

✓ Sitting No. 19/63.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Amburge d'Aragon, Valletta, on Monday, 8th April, 1963, at 5.30 pm.

Present:

- The Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Planning & Finance.
- The Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Power & Communications
- The Hon. Minister of Justice
- The Hon. Minister of Works & Housing.
- The Hon. Minister of Labour & Social Welfare
- The Hon. Minister of Health.

Absent:

- The Hon. Minister of Industrial Development & Tourism.
- The Hon. Minister of Education.

The minutes of meeting No. 18/63 were read and confirmed.

Increase in B.E.A. fares.

The question of the increase in B.E.A. fares was again discussed. The position was being studied and appropriate action would be taken by the Government in due course.

Licences to Messrs. Cable & Wireless Ltd.
(Memo. No. 94)

The Cabinet was informed that Messrs. Cable & Wireless Ltd. were pressing for the renewal of the two licences held by the Company: one to operate Wireless Telegraphy and the other to operate Telegraphy and Telephony in Malta. Both licences expired on the 31st December, 1962. This matter was being studied and the Manager of the Company was to be informed that the whole question was still under active consideration by the Government.

Sec. 335/61.

General Policy and Legislation for amending
the Shops and Hawkers (Business Hours) Act,
1954 (Memo. No. 125)

It was stated that the Act as it stood presented many doubts and difficulties on account of the multiplicity of licences held by so many shopkeepers. Some licences pertaining to one particular trade might be exempted under Section 5, and others under Section 7 of the Act enjoy a relative exemption. Often the same owner exercised several trades or businesses in one and the same premises. The Court had held that when an owner of a business carried on more than one trade in one particular premises only one of which was exempted, then according to Section 9 of

Act XXIV of 1954 the shops should close.

In order to bring the position into line with the last representatives of the Commissioner of Police, the Director of Emigration, Labour and Social Welfare, and the Attorney-General had recommended that section 9 of the Act should be repealed and replaced by Government Notice No. 284 (Order) IV. of 1939 with a heavier penalty and suspension of licence for eventual transgressors.

The matter was fully discussed and it was agreed that the amending of the Act should not be considered piecemeal. It was decided therefore that representatives of the Commissioner of Police, the Director of Emigration, Labour and Social Welfare and of the Attorney-General should again meet to consider all the proposals and other submissions before the Government, relating to the Shops and Hawkers (Business Hours) Act, 1954, and submit recommendations.

OPM. 254/63

Amendments to the Prevention of Disease Ordinance (Memo. No. 130)

To keep the poultry industry in a healthy state it had been recommended that all poultry should be vaccinated and for this purpose, that the applicability of the Prevention of Disease Ordinance should be

extended.

Before considering the matter, the Cabinet wished to have an indication of the financial implications, if any, of the proposal and of the way the scheme would be put operation and work.

Confirmation of written opinion.

The files mentioned below were circulated to Hon. Ministers whose written opinion was as follows:

AS. 401/49. Hon. Ministers agreed that the Regulations set out in the Schedule to the Expiring Laws Continuance Act, 1948, should continue in force for a further period of one year by a Bill entitled an Act.

AS. 503/59. Hon. Ministers agreed that a Resolution be moved before the Legislative Assembly to restore property to the Maltese Province of the Eparchy of Għeas Minor.

AS. 671/62. Hon. Ministers agreed that a Resolution be moved before the Legislative Assembly to restore property to the Maltese Province of the Franciscan Minor Conventuals.

Anthony Azzopardo
Prime Minister

13. 4. 63

Secretary to Cabinet