-twelfth of the annual value of the premises as valued by the local authorities to levy assessment rates, or the amount of the rent per mensem of the controlled premises immediately before the commencement of the Act together with an increase of 200 per centum thereof, whichever is the lesser. For example, if the annual value of a house is \$1,200 per year and the existing controlled rent of the house just before 1-1-1967 was \$50, the landlord will only be allowed to charge, if the circumstances justify, a maximum of \$100 per month as the increased rental being one-twelfth of the annual value, and not \$150 per month being an increase of 200% of the existing rental. The most important part of the Clause 2 (a) is the phrase "whichever is the lesser." This decision by the Cabinet was circularised to all State Governments and the majority of them have signified their agreement thereto. I must make it clear that this merely imposes a ceiling to any increases, but does not automatically entitle the landlords to charge the maximum permissible without taking into consideration the factors set out in section 6, that is to say,

- (a) the location of the controlled premises in question;

- (b) the age and character of the controlled premises;
- (c) the state of repair of the controlled premises;
- (d) the type of the controlled premises, that is, whether the premises is business or domestic premises; and
- (e) any improvements made to the controlled premises by the tenant where such improvement was made with the written consent of the landlord.

The annual value here is as defined in the Town Boards Enactment and the Municipal Ordinance. For ease of reference the relevant section reads as follows:

"Annual value means the estimated gross annual rent at which the holding might reasonably be expected to let from year to year, the landlord paying the expenses of repair, insurance, maintenance or upkeep and all public rates and taxes."

I like to draw attention to that part of the definition which clearly states that the landlord is obliged to pay the expenses of repair, insurance, maintenance or upkeep and all public rates and taxes, and, therefore, if these obligations have not been met by the landlord, this in itself is a mitigating factor preventing the landlord from imposing the maximum increase.

With regard to the 200 per cent in the amending Bill, I would like to inform this House that the majority view of the Alliance Members of Parliament arising from a meeting I had with them is that this percentage should be further amended to 100 per cent. This has already been prominently reported in one of the local papers on Sunday. There will, therefore, be a formal amendment to this effect on the floor during the Committee stage of this Bill to which, I am glad to say, the Government has given its concurrence. (*Applause*).

Clause 1 of the Bill provides that this amending Act shall be deemed to have come into force with retrospective effect from 1st January, 1967. This will enable any tenants, who have been subjected to undue pressure from

unreasonable landlords, to effect adjustments to whatever arrangements they might have entered into.

The opportunity is also being taken, on the advice of the Attorney-General's Chambers, to amend section 7 (1) of the Act, which, as it stands, requires landlords to take action to increase the "fair rent" within one month of the commencement of the Act. The amendment proposed at Clause 2 (b) of the draft Bill will enable landlords and tenants to commence negotiations with a view to arrive at a "fair rent" any time after the commencement of the Act and not restricted to within the first month of the commencement of the Act.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Tuan Haji Mohd. Ghazali: Sir, I beg to second.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, to use a Churchillian phrase, it must warm the cockles of the hearts of the tenants in this country to see so many M.C.A. members present in this House after a very long and arduous session in that they have sacrificed their leisure, even Ministers, coming to debate this tiny little bit known as "an Act to amend the Control of the Rent Act". This solicitude of the M.C.A. members for the tenants up and down the country really must be very touching, Mr Speaker, Sir. That they have the interest, and they know the sufferings, of the tenants up and down the country in the urban areas of this country is really a thing which I think the Press should record for posterity. But, Mr Speaker, Sir, hind sight of course is good but foresight I would say is better. In June last year, when we debated this Rent Control Bill—and here the Minister is in front of me—I was one of those who raised this question of what constitutes a "fair rent", and I was assured by the Minister, "You just don't worry; we in the Alliance can take care of the people; you don't worry, the landlords are reasonable people". Today, Mr Speaker, Sir, suddenly the Minister himself says that these rapacious landlords are raising the rent up to a thousand per cent.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, if I remember correctly on that eventful day in June, 1966, the M.C.A. members were conspicuous by their absence in this Hall, and of those who were present only two spoke. I think the Member for Kulim spoke—he spoke up bravely in the interest of the tenants—and the Member for Setapak spoke. All the rest were either in the Coffee Room, or in the Bar upstairs, or outside this building. They of course could not care two hoots for the poor tenants in this country. Today this solicitude on their part is really very touching.

Tuan Kam Woon Wah (Sitiawan): He is a landlord, does he care for the tenants? (*Laughter*).

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, here you are, these people are very personal, but I will answer him. I own a house, which is not under the Control of Rent Act and I have not raised the rent for the last 9 years, despite the fact I can under the law raise the rent since the assessment has been raised. That, I hope, will satisfy the Member for Sitiawan. But, if he wants to be personal, Mr Speaker, Sir, I will reveal what has happened. Let us fight with no holds barred. I am prepared for it, I have not tried to be personal but I will a little later. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, at that time when we debated this Bill, I warned this House that amongst other things, Sir, it would be only the lawyers in this country, and in particular the M.C.A. lawyers, who would benefit from this Rent Control Act—and of course it is true. The letters that had been shown to me by the worried tenants up and down the country showed that they were. I have seen lots of letters from lawyers of this House, and if the Member for Sitiawan wants to be personal, I have seen the letter signed by him on behalf of a landlord, and in that letter, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Member for Sitiawan said, "You must vacate this house within ten days". He knows very well

Tuan Kam Woon Wah: Mr Speaker, Sir, what is wrong when there is a law which provides for a lawyer to act

under the law. We are not going against the law. If the Member for Batu does not know the meaning of law, he should not repeat it here. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Do you know the meaning of law?

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: I do know, Sir. One does not need to go to the Inns of Courts to know the elementary tenets of justice in this country. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Member for Sitiawan, as everybody knows in this country that the landlord cannot raise the rent until it has been considered by a Rent Officer, until it has been considered by a Rent Appeals Board. He did not in his letter say these things to the worried tenant. He merely states that "If you do not pay this rent within 10 days we will take steps to evict you". He knows that he cannot take any steps to evict the tenant. Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I regret that I have to be personal since the M.C.A. wants to hit below the belt; and if they want to fight not under Queenberry rules, it is alright with me. I am prepared to take on all comers of M.C.A. in this House, although I see that the Member for Bungsar and I are only two Opposition Members present (*Laughter*). We are not afraid of the Alliance around us this evening. (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the original Bill, the tenant have lots of safeguards—as I have mentioned before there is the Rent Officer, there is the Rent Tribunal and there is the Rent Appeals Board, but unfortunately the Government in its wisdom, whether advertently or otherwise, never bothered to propagate these safeguards over Radio Malaysia, or over T.V. Malaysia, to the worried tenants of this country. I would have thought that the D.O.I. should have got cracking, Radio Malaysia should have got cracking.

