

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT.

MC. JUN. 11/69 (FIN)

SPEECH BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, MR. TANG SEE CHIM, ON
MOVING THE SECOND READING IN PARLIAMENT OF
THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL
ON 11 JUNE, 1969

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill seeks to make amendments to the Economic Development Board Ordinance, 1961 to provide for greater flexibility in the appointment of members to the Board and to expand the powers conferred on the Board under section 16 of the principal Ordinance.

The Economic Development Board Ordinance at present provides that the Board shall consist of the Chairman, the Director of the Board, the Chairman of the Housing & Development Board and five other members to represent banking, manufacturing, commercial, labour, professional and academic interests. It is proposed to amend this section of the Ordinance to provide that, in addition to the Chairman and Director of the Board, the Minister may appoint six other members in his discretion. This amendment would give the Minister greater freedom to appoint persons who, in his opinion, would contribute to the efficient functioning of the Board.

The Bill also seeks to amend Section 16 of the principal Ordinance to confer on the Economic Development Board the power to establish, and promote the use of, industrial standards in Singapore ^{and} to operate a Standards Certification Marks scheme. The establishment and operation of a Certification Marks scheme is an essential concomitant to our industrialization programme. There is, at present, no recognized body charged with the responsibility to prepare, and promote the use of, industrial standards. The Economic Development Board has set up a Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research which will, among other things, prepare and popularise the use of industrial standards. The Institute will also operate a Certification Marks scheme, which will serve to assure the purchasers of Singapore-made goods of the quality of their purchases.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.