

SPEECH BY THE CHIEF MINISTER, MR. LIM YEW HOCK,
ON THE THIRD READING OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL
PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON TUESDAY,
JULY 30, 1957.

I well understand the stand taken by the Liberal Socialists in this matter. The Hon. Member for Tanglin says that insofar as the amendments which he has proposed and which were lost, the Liberal Socialists will still maintain the same stand. I can understand that feeling: in fact, it is the only stand that the Liberal Socialists can take.

But I would like to suggest to him that we on this side of the House have views of our own. If our views do not coincide with theirs it is ridiculous to suggest that we are dictatorial, whereas if they keep on dictating to us and we do not accept their dictatorial attitude they say we are the ones who are dictatorial. They suggest that we steamroll everything. Surely it is not so.

The debate during the past four days has shown that the Government is very anxious that this Bill should be passed as quickly as possible so that elections can take place in December as far as the City Council is concerned.

The Member for Tanglin also said the Government was pushed into accepting 15 amendments. We were not pushed. We were prepared to accept any amendments on merit. It just happened that these 15 amendments had merit.

I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the Hon. Member for Tanglin for the very capable manner in which you (Mr. Speaker) have handled the debate during the last four days and the great patience you have had with us when so much noise has been made, so much so that the last amendment regarding the inclusion of noises has been withdrawn!

JULY 30, 1957.

(Time issued 1300 hours)