

MIST/1/62/4

Memo to Cabinet submitted by
the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture
regarding the composition of the Gas Board.

The recent illness of the Chairman of the Gas Board coincided with the absence due to sickness of a second member of the Board with the result that difficulties were encountered over the appointment of an Acting Chairman. In actual fact a suggestion that the General Manager, then styled Technical Manager to act as Chairman had had to be abandoned because the Gas Act provided that the Chairman must be a member of the Board, whilst the General Manager was not a member.

In order to avoid the same difficulties in the future this Ministry is suggesting that the law be amended to provide that the Board be composed of four members, thus enabling the General Manager to be appointed a regular member of the Board and becoming eligible to act as Chairman whenever the latter is on sick or vacation leave.

A draft bill, copy enclosed, has been prepared by the Crown Advocate General. The Bill provides also for a casting vote to the Chairman whenever the votes on any question are equally divided.

Hon. Ministers are requested to approve the draft bill prior to presentation in the House of Representatives.

- 7 JAN 1971

A BILL
entitled

AN ACT further to amend the Gas Act, 1952

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives of Malta, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

Short title. 1. This Act may be cited as the Gas (Amendment) Act, 1970, and shall be read and construed as one with the Gas Act, 1952, hereinafter referred to as "the principal ACT".

Amendment of section 4 of the principal Act. 2. Section 4 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) for subsection (2) there shall be substituted the following:

"(2) The Board shall be composed of -

(a) three members to be appointed by the Minister from amongst persons appearing to him to be qualified as having had experience of, and shown capacity in gas supply, industrial, commercial or financial matters, administration or the organization of workers; and

(b) the person for the time being holding the office of General Manager as ex officio member,

one of which members shall be appointed by the Minister to be Chairman of the Board."; and

(b) for subsection (5) there shall be substituted the following:

"(5) /

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"(5) If the votes of the members of the Board on any question are equally divided, the Chairman shall have and exercise a second or casting vote.

(6) Subject to the provisions of any rules made under subsection (4) and of subsection (5), the Board shall have power to regulate their own procedure."

Objects and Reasons

The object of this Bill is to amend the Gas Act, 1952, so as to make the General Manager of the Gas Board an ex officio member of the said Board, and to give a casting vote to the Chairman of the Board whenever the votes on any question are equally divided.