

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.M.
on

TUESDAY, 25TH JUNE, 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. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.

Mr. C.A. Carter

Rev. D.C.J. Bobb

Mr. H. Rahaman

Miss Gertie H. Collins

Mrs. Esther E. Dey

Dr. H.A. Fraser

Mr. R.B. Jailal

Mr. Sugrim Singh

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

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree.

Absent.

Mr. T. Lee - on leave.

Mr. E.F. Correia - on leave.

Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O. - on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 21st of June, 1957, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Correia and Mr. Lord from that day's meeting.

(ii) Communication received concerning the Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 1957.

The Speaker informed members that he had received a communication dated the 22nd of June, 1957, from certain Organisations protesting against the passing of the Marriage (Amendment) Bill which was before the House, and soliciting his intervention; also a copy of a related telegram which the Organisations stated they had transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

After reading them, the Speaker directed that the documents be laid on the Table for the information of members.

PAPERS LAID

(a) By the Attorney General:

Rules (No. 2 of 1957) made under the
Deeds Registry Ordinance (Chapter 32).
(No. L. 11/11/1).

(b) By the Financial Secretary:

(i) Order in Council No. 30 of 1957 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 19th day of June, 1957, and published in the Gazette on the 22nd of June, 1957.
(F.S.C.Ex. 26/56)(Circulated).

(ii) Order in Council No. 31 of 1957 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 19th day of June, 1957, and published in the Gazette on the 22nd of June, 1957.
(F.S.G. 243/54 I(1)(Circulated).

(iii) Schedule of Supplementary Estimates for the month of May, 1957.
(F.S.G. 4/57)(Circulated).

(iv) Schedule of Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the month of May, 1957.
(F.S.G. 7^B/57)(Circulated).

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

Fisheries Regulations, 1957 (No. 13).

The Member stated that these Regulations were in substitution for the Fisheries (Licences) Regulations, 1957, and the Fisheries (Marketing) Regulations, 1957, tabled on the 20th of June, and which he asked leave to withdraw.

Leave having been granted, the Regulations were withdrawn.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Motions

By the Financial Secretary:

(i) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 30 of 1957 which was made on the 19th day of June, 1957, and published in the Gazette on the 22nd of June, 1957.

(ii) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 31 of 1957 which was made on the 19th day of June, 1957, and published in the Gazette on the 22nd of June, 1957.

(iii) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates for the month of May, 1957, totalling \$295,742.63, which have been laid on the table.

(iv) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the month of May, 1957, totalling \$758,212.00, which have been laid on the table.

../ MOTIONS - Withdrawal

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- (i) MOTION BY MR. LUCKHOO CONCERNING THE RICE FARMERS (SECURITY OF TENURE) ORDINANCE, 1956.
- (ii) MOTION BY MR. LUCKHOO CONCERNING TENANTS OF LANDS AT RUIIMVELDT AND ALEXANDER VILLAGE.

Before the Order of the Day was proceeded with, Mr. Luckhoo was granted leave to withdraw the motions standing in his name at items 4 and 5.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - Second Reading.

Item 1 - MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 17/1957.

Council resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE MARRIAGE ORDINANCE.

After discussion, the motion was put and carried. The Bill was read a second time.

Council then resolved itself into a Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 - was passed as printed.

Clause 2 - was amended as under and passed:

The word "male" was inserted between the words "pro er" and "person" in the fourth line.

Clause 3 - was deferred.

Clauses 4, 5 and 6 - were passed as printed.

Clause 7 - was amended as under and passed:

Printer's error in spelling of the word "marriage" in the eighth line was corrected.

../ Clauses 8 to 13 -

Clauses 8 to 13 - were passed as printed.

At this stage Council resumed.

Council was suspended for tea at 4.42 p.m. and resumed at 5.20 p.m.

Council resumed in Committee.

Clause 5 - At the request of Rev. Bobb, Clause 5 was re-committed and was deferred to enable the Attorney General to consider whether the words "the Christian" should be inserted between the words "of" and "religion" in the fourth line of the Clause.

Clause 3 - Consideration was resumed and after discussion the clause was amended as under and passed:

By the deletion of the full stop at the end of the clause and the addition of the following words:

"Cap. 104 or of the Indian Labour Ordinance:

Provided that if a marriage officer solemnizes a marriage in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Labour Ordinance, he shall, within seven days thereof, give written notification of the fact to the immigration agent for the district in which the parties to the marriage reside."

Further consideration was deferred.

Council resumed.

Item 3 - POLICE BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 28/1957.

At the request of the Chief Secretary and with Council's consent, item 3 was taken at this stage.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO THE BRITISH GUIANA POLICE FORCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendments in Committee:-

Clause 60 - was amended as under and passed:

Printer's error in spelling of the word "appointed" in the second line of the clause was corrected.

Clause 69 the words "by virtue of any search warrant" in the second and third lines of the clause were deleted and the words "as the result of any search carried out by a member of the Force" substituted therefor.

SCHEDULE

The "Table of Fees and Allowances Payable to Rural Constables" was amended as follows:

(a) New Item 7 inserted -

"7. For the attendance at any muster to a subordinate officer or co stable per diem .. \$2.00".

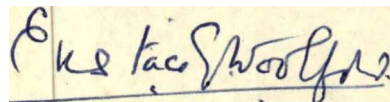
(b) Items 7 and 8 were re-numbered as items 8 and 9, respectively.

(c) The figure "8" was substituted for the figure "7" in the printed item 8(a), re-numbered as item 9.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.54 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 27th of June, 1957.

Confirmed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. K. Taylor", written on a yellowed piece of paper with a horizontal line underneath.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

27th June, 1957.