

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THIRD SESSION

1956 - 1957

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution)(Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P. .

on

THURSDAY, 20TH J E, 1957.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C.

Ex-Officio Members.

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. M.S. Porcher, (Ag.)
The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. A.M.I. Austin.
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. F.W. Essex.

Nominated Members of Executive Council.

The Honourable Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.,
(Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines).
The Honourable P.A. Cummings,
(Member for Labour, Health and Housing).
The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall,
(Member for Communications and Works).
The Honourable G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E.,
(Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and
Co-operative Development).
The Honourable R.B. Gajraj.
The Honourable R.C. Tello.

Nominated Official.

Mr. J.I. Ramphal.

Nominated Unofficials.

Mr. W.A. Phang.
Mr. C.A. Carter
Mr. E.F. Correia
Mr. H. Rahaman
Miss Gertie H. Collins
Mrs. Esther E. Dey
Dr. H.A. Fraser
Mr. R.B. Jailal
Mr. Sugrim Singh
Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Absent.

Mr. T. Lee - on leave.
Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C. - on leave.
Rev. D.C.J. Bobb - on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 13th of June, 1957, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C. from at day's meeting.

PAPERS LAID

By the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines:

- (a) Fisheries (Licences) Regulations, 1957.
- (b) Fisheries (Marketing) Regulations, 1957.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Motions

- (i) By the Chief Secretary:

WHEREAS the salaries and wages of the domestic employees employed at Government House were provided for in the Estimates since 1955 and such employees thereupon became Government employees entitled to superannuation benefits in accordance with the rules for such benefits;

AND WHEREAS prior to 1955, the said employees were not entitled to such superannuation benefits;

AND WHEREAS the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council at a meeting held on 3rd January, 1955, had agreed that the service of such employees prior to 1955, should be treated for superannuation purposes as if such service had been with the Government:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the service prior to the 1st January, 1955 of persons employed as domestic employees on and after that date at Government House being deemed to be service with the Government so that such service may be included in calculating the superannuation benefits to be paid to such employees on their retirement in accordance with the existing rules governing such awards approved by Council by Resolution No. LII of the 6th July, 1951 as amended by Resolution No. LVI of the 8th May, 1957.

- (ii) By the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Fisheries (Licences) Regulations, 1957, and the Fisheries (Marketing) Regulations, 1957, made by the Governor in Council on the 19th May, 1957.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

- (i) The Chief Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills:
- (a) VOLUNTEER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957
(Bill No. 26/1957 published 15.6.57).
 - (b) D'ABREU PENSION BILL, 1957
(Bill No. 29/1957 published 15.6.57).
 - (c) DIAS PENSION BILL 1957
(Bill No. 27/1957 published 15.6.57).
 - (d) POLICE BILL, 1957
(Bill No. 28/1957 published 17.6.57).
- (ii) The Attorney General gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:
- DEEDS REGISTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957
(Bill No. 24/1957 published 15.6.57).
- (iii) The Financial Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills:
- (a) PENSIONS (CONSOLIDATION) BILL, 1957
(Bill No. 25/1957 published 17.6.57).
 - (b) DEVELOPMENT FUND (1955 and 1956 APPROPRIATION) BILL, 1957.
(Bill No. 31/1957 published 17.6.57).
 - (c) EXCISE REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957.
(Bill No. 32/1957 published 17.6.57).
- (iv) The Member for Communications and Works gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:
- POST AND TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957.
(Bill No. 33/1957 published 17.6.57).

- (v) The Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (HOPETOWN AND BEL AIR COUNTRY DISTRICTS)(SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 1957.

(Bill No. 30/1957 published 17.6.57).

Her Majesty's Birthday Honours, 1957.

On a suggestion by the Chief Secretary supported by Mr. Gajraj, Council placed on record its pleasure at the high honour bestowed by Her Majesty the Queen in the Birthday Honours 1957 on two former members of the Council viz. -

- (i) Mr. John Gutch, C.M.G., O.B.E., formerly Chief Secretary of British Guiana now High Commissioner of the Western Pacific on whom was bestowed the dignity of a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George; and
- (ii) Mr. Frank Wilfrid Holder, C.M.G., formerly Attorney General now Chief Justice of the Colony on whom was bestowed the dignity of a Knighthood.

The Speaker associated himself with the remarks of the previous speakers and promised to arrange for the transmission of the relevant extract of the Hansard to Sir John Gutch, K.C.M.G., O.B.E. and to Sir Frank Wilfrid Holder, C.M.G.

PUBLIC BUSINESS
ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - First Reading.