Tuan Khaw Kai-Boh: Sir, on a point of clarification, I think ample clarification has been made in the press, on the T.V. as well as on the radio; and, if I may be allowed to point out to the Member for Batu, as soon as the first report of the confusion on the implementation of this Act was drawn to

my notice from newspapers, when I was still in hospital, on the very same day I issued a very lengthy statement explaining to the tenants their protection and their rights, and all the safeguards under this Bill. Furthermore, this was followed by a further statement pertaining to the rights of sub-tenants as soon as the first report of the high-handedness of tenants trying to force increases on the sub-tenants appeared; and, furthermore, forums posed by the members of my Ministry together with members of the Press, asking various questions collected from the Press, have been held in Mandarin, in English, in Tamil as well as in Malay, on the Television. And, as far as the clarification part is concerned, I think, the Government has done everything possible to clarify all the safeguards and the rights of the tenants and the sub-tenants under the Act.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very glad for this clarification on the part of the Minister for Local Government and Housing. I do know that the Minister has issued statements. I do know that the Government has clarified this. But what the public, the tenants, want to know, is "What is enough?" I say that the Government has not done enough. If the Government has done enough propaganda to tell the tenants of their rights, why should they come to me, a poor doctor, and not a lawyer to clarify? Almost every day, I have been getting these tenants coming to my dispensary and I have been telling them, "Look here, throw it into the wastepaper basket." They said, "No, no, this is a very precious document, this comes from a lawyer, you know." I snatched the lawyer's notice and crumbled it up and I threw it into the wastepaper basket in front of them. Now, clearly, the Government has failed in its duty—the Department of Information, the Radio Malaysia and T.V. Malaysia have failed in their duty—to inform each and everyone, and it is important that each and every tenant in this country should know of his rights and should know that he cannot be gobbled up by the M.C.A. lawyers in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this lethargy on the part of Radio Malaysia is very curious because, during the Kampong Bharu by election, the D.O.I. suddenly woke up behind my dispensary, where there was no crowd at all and they went and showed a picture on the wall there. Such activity on the part of the Department of Information, is most misguided, Sir. If they had gone with the P.A. system and then spoke to the people behind my dispensary. "Don't you worry, don't you be afraid of these sharks in the M.C.A. who are by and large these landlords involved", then I would say that the D.O.I. would have done its duty. But the D.O.I. has kept quiet and it only woke up during the Kampong Bharu by-election. I would ask the Minister for Local Government and Housing to liaise with the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, so that these amendments can be given the greatest prominence not only in the Press but also in all the other mass media, so that each and every tenant knows his right. If possible, let the Department of Information print very small pamphlets in the various languages and distribute them to the tenants up and down the country. Above all, tell them, "Do not be afraid of the lawyers who represent the M.C.A. sharks."

Mr Speaker, Sir, I fully support this amendment, and I am glad that there is a further amendment. The Minister, in his introductory speech has not told us whether this further amendment has got the consent of the various Governments concerned, because he has told us that the amendment that is here has got, at least, the majority approval of the various Governments concerned. But in regard to the further amendment that is going to be proposed from the floor, I will be very glad if he tells us whether the State Governments have been consulted and whether they have approved of this further amendment.

Tuan Khaw Kai-Boh: Mr Speaker, Sir, on a point of clarification. The draft Bill has got the majority consent of all the State Governments but, when a Bill is presented to this House, it is up to this House to decide what to do with the Bill and if the majority Members

of this House decide, and this House is the highest tribunal on our land, it is up to this House to decide, as to the ultimate form of the Bill. I think that is the constitutional position.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: I merely point out to the Minister for Local Government and Housing, because he was at great pains to say that this amendment that is before us today has been prepared after consultation with at least some State Governments. The other thing that I wish to point out to the Honourable Minister is that this Bill does not go far enough—and he knows it, because not only is this question of the raising of the rent important to the tenants but also the question of re-possession which is equally important if not equally disturbing to tenants, who have lived, let us say, along Batu Road and opened up *kedai* there for 20 or 30 years. Unless swift action is taken by the Minister, it means that these tenants will have to vacate their premises, so that the landlords can develop their properties.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to make it very clear. I am not against the principle of re-possession of buildings to develop them further. Obviously, most of Kuala Lumpur needs to be re-developed. I would be very grateful, if the Municipality of Kuala Lumpur can embark on an urban renewal that we see south of the Causeway that has drawn the admiration of lots of people, but obviously people from Kuala Lumpur do not know such thing as "urban renewal". Be that as it may, Mr Speaker, Sir, this question of re-possession is a very serious one. A chap who has lived and done business in the premises for 30, 40 or 50 years, or say half a century or more, today, under the law not only is the time given to vacate short but the compensation is equally pitiful. However, I would hope that, not at this stage but at the next session of the House, the Minister for Local Government and Housing will have to think very carefully on this matter, because this is a matter that clearly is an injustice to a person opening up a shop in the centre of the town and asking him to get out in about six months' time, because

obviously he probably needs, perhaps, almost a year to find suitable premises to open up his business, and the compensation there of four years' rent paid by him to the landlord is pitiful.

Finally, Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill has not touched on the exploitation of sub-tenants by the Chief-tenants. The Minister, I know, in his speech, has mentioned the rights of the sub-tenants with regard to the increase of rent. For the benefit of the Minister, one sub-tenant came to me even before the Bill was passed by this House in June last year and he told me that the landlord told him, "Look here, you get out, or I will throw your things away."—and sure enough he did frighten the sub-tenant so much that he had to buzz off from that place, and I know that that sub-tenant lived in that house for about half a century. The sub-tenants also have equal rights under this Rent Control Act. If I remember correctly, the chief tenant cannot collect a rental that is in excess of 10% of what he has been paying to the landlord. Now, this is a matter that is of vital importance, because as is well known in this country, it is the landlord who has been exploited by the chief tenant and who in turn exploits the sub-tenants. This is a matter, which I do hope, the Minister for Local Government and Housing will give the greatest publicity in respect of the rights of sub-tenants and also the rights of the tenants. Thank you.

Tuan C. V. Devan Nair (Bungar): Mr Speaker, Sir, the very short history of the Control of Rent Act has been a sorry record of confusion. The Control of Rent Act to de-control rent ended in almost complete lack of all control, with many landlords making overweening demands on tenants, who flock in multitudes to their lawyers. Together with other Members of the Opposition, I had warned, in the course of the debate on the Control of Rent Act, that the adequate determination of "fair rent" was not provided for in the Act and would cause considerable headaches to the Government. This amending Act goes to show that the

Government has learned from experience what it failed to accept as advice from the Opposition. Even the amending Act, I submit, is not going to solve matters with satisfaction.

Instead of a simple formula, both the Government as well as the people are to be afflicted with increased expenditure. Parkinson's Law, Sir, will be applied with a vengeance. Notwithstanding all the pleas and even the threats from the Honourable Finance Minister for drastic curbs on public expenditure, we are going to have to provide, and have already started providing, for a whole lot of rent officers and tribunals throughout the country. And as far as the tenants are concerned, they must be afflicted with lawyer's fees and the like, in order to see their cases through rent tribunals and so forth, and the lawyers, of course, will have a good time. One may ask, Sir, whether all this is really necessary. One may even ask, is this the way in which the Honourable Minister for Local Government and Housing, who fathered the original Act as well as the Amendment, proposes to help the Honourable Minister of Finance to curb public expenditure at a time of admittedly grave financial stringency? One may also ask whether it was altogether beyond human ingenuity to have fixed a formula, devised a formula for the de-control of rents of pre-1948 premises which would not have involved additional burdens on the public purse. I concede that the Government has made out a good case for the de-control of rent and that there is a case for the revision of rents especially in those areas, where we have to take into account increases in the assessment rates of houses. But would it not be possible, I submit with respect, to devise a formula whereby the increase in the rents of controlled premises is related to some fixed percentage of the annual value of the controlled premises? Or would it not be possible, to be more explicit, to apply a flat rate to govern such increases in the rents of controlled premises, which would do away with any calls for additional charges on the public purse? Perhaps, the Government, and for that

matter even Members of the Opposition are unable at the moment to come out with an immediately acceptable formula, and I would submit that it might be a way out to let the public help in the process, that we send this Bill to a Select Committee so that members of the public as well as public organisations, may make representations on the whole matter, and if this is agreed to, I might suggest that the chief criteria to be employed by the Select Committee would be as follows:

- (1) A formula for the determination of a fair rent must really be fair on the tenants.
- (2) Charges on the public purse by way of having to provide for expenses in relation to the setting up of tribunals, and so forth, will be entirely eliminated.
- (3) Tenants are not put to the additional burden of lawyer's fees, in order to write letters to landlords and make representations to conciliation officers and rent tribunals, and the like.

I put this forward for serious consideration by the Government. Finally, Sir, a number of tenants have already been obliged by unscrupulous landlords to agree to fantastic increases in rents. What happens to them? I would suggest that all such increases, which have been made since the enactment of the Control of Rent Act, be nullified; and, furthermore, all claims by landlords for rent increases should be suspended pending the findings of the Select Committee. Thank you, Sir.

