**INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE GRANT BILL 1946**

**Legislative Assembly, 8 December 1948, page1784**

Second reading

**The Hon. T. PLAYFORD (Gumeracha—Premier and Treasurer**)—This Bill provides for making a grant to the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science to meet its expenditure during the current year. The last grant to the institute was made in 1942 when Parliament voted it an annual payment of £13,500 for five years. This five-year period expired on June 30 last. No vote has yet been made to the institute for this year and it has been carrying on by means of temporary advances from cash at the Treasury. In April last the institute asked for an increased grant for the next five years. Upon receipt of the request the Government instructed the Auditor-General to make an investigation into the financial position of the institute.

The investigating officer pointed out that the first five-year Government grant of £10,000 and the second five-year giant of £13,500 enabled the institute to accumulate a cash surplus of £15,967 up to June 30, 1946. But in 1946-47 and 1947-48 the institute had deficits which reduced the cash surplus to £11,600. Owing to increased costs it could not continue to pay its way from its present annual revenue, and it would be necessary to increase the grant substantially beyond the previous annual amount of £13,500. Reasons for this were:—(a) Additional staff required to carry out the increasing number of routine tests. (b) Approved increases in salary rates for the staff approximating to 25 per cent. (c) An extension of veterinary research work, (d) An increase in the cost of stores and equipment.

The officer also reported that there would probably be changes in the allocation of the costs of the institute between University and the institute, and that it was difficult to make reliable estimates of these costs five years ahead under the changing economic conditions of today. Therefore, at present, the grant should be made for one year only. The amount required is £24,000. The Bill, therefore, provides for voting this amount. Within the next 12 months it should be possible to settle the existing problems between the University and the institute as to joint appointments of certain members of the staff and the allocation of expenses and when this is done it may be possible to reinstate the principle of making grants for a longer period. I move the second reading.

Mr. O’HALLORAN secured the adjournment of the debate.