The following Bills were read a first time:

- (i) VOLUNTEER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957 -
Bill No. 26/1957.
- A BILL intttuled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE VOLUNTEER ORDINANCE
- (ii) D'ABREU PENSION BILL, 1957.-
Bill No. 29/1957

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION IN REGARD TO THE PENSION AND GRATUITY PAYABLE TO PAULINE GOMES D'AB EU.

(iii) DIAS PENSION BILL, 1957 -
Bill No. 27/1957.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION IN REGARD TO THE PENSION AND GRATUITY PAYABLE TO VIVIAN CHARLES DIAS.

(iv) POLICE BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 28/1957.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO THE BRITISH GUIANA POLICE FORCE.

(v) DEEDS REGISTRY (AMENDMENT BILL 1957
- Bill No. 24 1957.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE DEEDS REGISTRY ORDINANCE.

(vi) PENSIONS (CONSOLIDATION) BILL, 1957 -
Bill No. 25/1957.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO THE AWARD OF PENSION^s, GRATUITIES AND OTHER ALLOWANCES TO CIVIL SERVANTS IN RESPECT OF SERVICE IN THE COLONY.

(vii) DEVELOPMENT FUND (1955 and 1956
APPROPRIATION) BILL, 1957 - Bill
No. 31/1957.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE APPROPRIATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND OF CERTAIN SUMS OF MONEY TRANSFERRED THERETO FROM THE REVENUES AND FUNDS OF THE COLONY.

(viii) EXCISE REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957 -
Bill No. 32/1957.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EXCISE REGULATIONS ORDINANCE.

(ix) POST AND TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957 -
Bill No. 33/1957.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE POST AND TELEGRAPH ORDINANCE.

(x) LOCAL GOVERNMENT (HOPETOWN AND BEL AIR
COUNTRY DISTRICTS)(SPECIAL PROVISIONS)
BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 30/1957.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION OF RATES LEVIED BY THE HOPETOWN AND BEL AIR COUNTRY AUTHORITIES IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1956 AND TO MAKE BETTER PROVISION FOR THE COLLECTION OF MONIES DUE TO LOCAL UTHORITIES.

BILLS - Third Reading.

Item 2 - PAWN BROKING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957 -
Bill No. 14/1957.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PAWN BROKING ORDINANCE was read a third time and passed as amended in Committee.

Item 3 - ELECTRICITY BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 20/1957.

On a motion by the Member for Communications and Works seconded by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CORPORATION TO BE KNOWN AS THE BRITISH GUIANA ELECTRICITY CORPORATION AND FOR THE EXERCISE AND PERFORMANCE BY THE CORPORATION OF FUNCTIONS RELATING TO THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AND CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS was read a third time and passed as amended in Committee.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings.

Item 4 - ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957 -
Bill No. 22/1957.

With the consent of Council and on motions by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by Mr. Gajraj, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ORDINANCE, 1955, was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 5 - REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL,
1957 - Bill No. 23 1957.

With the consent of Council and on motions by the Chief Secretary seconded by the Attorney General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ORDINANCE AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS AS REGISTRATION AREAS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THAT ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

MOTION

Item 6 - MR. CORREIA'S MOTION CONCERNING THE REPORT OF
THE SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED IN TERMS OF
RESOLUTION XXXVI of 1955.

With Council's consent Mr. Correia's motion was amended to read as follows:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That with reference to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Select Committee appointed in terms of Resolution XXXVI of 1955, which was tabled on the 19th of July, 1956, this Council requests that the Government give all possible encouragement to the recommendation with respect to the establishment of a Chipboard Industry in British Guiana.

.. / Mr. Correia

Mr. Correia moved the motion as amended which was seconded by Miss Collins. After discussion, the motion was put and carried.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

On the motion for adjournment the Attorney General referred to the desirability of expediting the business before the Council and gave notice of his intention to move the following motion at the next meeting:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House agrees to proceed forthwith with the Second Reading of the following Bills:

1. D'Abreu Pension Bill, 1957.
2. Dias Pension Bill, 1957.
3. Volunteer (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
4. Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
5. Development Fund (1955 and 1956 Appropriation) Bill, 1957.
6. Excise Regulations (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
7. Post and Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 1957.
8. Local Government (Hopetown and Bel Air Country Districts) (Special Provisions) Bill, 1957.
9. Animals (Control of Experiments) Bill, 1957,

and a resolution regarding superannuation benefits of the Government House Staff.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.25 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, the 21st of June, 1957.

Confirmed,



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

21st June, 1957.