EXEMPTED BUSINESS

(Motion)

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Dr Lim Swee Aun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 12 (1), the House shall not adjourn this day until the completion of all Government business set out on the Order Paper for today.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Tuan Ali bin Haji Ahmad): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya menyokong.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved.

That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 12 (1), the House shall not adjourn this day until the completion of all Government business set out on the Order Paper for today.

THE CONTROL OF RENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed.

Tuan Kam Woon Wah (Sitiawan): Mr Chairman, Sir, I did not intend to participate in this debate, when I came into this Chamber, until I heard the Honourable Member for Batu, who had spoken about so many M.C.A. M.Ps in this Chamber. Sir, when I interrupted him asking him what about his feelings for his tenants, I did not mean that his feelings for his tenants in respect of controlled or de-controlled houses because, in the introduction of his speech, he was harping and more or less mourning sorrowfully for the poor tenants in the country. In fact, when I interrupted him, he more or less lost his equilibrium in his thinking and immediately lashed out and barked at all the M.C.A. sharks and M.C.A. lawyers. Sir, the Rent Control Act was passed in this House and it became law after receiving the assent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. When the law was passed, the duty of lawyers was to apply the law—may be correctly, may be wrongly. I would not say all the lawyers apply the law correctly, but if any lawyer applies the law wrongly, there is always a remedy in the Court for one to seek redress—and it has been said that if a doctor makes a mistake, there is no remedy and the only remedy is six feet underground (*Laughter*). Sir, in this instance, I would say, if any M.C.A. lawyer makes any mistake at least it is not so bad as that of any doctor in the Labour Party. Sir, as I said, I would not claim that everybody is perfect—everybody makes mistakes but in this respect the lawyer makes mistakes where there is remedy but for a doctor there is no remedy.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon: Mr Chairman, Sir, on a point of clarification—Does

the Honourable Member for Sitiawan know that if a lawyer makes a mistake, his client is found hanging (*Laughter*)?

Sir, on the whole I must congratulate the Honourable Minister concerned for having the courage and fairness to come to the House so quickly to amend the Rent Control Act where he found that there are some landlords—he did not say all landlords as the Honourable Member for Batu has said—who are unscrupulous. Therefore this amendment is necessary. Therefore, I support this amendment, Sir.

Tuan Siow Loong Hin (Seremban Barat): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is rather amusing to hear the vitriolic speech of the Honourable Member for Batu, in particular, when he referred, in his sarcasm, to the M.C.A. Members, who are present at this sitting of the House this evening. Surely, I think, he would agree that as Members of Parliament, even though we may have passed a piece of legislation, which if we find that the mechanics of it does not suit the conditions at the present time, it is only right that we should come back to this House to have it rectified. I could not see how he could present such a view to make it appear that the M.C.A. Members of Parliament are not sympathetic to the poor tenants, but only those socialists, or neo-socialists, or those who claim themselves to be socialists, can only be sympathetic to these poor tenants.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister for Local Government and Housing for introducing this amendment to the Control of Rent Act, 1966. About a week ago, when the House debated on the Budget Estimates, a number of Honourable Members—at least, a number of Honourable Members from the Alliance backbenches—spoke on the Act and referred to certain sections of the Act, which have caused frustration and dissatisfaction among the tenants in this country. One of the sections is on the determination of what the amount of rent is to be considered fair. I am glad that the Honourable Minister has acted immediately by bringing in an amendment to rectify a

situation which, literally, gives the sky is the limit ceiling, by providing a more down-to-earth ceiling in respect of the amount which constitutes “fair rent”. I must say here, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Honourable Minister has made it very clear in his opening remarks that if he feels that at any time this law need to be changed he will change it; and I think he has done so at this stage, for that, we must thank him very much for his presentation of this amendment today.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said before in the debate, the uncertainty of a yardstick to determine the increase of rent is neither satisfactory to the landlords or to the tenants. Now the ceiling, as provided in the amendment, an increase of 200 per cent or one-twelfth of the annual value, whichever is the lesser, is quite fair as compared to the percentages now levied by unscrupulous landlords. The proposed amendment, in my opinion, Mr Speaker, Sir, is however still higher than what I proposed in the last debate—an increase of 100 per centum.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the determination of what amount is a fair rent, I think more consideration and weightage should be given to the tenants. By this, I do not mean to infer that we should completely disregard the position of the landlords. One has only to see, and I need no statistics to prove, that 90 per cent, or more of the people in this country are workers in one way or another, and the majority of them—in fact, a large percentage of them—are tenants. In urban areas working class families live in tenement flats partitioned into rooms or cubicles, sharing a common kitchen and bathroom, not because they want to live in such conditions, but by force of economic circumstances, environment and working conditions. These people comprise the petty traders, small shop keepers, shop attendants, and the like, who have to eke out a living in the towns and cities on wages which they could not afford to live away out of the town and the city limits. The small rentals they pay for the rooms or cubicles enable

them to have a roof over their heads. It is also too true that they had been exploited by the middleman, the chief tenant. In this respect, I am happy to see that provisions are made in Control of Rent Act to limit the rentals the chief tenant could charge the sub-tenant to not more than 10 per cent of the total rents payable to the landlord and also the provision for joint tenancy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with the steady drop in the price of rubber, our main export-earning commodity, and the main-stay of our economy, it would only mean that earnings would be affected and in the economics of supply and demand business would be affected, especially the small traders; and with the increase in the price of basic essential foods, like rice and sugar, which affects all and sundry and with the increased rentals

Dr Lim Swee Ann: On a point of clarification, there is no increase in the price of sugar; if anything there is a decrease.

Tuan Siow Loong Hin: Well, I would not like to debate on this question with the Minister of Commerce and Industry, because we are dealing with a different subject. Added on to this would it not be expected that the people would feel that they are being asked to carry a burden that is already heavy? Can we blame the people, if they are unhappy, dissatisfied, frustrated and disillusioned? The people as a whole, I am sure, agree that the landlords should be given a fair deal, but not to such an extent with the amount of rent that they are unable to share. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am confident that the Government has the capacity to tackle this problem, which will undoubtedly be a tedious and arduous one.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have already given notice to move an amendment to the Control of Rent (Amendment) Bill to lower the 200 *per centum* to 100 *per centum*. I hope this will have the blessing and approval of the House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have also raised, in the last debate another aspect of the problem of the Control of Rent Act

in regard to a fair compensation. I hope the Honourable Minister will be kind enough to look into this section of the Act and I sincerely hope that he will bring in amendment to this section at some future sitting of the House. I need not deal further on this except to reiterate that the provision in the Act of not less than two years rental and not more than four years rental is not quite fair to the tenants.

Before concluding, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that even on un-controlled premises—for example, new buildings—some landlords are taking advantage of the Act to raise rentals. Notices have been served in a number of cases to demand for higher rentals and, if they do not comply, to vacate the premises. This undoubtedly is unfair as these landlords are taking undue advantage of the Act which does not apply to them at all. I realise that the Government could not do anything in such cases, but I hope that such landlords be warned that they should not take undue advantage of the situation to exploit and cause people to react unfavourably towards the Government.

In concluding, I would urge the Honourable Minister for Local Government and Housing to give full publicity to this amendment and explain over and over again, if necessary, the mechanics of this Act to allay the fears of the people and to remove any misunderstanding and controversy. I would, once again, like to thank the Honourable Minister for his prompt action.

Tuan Lim Pee Hung (Alor Star): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have great pleasure in seconding the amendment to the Amendment moved by the Honourable Member for Seremban Barat. It has come at an appropriate moment and after much soul searching I hope the amendment will go a long way to meeting the wishes of our people, especially those in the lower income group, who have to rent houses or rooms to accommodate their families.

