

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the Fourth Legislative  
Council of the Colony of British Guiana at its  
Fourth Session, 1951, held at the Public Buildings,  
Georgetown, Demerara, on

WEDNESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 1951,

AT 2 P.M.

PRESENT:

The Deputy President, the Honourable C.V. Wight, C.B.E.  
(in the Chair)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. Gutch, O.B.E.  
" " the Acting Attorney General, Mr. A.C. Brazao  
" " the Acting Financial Secretary and  
Treasurer, Mr. W.O. Fraser

" " Dr. J.B. Singh, O.B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo)  
" " Dr. J.A. Nicholson (Georgetown North)  
" " T. Lee (Essequibo River)  
" " W.J. Raatgever (Nominated)  
" " V. Roth, O.B.E. (Nominated)  
" " C.P. Ferreira (Berbice River)  
" " T.T. Thompson (Nominated)  
" " G.A.C. Farnu, O.B.E. (Nominated)  
" " J.P. Coghlan (Demerara River)  
" " D.P. Debidin (Eastern Demerara)  
" " J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central)  
" " Dr. G.M. Gonsalves (Eastern Berbice)  
" " Dr. C. Jagan (Central Demerara)  
" " W.O.R. Kendall (New Amsterdam)  
" " A.T. Peters (Western Berbice)  
" " W.A. Phang (North Western District)  
" " G.H. Smellie (Nominated)  
" " J. Carter (Georgetown South)  
" " L.A. Luckhoo (Nominated)  
" " W.A. Macnic, C.M.G., O.B.E. (Nominated),

The Clerk read prayers.

✓ ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy President informed Council that His Excellency the Governor had asked him to convey to members an expression of his sincere regret at not being able to preside during the debate on Federation.

The Deputy President added that His Excellency had been confined to bed on doctor's instructions and was still indisposed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 30th of November, 1951, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

The Attorney General gave notice of the following motion:-

WHEREAS the Rent Restriction Ordinance, 1941, (No. 23 of 1941), came into operation on the 8th day of November, 1941;

AND WHEREAS section 16 of the said Ordinance, as amended by section 17 of the Rent Restriction (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947, (No. 13 of 1947) provides that the Ordinance shall continue in force up to and including the 31st day of December, 1951, but that, prior to the expiration thereof, the Legislative Council may, by Resolution published in the Gazette, declare that the said Ordinance shall continue in operation for a further period of one year;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the said Ordinance be continued in operation for a further period of one year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rent Restriction Ordinance, 1941, (No. 23 of 1941), shall continue in force for a further period of one year up to and including the 31st day of December, 1952.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

Council resumed the debate on the following motion:-

That, this Council accepts in principle the proposed federation of the British Caribbean Colonies and agrees to consider in a Committee of all the unofficial members of the Council the recommendations in the Closer Association Report.

Dr. Jagan, Mr. Lee, Dr. Singh and Mr. Ferroira spoke to the motion.

The following amendment, moved by Dr. Jagan and seconded by Mr. Lee was disallowed under Standing Rule and Order 16(C) and (H). However, in view of the importance of the subject under discussion, leave was granted Dr. Jagan to withdraw the amendment for redrafting and submission at a later stage:-

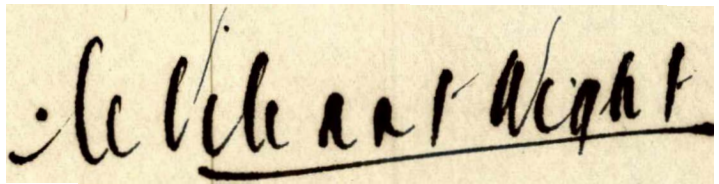
Delete the words "the proposed" in the first and second lines. Delete the words "agrees to consider in a Committee of all the unofficial members of the Council the recommendations in the Closer Association Report" and substitute the words "recommends in view of the fact that the Closer Association Committee was not truly representative of the people that a constituent Assembly constituted by two members from each participating territory and chosen by universal adult suffrage be appointed to draft a new federal constitution "with dominion Status".

It being past the hour of adjournment, the debate stood adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT


The Deputy President adjourned Council sine die.

Confirmed,

A rectangular photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on aged, yellowish paper. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "J. H. ...".

resident.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
Public Buildings,  
British Guiana.

 December, 1951.