It is true that when this Bill was first presented to this House there was much anger and heartbreaks. With

this amendment, I hope, the people will find it reasonable and justifiable and also most pleased that the Honourable Minister for Local Government and Housing, who is now on medical leave, has taken so much trouble and interest to ensure that the people of this country are not exploited by avaricious landlords as the case may be. This goes to show that the Honourable Minister is not so impervious to public complaints or the hue and cry over this Bill. I pray and hope that all these accusations and anger have not affected his health (*Laughter*).

We, in the Alliance Government, once again have proved to the people of this country that any legislation that is against the interest and wellbeing of our citizens shall never be allowed to go through. It is for this simple reason that the Alliance Government continues to gain strength and to win popular support despite all the bad things the Opposition parties accuse us of. If we find it necessary to amend the Rent Control Act still further, if it is still unpopular among the people, I am sure we will certainly have an open mind on this. We have to be courageous at a time like this. My colleagues in the Alliance, Mr Speaker, Sir, stood together as one and united firmly in opposing this Bill in its original form. We, in the Alliance, have no regrets because we have a public duty to perform. Sometimes it may hurt those responsible for such legislation as the Rent Control Bill, but we do so with a clear conscience to look after the legitimate interest of our people.

I do not wish to go to great lengths on this issue except to make an appeal to the Honourable Minister for Local Government and Housing to ensure that the landlords will not be permitted to twist the formula set out for rents in future. Mr Speaker, Sir, I say this with good reason because these avaricious landlords, with their wealth and social connections with people in position, may be able to distort scientific formula laid down by the law to suit their greedy ends. I say so with good reasons, because these poor

people have no money behind them, nor people of influence behind them. So, therefore, you can imagine for yourself what will be their position. In life, as I see it, Mr Speaker, Sir, if you have money everyone will look to you with respect, and if you have no money the other person will not even look at you in the face. So, we must ensure this Bill is as foolproof against any loopholes as possible. Thank you, Sir.

Tuan Tan Toh Hong (Bukit Bintang): Mr Speaker, Sir, I once again rise to give my wholehearted support to this Amendment by the Honourable Minister and the amendment proposed by the Honourable Member for Seremban Barat. Sir, putting a ceiling limit on rent increase of the now de-controlled premises is a fair and realistic legislative move. The Alliance Government and the M.C.A. Ministers ought to be congratulated for their swift action to have the law amended accordingly. This is a good example of parliamentary democracy at work.

As Members of Parliament, Sir, we are elected to voice the views, hardships, and problems of the people; and having heard their hardships on this problem of sky-rocketing increases in rental, the Alliance Members of Parliament have correctly and rightly brought to light in this House the fears, anxiety and tensions of the tenants. Therefore, I think it is not proper for Opposition Members of Parliament to suggest that the Alliance Members of Parliament only come here to look after the interests of the landlords.

Sir, while generally the tenants do not object to reasonable increase in rentals, they do object, and object very strongly, to unlimited indiscriminate increases. This amendment to put a ceiling limit is most timely. I would like to thank the Alliance Ministers for their consideration of the peoples' views put forward by the Alliance backbenchers on this matter, and for their swift action to legislate a ceiling limit, and contrary to what some Opposition Members try to paint, this clearly demonstrates that the Alliance

Party and the M.C.A. is a party of the people, for the people, and is always giving the fullest and serious consideration to the opinions of the people (*Applause*).

Sir, speaking about this ceiling limit, many people and many electorates in my constituency—I have spoken to them—feel that 200 per cent is too high and that 100 per cent is reasonable compromise. In addition, there is also the safeguard that rental increases per month should not be more than one-twelfth of the annual value of the premises.

Sir, I would therefore like to support the amendments that there should be a ceiling limit, which is that the rental increases per month on de-controlled premises should not be either more than 100 per cent increase of existing rent, or should not be more than one-twelfth of the annual valuation of the premises, whichever is the lower figure. Sir, as a result of this legislative action, it can now be said that this Control of Rent Act, 1966, is a good and fair compromise between the conflicting interests of both the landlords and the tenants on the problems of rent increases, especially when there are more tenants than landlords in this country. Thank you, Sir.

Tuan Geh Chong Keat (Pulau Pinang Utara): Mr Speaker, Sir, I must thank the Honourable Minister for Local Government and Housing for keeping faith with the people who have faith in him and the Alliance Government for the rapid response in moving this relevant Amendment. We here are now further enlightened by the fact that the Government as a whole has accepted a further amendment of having a 100 per cent ceiling which will be moved at the Committee stage.

Sir, there was a confusion in respect of the ceiling rent. The landlords definitely took advantage of the Rent Control Act and really put the squeeze on the tenants and sub-tenants. Some unscrupulous landlords really exploited the law to the fullest extent by hitting the sky as the limit in demanding

fantastic rents beyond any sense of proportion, and this has aroused misgivings among the tenants and sub-tenants of dwellings. I certainly compliment the Honourable Minister for his warning that action would be taken against those who abuse the law and that action would also be taken to ensure that justice would be done. In this respect, I would point out to him that many landlords of buildings, which do not come within the Rent Control Act of 1966 and are not referred to under any relevant section of this Act, are joining in this cashing in campaign by increasing their rents and are taking action through their lawyers against those who are not concerned or affected under this Act. I, therefore, hope that the Minister would give serious consideration to this matter and take action against them to prevent further chaos to the existing confusion.

I would like to join other Members of this House in requesting the Honourable Minister to give more clarification and publicity through the Press, Radio and Television, and also through the Information Department, in regard to the Rent Control Act.

In this respect I would also like to mention for the information of the Honourable Member for Batu, who has requested that all information on this be printed in booklet form, that the M.C.A., I am afraid, has beaten him to the gun, and that the M.C.A. has produced a booklet both in English and in Chinese, explaining in detail the Act as to how it applies, what departments are concerned, and what action or procedure is to be taken in determining the "fair rent." This was produced by the Executive Secretary of the M.C.A., who is a legal man, and his Assistant Secretary.

Sir, the controversy over the Measure had centred principally on the question of what is a fair and reasonable rent, and in this respect I am glad that this amendment has, to a certain extent, eased the tension. I support this amendment of setting up a "ceiling rent" principle. It helps to ease the tension and perhaps retains or repairs the

goodwill in the landlord, tenant, and sub-tenant relationship.

Sky-rocketing increase in rent was reported all over the major towns of our country, but reasonable landlords demanding increases ranging between 50% and 100% have finally agreed to increases between 25% and 100%, depending on the nature of tenancy, conditions of the building, domestic or commercial, and the locality, etc. Sir, bearing in mind this amicable settlement and the appeals of hardships by the army of tenants, I feel that this amendment is justification for an increase of not exceeding 100%. I hope the Honourable Minister would construct more low-cost houses of multi-storey flats, which will also help to ease the problem of tenancy and give these tenants more reasons to believe in a property owning democracy as preached by our Honourable Minister of Finance.

Sir, talking on this Bill again, I also seek clarification for the many house owners who build their homes on properties other than their own which also come within the town land or outside the town land under the Land Code and in the Local Authority classification, inside and outside the building control area. With the Rent Control Act, everybody took advantage and started to serve notices. In Ayer Temerloh there are about 20,000 houses, and in Tanjong Bungah there are about 500 houses and I believe similarly all over the country there are houses in respect of which notices have been issued to all these squatters requesting them to come to have a discussion with the landlords for a "fair rent". Sir, these estate owners outside the city or the developed area, which is most popularly referred to as the rural area, had for many years invited squatters to squat in the land, even as way back before 1948—they wanted the squatters to squat in the land for mutual interest. The squatters squatted in the land, developed the land, and the owners get the improved crops, and due to habitation the coconut crops also improved. The estate owners saved the expenditure of clearing the land and the blukars. I would

like to request the Honourable Minister to give clarification whether such classification of houses comes within Section 18 (2) (b), bearing in mind that some of the squatters also paid for the right to squat in the land. Sir, if these people had to move, then again compensation must come into consideration. In the case of Section 18, (2) (b) down here it is referred to as controlled premises; and within the Ordinance the classification of controlled premises needs interpretation, that is clarification is required on what is referred to. In the speech of the Honourable Minister it was based on the development or redevelopment in the urban area which, to a certain extent, had retarded the progress or the growth of the city because the old building had been preventing the owner from taking over the premises and hence redevelopment. But in such cases these squatters are out of relevance with regard to what the Honourable Minister had originally made—that is, the intention was to redevelop the city but not the rural area. When the Act came out everybody, even the squatters, were roped in.

Now, speaking on compensation, I would request the Honourable Minister under this relevant Act to consider the terms of compensation which is between 2 to 4 years. In the case of the rural area we have a lot of problems to be taken into consideration: for example, in the case of such areas where farmers have been invited to farm, producing animal feed and the other by-products, and also the loss of business and *rehabilitation* in the case of their premises being demolished and all of whatever smallholdings they own have been taken over by the landlord. Also, I would request the Honourable Minister to take into consideration the terms of compensation, as if they make compensation under such conditions as 4 years it may be too little; and it may be used as a lever by the landlords as a means of getting the tenants to come into agreement at a certain "fair rent". So, in this respect, I request the Honourable Minister to study and look into the terms of the compensation which as it is, is too low. If I may be

allowed, I would request the term be increased between 6 to 10 years, bearing in mind the compensation, the rehabilitation, and other considerations and inconveniences which have been caused, both in the countryside and in the urban area, where the business had been established. Thank you very much, Sir.

Tuan Toh Theam Hock (Kampar): Mr Speaker, Sir, I like my learned friend, the Honourable Member for Sitiawan have no intention of taking part in this debate, but I just cannot help listening to the sharp exchanges going on just between my learned friend from Sitiawan and the Honourable Member for Batu. It is rather unfortunate that the Honourable Member for Batu is not here just now, but I do hope that he is listening through the intercom, in the Coffee Lounge where he is at the moment, I suppose, relaxing and having his cup of coffee.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have heard the sharp exchanges and I have a few words to say. The Labour lawyers, I must say, Mr Speaker, Sir, have no support of the people. Sir, this has been very clearly shown at the last general elections where nearly all the Labour candidates lost their seats, except for the Honourable Members for Dato Kramat and for Batu, who got in, I believe, by just a nose and for the matter, Sir, the Honourable Member for Dato Kramat is rarely to be seen in this House. Sir, I must say, in short, that the people in the country have no confidence in the Labour candidates and, I suppose, among them the Labour lawyers.

Sir, the Member for Batu is insinuating that all the lawyers in the country belonging to the M.C.A. are sharks. Sir, if only the Honourable Member for Batu will have his facts checked correctly—and for that matter he never checks his facts before coming to this House—he will realise that a number of lawyers cashing in under the Control of Rent Act also belong to the Labour Party. In dealing with the notice which he referred to as coming from the Honourable Member for Sitiawan, as he does not know the law, surely, Sir,

the Honourable Member for Batu, being a doctor, cannot be qualified to come to this House and tell us that the notice issued by the Honourable Member for Sitiawan is illegal and, therefore, void. Sir, perhaps the Member for

Mr Speaker: I should like to know what all this has got to do with the Bill.

Tuan Toh Theam Hock: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am coming to that later on, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Well, you had better come to that very quickly (*Laughter*).

Tuan Toh Theam Hock: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words on the amendment moved by my colleague, the Honourable Member for Seremban Barat. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Rent Control Act has been a subject of much controversy by the ordinary man in the street, who has to find a home to accommodate his family or, to use a colloquial term, there has been a lot of curses by members of the public because the Act, in its original form, does not provide any safeguard for the legitimate interest of the small man. With this new amendment, I hope it will work out satisfactorily for everyone. However, I am sure my colleague and myself have an open mind even on this new amendment, and if we find that this new amendment is not satisfactory, we will have no hesitation whatsoever in coming back to this House and seek further amendments.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity also to congratulate the Honourable Minister for Local Government and Housing in allowing this amendment to be moved by my colleague in the M.C.A., the Honourable Member for Seremban Barat. It goes to show that the Honourable Minister is now facing up to facts and realities of our opposition against the Act.

Sir, it is a well-known fact that some of the landlords and landladies who expect to be millionaires had raised rents from \$110 to \$480, \$500 to \$1,500 and for shophouses, rents of over \$1,000 even up to \$4,000. So, therefore,

it is imperative and timely that my friend and colleague, the Honourable Member for Seremban Barat, has taken such quick and positive action, as we have seen, in moving this amendment to provide for a formula whereby the landlords will not be permitted to exploit the poor people.

There have been a lot of heartaches and curses from the people against this Act, and I cannot help but share the sentiments of our people. The Honourable Minister for Local Government and Housing, who is ill, I am told, has put in a lot of work and time to correct the situation from the very beginning, and I hope he will spend a little more time on this Bill to ensure that the landlords will not be able to find loopholes to hoodwink the people again. I have no doubt the Honourable Minister, who understands the true nature of the landlords, will do his part well.

And lastly, Sir, I pray and hope that this amending Bill will receive the general support of all parties concerned.

Tuan Ismail bin Idris (Pulau Pinang Selatan): Tuan Yang di-Pertua, saya bangun menyokong Rang Undang-undang ini. Sa-bagai sa-orang yang selalu berasa simpati dengan orang² yang miskin, saya rasa Bill yang di-kemukakan ini ada-lah sangat adil. Saya hanya hendak menyentuh satu dua perkara yang harus dapat perhatian daripada Menteri ini.

Semenjak Act yang mula² dahulu di-kuat kuasakan pada 1hb Januari, 1967 ini ada-lah di-dapati beberapa banyak penyewa² telah pun menurunkan tandatangan mengaku dan ber-setuju dengan bayaran sewa² baharu yang di-fikirkan sangat tinggi. Sebab pun mereka berbuat demikian kerana mereka takut tuan² punya rumah, sa-kira-nya kalau mereka itu tidak menurunkan tandatangan, harus-lah mereka itu kelak di-suruh pindah ka-tempat lain. Maka oleh yang demikian dengan chara pindaan yang ada sekarang ini sa-kira-nya di-luluskan saya berharap dan meminta supaya Menteri ini boleh memberi satu pengakuan bahawa segala penyewa²

yang di-kenakan sewa pada 1hb Januari, 1967, yang telah menanda tangani akuan kerana takut ini tidak akan di-beri keutamaan atau tidak akan di-kenakan.

Yang kedua, satu perkara yang harus berlaku sa-kira-nya Rang Undang-undang² ini berjalan kuat-kuasa pula dan menentukan penyewa² itu tidak lebih daripada 200% mengikut di-sini atau pun 1/12 daripada annual value harus-lah ada di-antara tuan² punya rumah tidak akan menaikkan sewa ini dengan sebab pada satu masa nanti tidak berapa lama lagi tuan² rumah ini akan mengeluarkan perintah juga dengan membayar compensation antara dua dengan empat tahun dengan paling murah dan terpaksa-lah penyewa² itu keluar dengan tidak ada harapan penyewa² itu balek sa-mula ka-tempat asal kerana tidak ada tersebut di-sini. Sa-kira-nya perkara ini berlaku, Tuan Yang di-Pertua, maka sangat-lah tidak adil, pada pendapat saya, walau pun mereka itu hendak membayar si-penyewa seperti sewa yang baharu, maka tidak ada jaminan sama sa-kali mereka itu akan datang sa-mula untuk menjalankan perniagaan atau perusahaannya. Sa-kira-nya tidak ada satu akuan yang menentukan keutamaan akan di-beri kepada penyewa² yang terpaksa kena pindah keluar hasil daripada bayaran ini.

Jadi ini-lah dua perkara yang saya pandang patut mendapat perhatian daripada Menteri ini moga² penyewa² ini tidak-lah dengan sendiri-nya ter-keluar dan tidak mendapat tempat sama sa-kali.

Kedua, sa-kira-nya perkara ini tidak berlaku sa-olah² sama ada direct atau indirectly kita memberi satu galakan pada membayar duit kopi atau tea money. Maka oleh yang demikian atas kedua² perkara ini-lah saya meminta supaya Menteri boleh memberi sedikit pandangan dan akuan bahawa perkara² kedua ini tidak akan berlaku sa-kira-nya kalau kita hendak menjaga kebaikan dan kedudukan penyewa² pada masa hadapan, terima kaseh.

Tuan Tai Kuan Yang (Kulim-Bandar Bharu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would

like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable Members for Seremban Barat and Alor Star. In fact, both of them have taken the word out of my mouth.

Sir, when the Control of Rent Bill was first presented in this House last year—and it was on record—I spoke against it from the very start because, after consulting my electorates, I realised that this Bill, in its original form was one-sided and benefited only a small section of the population, namely, the rich. There was no ceiling fixed for the rent to be increased; and some of the unscrupulous landlords have, since the Bill became law, demanded 400% or 500% increase and still claim their figure was fair.

Sir, this amendment will fix a ceiling for the increase, so that the tenants may not be exploited. According to my humble opinion, and I am happy to say that my colleagues in the M.C.A. are of the same view that a maximum increase of 100% will be a fair ceiling. Mr Speaker, Sir, therefore, I would like to give my wholehearted support to this amendment. Thank you.

Tuan Khaw Kai-Boh: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our back-benchers for their support to this Amendment and also to reply to a few points raised by the Opposition as well as to clarify some of the matters raised during the course of this debate.

First, Sir, I would like to mention this, pertaining to certain remarks made by the Honourable Member for Batu who, I see, is not present in the House at the moment. He has said that it is better to have foresight than hindsight. It is very easy to be wise after the event and, perhaps, the Honourable Member for Batu would realise that very, many years ago—I think six or seven years ago—when the control of premises took place in the United Kingdom, there was also quite a great number of amendments made subsequently in the light of experience and the changing circumstances, and it is certainly not easy—I am glad to see that the Honourable Member for Batu

now is here to listen to what I would like to comment pertaining to his various comments. As I stated just now, of course, we would like to have better foresight than hindsight but, as I said, it is easier to be wise after the event and, as we know, this rent control came in, in fact, long before the relevant date of the controlled premises, that is 31st January, 1948. In fact, rent control came in as far back as 1939, if I remember correctly, when war broke out in this country. Because of the shortage of premises then, we brought in this rent control law, and this has been in existence for almost thirty years and certainly you cannot unwind something that has been going on for the last 20 to 30 years by just one piece of legislation, and for that reason I have stated in this House, when I introduced the original Bill pertaining to the Control of Rent Act, 1966, that it is the intention and will still be the intention of the Alliance Government to amend as and when necessary, in the light of experience and in the light of any hardships that may be caused to the people.

Now, although Members of the Opposition have repeatedly stated that there should be amendments to this Act—in fact, if I remember correctly, this was raised at the beginning of the present session of Parliament by a number of Opposition Members saying that this Act is such that it requires immediate amendment—but I regret to say that even up to today, I have yet to receive a single memorandum or proposal from any Opposition Member, or Opposition party, in this House pertaining to the type of amendment that should be effected to this Act. Despite repeated requests, I have also not received any representations from any Opposition Member, or Opposition party, saying as to how this Act should be amended and why this Act should be amended, with the necessary reasons, details and data. However, I can say that I have received a lot of letters from Members of public organisations, M.C.A. branches, UMNO branches, and M.I.C. branches, with regard to this particular Act. So, I would like to extend my invitation once

again—although a lot has been said regarding the further amendments to be made to this Act, particularly regarding the compensation and re-possession of premises—to Opposition parties and Members to send me as soon as possible their suggestions as to the manner with which the Act should be further amended with regard to compensation. I need not extend this invitation to our Alliance Members because, without any invitation, they normally spontaneously submit their submissions to me.

Now, the Honourable Member for Batu also commented on the deficiency of the Act. Now, I must stress this point over and over again: the Act itself is sufficient and has been gone into very thoroughly by the Athi Nahappan Committee and, again, it has been gone into very thoroughly during the debate when the Bill came before this House. It is because of human failings, and also the masses of this country not being, shall I say, literate to understand the provisions of the Act, as well as the various statements put up by the Government from time to time, that we do face certain practical difficulties, particularly the great amount of cases that will have to go before the Rent Officer and the Rent Tribunal. However, the provisions in respect of fair rent itself under section 6 of the Act, I must say, are quite adequate. It is in order to cut down the number of cases having to go before the Rent Officer, or the Tribunal, or the Appeal Board, that we now bring forward the ceiling, but it does not mean that section 6 of the Act is itself in any way deficient with the necessary provisions to enable the landlord and the tenant to arrive at a fair rent. In fact, I think the Honourable Member for Bungsar was wrong in stating that there has been complete lack of any definition for "fair rent". In fact, there is a specific section, under section 6, defining how "fair rent" should be arrived at.

Now, again, with regard to the question of re-possession and compensation, which has been raised by the Honourable Member for Batu as

well as a great number of our M.C.A. and UMNO Members, I do know that there is a move to bring about certain amendments with regards to re-possession of premises as well as compensation. There is, in fact, no amendment to vary the quantum of compensation payable under the present Bill, but this is purely because, although some representations have been made in this regard by the Honourable Members of Parliament and other associations, these representations up-to-date have not contained the necessary details or data to enable the right quantum of compensation to be revised. Furthermore, as far as the question of compensation is concerned, I think this is a matter which can wait until the next session. But, if we should bring in the question of any changes with regard to the law pertaining to compensation, I am quite sure that the present amendment before this House would not be able to go through all the stages in this House. It is a question of deciding which has the greater priority and I think it is felt that this question of ceiling is so urgent now, that the Government decided to bring in this immediate amendment to impose a ceiling; otherwise if we start combining both the question of ceiling and compensation in the same amending Bill, I think it would not be possible to get through the necessary procedure, constitutional or otherwise, to enable this Bill to come before this House; and as Honourable Members of this House realise, this Bill has to come in at the end of this session, because of the necessary procedure to be complied with, constitutional or otherwise.

Now, as I said, I would like to invite submission of data to me as soon as possible to enable my Ministry to study the provisions pertaining to the re-possession and the question of compensation for any future amendments to be brought to this Act before this House.

Now, the Honourable Member for Batu also touched on the question of exploitation of sub-tenants. I think the Honourable Member for Batu has not read the provisions of the Control of

Rent Act, 1966, because although there is some deficiency with regard to a quicker method of arriving at fair rent by imposing a ceiling, the rights of the sub-tenants are in fact amply provided in the Act—very amply provided in the Act.

Dr Tan Chee Khoon (Batu): On a point of clarification, Mr Speaker, Sir, I am thoroughly aware of the provisions of the Act. What I wanted to stress to the Honourable Minister is that sub-tenants do not know their rights and that the Minister, or the Department of Information, should make it known to the sub-tenants their rights—that is the position. The law is quite sufficient. It is to bring the law to the people and make them understand that they have ample rights within the Act. That is the deficiency.

Tuan Khaw Kai-Boh: I am glad that the Honourable Member for Batu has clarified that point, stating that there is in fact sufficient provision protecting the sub-tenants. Just in case this is not very clear, I just would like to state that as far as the sub-tenants are concerned, they are not obliged to agree to any increase of rent at this stage at all, if asked by the tenant, until such time as the fair rent has been determined between the tenant and the landlord. As we all know, it would take some time before the new increase rental will be arrived at between the landlord and the tenant; and until that fair rent has been decided, no tenant is today in a position to demand any increase from sub-tenants whatsoever. Furthermore, any sub-tenant can resort to the provisions of the Act to have his fair rent determined even after the fair rent between the landlord and the tenant has been determined, because all the sub-tenants put together in the same premises should not pay more than 10% of the total rent paid by them to the tenant; and furthermore I would like to point out also, within 3 months after the commencement of this Act, that is to say when the premises has been sub-let by the tenant, there is a statutory duty for the tenant of any premises to submit to

the landlord a complete list of his sub-tenants together with the amount of rent paid by the sub-tenants to the landlord, and on receipt of such details the landlord is in a position to know the total amount of rent paid by the sub-tenants to the tenant, and in that respect the landlord has the choice of making the sub-tenants co-tenants and pay the rent direct to the landlord; and if the total amount of the rent paid by the sub-tenants together exceeds more than 10% of the rent paid by the tenant to the landlord, then all the sub-tenants have a right to go before a Rent Officer and have their respective rents apportioned properly in relation to the area they occupy. So, I think as far as the sub-tenants are concerned, they are not obliged at this stage to pay any increase of rental to the tenants at all until such time that the fair rent has been determined between the landlord and the tenants.

Now, next I refer to the remarks made by the Honourable Member for Bungsar. I have already stated that it is not correct, as alleged by the Honourable Member for Bungsar, that there is no definition for fair rent. There is, in fact, a definition for fair rent under Section 6. Now, the Honourable Member for Bungsar also talked of something to the effect that the premises as a result of this Act have been decontrolled. Now, it is not correct, and I would like to correct this wrong impression, that the premises have been decontrolled at all because, as, the name of the Act implies—it is still called the Control of Rent Act—all the premises are still controlled; all the premises are still controlled until such time as the premises become decontrolled completely under one of the sections of the Act, that is to say when the tenant gives up his tenancy, or when the order regarding the repossession of premises has come into effect; otherwise, to all intents and purposes all the premises are still under control—under the Control of Rent Act, 1966.

Now, the Honourable Member for Bungsar also brought up the question of additional expenditure, contrary to

the policy laid down by the Minister of Finance. I would like to inform this House that very little additional expenditure is incurred for the purpose of implementation of this Control Rent Act, 1966. As we all know, in all the States the Rent Officers are the District Officers, and also the Members of the Tribunals and Appeal Boards are public spirited people serving on the panel. They do get paid—the members of the panel—not salary or anything like that but they do get paid a certain amount of expenses for each day they are required to sit on the Tribunal or on the Appeal Board, otherwise, their services are completely voluntary and not paid for. They only receive a certain amount of expenses in respect of each day of sitting—and also the same thing applied to the Chairman. So, it is not quite correct that this Act has incurred a lot of public expenditure as alleged by the Honourable Member for Bungsar.

Now, the Honourable Member for Bungsar also talked about that there should be a formula for compensation, and formula for ceiling rent and things like that. It is easy for someone to say that there should be a formula for this, there should be a formula for that, but I would like to hear from the Honourable Member himself what should be the basis of such a formula and what are the details for him to support any such formula should he like to submit such a proposal to me. As I have repeatedly said, up-to-date I have still yet to receive any proposal or memorandum from any Opposition Member, or Opposition Party.

Now, again, the Honourable Member for Bungsar talked about tenants now having to resort to lawyers' fees and things like that. Now, that is not correct, because it is for the very purpose of avoiding unnecessary time and expenses that the procedure as defined under the Control of Rent Act, 1966, has been drawn up. Instead of going to court, we have the provisions of the ordinary Tribunal and the Appeal Board, which procedure saves time and costs. The procedure is quite straightforward, and the arguments are quite

straightforward, and if the tenant or the landlord would like to appear before a Tribunal and just put forward his case with the details as defined under Section 6, I cannot see why justice cannot be done; but of course, if any party would like to have legal representation before a Tribunal or a Board, they are welcome to do so. But, unlike the procedure under the old Rent Control Ordinances, wherein in every instance reference must be made to the court. In this case, because we want to cut down the amount of time consumed as well as the costs incurred, the present simplified procedure of the Tribunal and the Appeal Board has been resorted to under the Act.

Now the Honourable Member for Bungsar, as well as quite a number of Alliance Members, has also raised the question regarding what happens to agreements made in the meanwhile between the 1st of January and up to date, where the tenants have already signed agreements agreeing on increased rental. Now, I have already stated in my opening address that it is to cover these exigencies that we have made this amending Act to be retrospective from 1st January, 1967, so that any agreement made under undue pressure can be rectified. In other words, any agreement made above the criterion of the ceiling, as brought about under the Bill today, if any agreement exceeded the limit of the ceiling, then of course the contract entered into would be contrary to law and would, therefore, be null and void, and it is up to the tenant and the landlord to re-negotiate again for a new increased rental.

Now, the Honourable Member for Seremban Barat has also touched upon uncontrolled premises, that some of the landlords of uncontrolled premises have resorted to demand for increases pertaining to the uncontrolled premises. In that connection, I am afraid that this is very much a question of demand and supply, as we have to bear in mind also that unless the landlord gets enough return for his houses he will not build, and unless we get more people to build and develop houses we

cannot get more houses. I am afraid that that is something completely outside the purview of this Act. However, I do hope that all landlords of uncontrolled premises will not be unreasonable and will not exploit the situation; and, as far as my Ministry is concerned, we shall be watching the situation, although I am not in a position to make any comment as to what action this Ministry can take to face such a situation.

As has been pointed out by the Honourable Member for Tanjong Utara, in fact, pamphlets have been issued in Chinese and English by the M.C.A. Headquarters for the people, who wish to apply for such copies together with commentary on the various sections of the Act. Now, I would certainly, as suggested by the Honourable Members of this House, liaise with the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to make quite sure that more information is made available to members of the public, so that there can be less opportunity for the landlords to exploit under the Act.

Now, the Honourable Member for Tanjong Utara also raised the question

Tuan Geh Chong Keat: Mr Chairman, Sir, my constituency is Pulau Pinang Utara.

Tuan Khaw Kai-Boh: I am sorry. The Honourable Member for Pulau Pinang Utara also raised a query regarding the position of houses on land within and without local authority areas and whether they fall under section 18 (2) (b). Now, the reply to this, I am afraid, cannot be a categorical one, because, firstly, we have section 4 (1) which says:

"Except for the premises mentioned in sub-section (2) all premises shall be subject to the operation of the provisions of this Act and any such premises shall for the purposes of this Act be called 'controlled premises'."

in other words, in a very short form, all houses, unless coming under sub-section (2) are controlled premises. Then, of course, sub-section (2) goes on to say:

"The following premises shall be free from the operation of any of the provisions of

this Act namely—"I think the most relevant one applying to the public is "(a)—buildings completed after the 31st day of January, 1948;"

in other words, every house built on or before the 31st day of January, 1948, is a controlled premises. However, section 4 must be read in conjunction with section 1 (2). Section 1 (2) says:

"This Act shall come into force on such date as the Minister for Local Government and Housing may by notification in the *Gazette* appoint, and shall have effect, subject to the provisions of this section, within the areas of all local authorities including the areas of the Municipality of the Federal Capital of Kuala Lumpur."

Now, it says that any premises falling within local authority areas will come under this Act. But that is not as simple as that, because local authority is further defined under section 2 as:

"'local authority' means a Municipality, Town Council, Town Board or Rural Board, and in respect of any part of its area which immediately before the coming into force of the Local Councils Ordinance, 1952, was included in the area of a Municipality, Town Council, Town Board or Rural Board, a Local Council established under that Ordinance and any reference to 'the local authority' shall be construed as a reference to the local authority in whose area the premises in question are situated;"

Now, I think you have to read into all those definitions in this Section to see whether any premises in particular comes under this particular Act. But, by and large, I think, if we take local authority in the general sense, where there is a local authority in existence, then any premises within the limit of the jurisdiction of that locality will come under the purview of this Act.

Now, I am glad that quite a number of Honourable Members have touched on the question of compensation some stating that this should be raised from four years to six years or to ten years. Now, as I have stated earlier, the mere mentioning of the number of years would not enable us to formulate a specific quantum. We must have details and in that respect, I repeat my appeal, again, to members of the public and associations that they must let us have details as to why they think that this compensation should be increased. For example, they may have to quote that in a certain street, a certain trader may

have to spend \$20,000 or \$30,000 every four or five years in renovation of the premises for the purpose of his trade and that his rent is so much and that unless he can recover so much, which he equates with so many number of years of rental, fair rent compensation, it would not be fair for the landlord to recover possession of the premises. I certainly welcome more details from members of the public as well as from Honourable Members of this House, so that my Ministry can formulate certain views and, in the light of such views, to consider whether further amendments pertaining to compensation should be brought in in a future session of Parliament.

Now, there is a point raised by the Honourable Member for Pulau Pinang Selatan. I have earlier touched on the point of agreements already signed between the landlord and the tenant—this is the retrospective effect of this Bill.

There is also another point raised by another Honourable Member regarding the possibility of paying extra money, or, I think if I am not mistaken, some reference to tea-money, but there is provision under the existing Act, the Control of Rent Act, 1966, which completely prohibits and forbids the payment of any tea-money or premium and any money paid can be recovered under the law from the landlord. I think the law is quite clear on that point.

With regard to the question raised regarding the time limit for the tenants to leave the premises in the event of a landlord getting an order for repossession of the premises, there again, this is a matter for the Honourable Members to let me know in what way the present six months' limit should be changed and the reason why it should be changed and, in the light of what the Ministry receive, we will certainly consider further amendments.

Now, with regard to the question of repossession of premises, it is not as simple as it looks. I would like to take this opportunity to explain it again. Section 18 makes it very clear that before any landlord is in a position to

regain possession of the premises, he must satisfy the Tribunal that he has a plan for the redevelopment of the land or of the premises, and that plan must have been already approved by the local authority. Furthermore, he must produce evidence to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that funds are available for the purpose of putting into effect such development, and, thirdly, the landlord must give a written undertaking that work for the purpose of putting into effect such development will commence within three months of the date when possession of the premises shall have been obtained. There are also further provisions in the law which prevent the landlord from letting out the premises once the premises has been vacated, and it must remain locked at all times until the redevelopment takes place. He is forbidden to let out his premises once repossession is granted to the landlord. However, there, again, there is discretionary power in the hands of the Tribunal to issue or refuse the order or delay the issuing of the order. So, in fact, I do not think that the six months' period is as rigid as it appears to be under the Act.

Finally, in conclusion, I thank all the Honourable Members of this House, who have kindly paid compliments to my Ministry, and also for their support to this Amendment Bill. Now, there is one final point here before me. A query was asked whether I would give an assurance that those tenants, who have agreed to a higher rent than the ceiling now being fixed, will not suffer by virtue of their agreement. Now, I have already stated that if any agreement reached prior to this amendment is above the ceiling now imposed by this amending Act, that agreement will be null and void, because it is contrary to the law in view of the retrospective effect of this Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill.

Bill considered in Committee.

(Mr Speaker *in the Chair*)

Clause 1 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—

Tuan Siow Loong Hin (Seremban Barat): Mr Chairman, Sir, having given notice of an amendment to Clause 2, I beg to move that the proviso (b) in Clause 2 (a) of the Control of Rent (Amendment) Bill be amended by deleting the figure "200" and substituting therefor the figure "100".

Sir, I beg to move.

Tuan Geh Chong Keat (Pulau Pinang Utara): Mr Chairman, Sir, while supporting this amendment, I would like also to appeal to the tenants occupying the premises for commercial purposes to realise the quick response of the Government and their representatives in this House to solve their problems, and not to exploit the Control of Rent Act, 1966, by increasing the price of commodities, or passing the increase on to their consumers as some of the unscrupulous ones have done before in respect of the increases of the other taxes. They too have their responsibilities—the tenants, the sub-tenants and landlords have their responsibilities—to contribute to making this Control of Rent Act, 1966, a fair and reasonable measure, as the Minister for Local Government and Housing is determined to make it a success for national progress and prosperity.

Amendment put, and agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported with amendments; read the third time and passed.

MOTION

THE MALAYSIA GROUP OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister (Tuan Chen Wing Sum): Sir, on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister, I beg to move:

That this House resolves that necessary steps be taken to form the Malaysia Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Sir, the purpose of this Motion is to provide Honourable Members additional opportunities to participate in international conferences and meet fellow parliamentarians of various countries of the world. The object of this Inter-Parliamentary Union is to promote personal contacts between members of all Parliaments constituted as national groups, and to unite them in common action, to secure and maintain the full participation of their respective States in the firm establishment and development of democratic institutions and in the advancement of the work of international peace and co-operation. With this object in view, the Inter-Parliamentary Union will also study and seek solutions for all questions of an international character suitable for settlement by parliamentary action, and shall make suggestions for the development of parliamentary institutions, with a view of improving the working of those institutions and increasing their prestige.

Sir, the Union was formed in 1889 and now has 67 members, including America, United Kingdom, Russia, Poland, United Arab Republic, and India. It is similar to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, although the latter operates essentially within the countries of the Commonwealth. The Union holds its annual conference in various capital cities of the world, provides a forum for free discussion of world affairs and problems of the day by the legislators from various parts of the world, and as such it may be regarded as constituting an informal international parliament. These annual conferences provide valuable education for members and insight into the problems of their respective countries.

Sir, apart from the annual conferences, the Inter-Parliamentary Union also issues a number of publications, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Bulletin and "The Constitutional and Parliamentary Information" containing questions relating to parliament, its organisations and procedure and other related matters. Its interest in the subject led it to establish in 1965 a new section, the International Centre for

Parliamentary Documentation, for the purpose of collecting information on the organisation and functioning of representative institutions in countries throughout the world. In November, 1965, this Centre organised an international symposium on the subject of "Present-Day problems of Parliament", and subsequently in July, 1966, the Centre issued a book called "Parliaments" which contains valuable information on the various parliaments of the world. Honourable Members interested may refer to this book which is available from our Library of Parliament. I, therefore, hope that Honourable Members would support this Motion.

Sir, I beg to move.

Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Last year I had the pleasure of being sent to Teheran to attend one of the annual conferences of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which was held in the Senate Building at Teheran. This meeting was very illuminating in respect of the different types of parliaments that we have around the world. There were representatives from Russian Parliament as well as those from the United States, and from other countries, excepting China; and it was interesting to see the different attitudes that Members of Parliament from different parts of the world adopt towards various questions, both internal as well as external. This conference was not exactly a replica or reproduction of the conference of the United Nations. It is unlike the United Nations General Assembly. It was primarily a meeting of legislators from all over the world, and, again, unlike the United Nations there were representatives from both the Government members as well as those from the Opposition. It, therefore, afforded those who attended this conference an opportunity of hearing the views not only of Government members, as you can in the United Nations, but also of the Opposition Members from the various countries.

Of course, there were countries where it would be impossible to hear the views of Opposition Members, for the simple reason that there were no Opposition Members. But by and large there were representatives from both sides of the House from all over the world.

One of the problems that was brought up was the question of the Philippines claim to Sabah. Philippines has been a member of this Inter-Parliamentary Union for a long time, and the delegates from the Philippines both from the Government as well as from the Opposition side took a united stand on their claim to Sabah. Here is where I realised that we were very badly off in this conference, in that as an observer I was not allowed to say a word about our stand on this particular issue. It would appear to members, who attended this conference, that the Philippines claim is just and right, because it was based on the rule of law. Malaysia had no opportunity to explain that this was not just a piece of real estate which could be inherited by people, but there are people who have settled there, who have a right to decide their own future. It is, therefore, important that we from Malaysia should also be a member of this Inter-Parliamentary Union, so that in the future should such questions as the Philippines claim to Sabah, or any other questions that may crop up relating to our relations with other countries as well as our own internal problems, would be replied to should the matters arise. I would, therefore, ask Members to strongly support that Malaysia become a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Thank you.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved

That this House resolves that necessary steps be taken to form the Malaysia Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Mr Speaker: Meshuarat ini di-tangohkan pada satu hari yang tidak ditentukan.

House adjourned sine die at 7.50 p.m.