

1957 - 1958

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Orders in Council, 1953 and 1956, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT .00 P.M.
on

FRIDAY, 7 H FEBRUARY, 1958.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, . F.D. Jakeway, C.M.G., O.B.E.
The Honourable the Attorney-General, Mr. A.M.I. Austin, Q.C.
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. F.W. Essex.

Ministers

The Honourable Dr. C.B. Jagan,
Minister of Trade and Industry.
The Honourable B.H. Benn,
Minister of Community Development and Education.
The Honourable E.B. Beharry,
Minister of Natural Resources.
The Honourable Janet Jagan,
Minister of Labour, Health and Housing.
The Honourable Ram Karran,
Minister of Communications and Works.

Elected Members, Majority Party.

Mr. F. Bowman
Mr. B.S. Rai
Mr. S.M. Saffee

Other Elected Members

Mr. W.O.R. Kendall
Mr. L.F.S. Burnham
Mr. S. Campbell
Mr. A.L. Jackson
Mr. Jai Narine Singh

Nominated Members

Mr. R.B. Gajraj
Mr. R.C. Tello
Mr. R.E. Davis
Mr. A.M. Fredericks
Mr. H.J.M. Hubbard
Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E.

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Cr Ewing.
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree.

Absent:

Mr. Ajodha Singh.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, the 5th of February, 1958, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTSLeave

The Speaker announced that the Honourable Ram Karran, Minister of Communications and Works, would be out of the Colony on official duty from the 8th to the 16th February, 1958..

PAPERS LAID

By the Attorney-General on behalf of the Financial Secretary:

Certificate and Report of the Director General of the Oversea Audit Service on the Accounts of British Guiana for the year ended the 31st of December, 1954, together with the comments thereon of the Governor - Sessional Paper No. 2/1958. (F. .T. 12/56)(Circulated).

ORAL ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONSQuestion No. 12

Mr. Jackson asked the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing the following question:

QUESTION: Does the Government propose to sell the lands at Silvertown and Silver City, recently acquired from Sproston, to persons who have houses built on those lands? And if so, when?

The Minister of Labour Health and Housing gave the following reply:

ANSWER: Yes. The area would, however, first have to be surveyed and a scheme prepared showing house lots, drainage and access before the sale of the land could be effected. It is not possible at this stage to say when the survey will be undertaken.

Question No. 13

Mr. Fredericks asked the Minister of Trade and Industry the following questions:

QUESTION 1: Is Government aware that a new \$100,000 Stone Crushing Plant has been erected at Pointe Gourde, Trinidad, by Chaguaramas Terminals expressly to supply materials to Mackenzie, Demerara River?

QUESTION 2: How much stone has been imported from Trinidad from 1st January, 1957 to date, and how much duty has been paid thereon to Government?

../ QUESTION 3:

QUESTION 3: Does the Government propose to continue to allow the importation of stone when there is at present over-production of this material in the Colony, which has resulted in the closing down of a number of quarries with the attendant lay-off of quarry workers?

The Minister of Trade and Industry gave the following replies:

ANSWER 1: No, Sir. Government has been informed that this Plan was erected partly for the purpose of supplying limestone (which is not available in British Guiana) to the alumina plant at Mackenzie, from which lime, which is an essential material in the alumina process, could be extracted; and partly to supply the Trinidad market with crushed stone.

ANSWER 2: From January to December, 1957, 29 tons of stone were imported from Trinidad and the duty paid was \$45. During this period there were also, under the Industries Aid and Encouragement Ordinance, two duty-free importations of limestone (classified as Lime under the British Guiana Import Tariff) of 800 tons and 2,660 tons, to be used for the alumina plant.

ANSWER 3: In view of the negligible quantities of stone imported at present, Government does not consider that there is any need for the imposition of special restrictions on its importation at the present time, but the position is being kept under review.

Mr. Fredericks asked a supplementary question.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(i) Letter to Trades Union Council concerning workers at Sir Lindsay Parkinson Company.

Referring to the debate on the 4th February, the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mr. Jagan) stated that the letter regarding the Sir Lindsay Parkinson Company matter had been despatched by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Housing to the Trades Union Council on the 3rd February.

Mr. Tello confirmed that the letter had been received by that body subsequent to the debate referred to.

(ii) Government Aid to Secondary Schools.

The Minister of Community Development and Education (Mr. Benn) made a statement on Government Aid to Private Secondary Schools.

PUBLIC BUSINESS
ORDER OF THE DAY

Item 1 - MOTION CONCERNING APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES FOR 1958.

The Financial Secretary moved and the Attorney-General seconded the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Estimates of Development Expenditure for the year 1958 which have been laid on the table, with the amendments recommended in the Report of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council dated 20th January, 1958, totalling TWENTY-THREE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHT DOLLARS as detailed by Heads in the undermentioned schedule and of the projects therein being financed from the Development Fund Ordinance, 1954.

SCHEDULE

Head No.	Head of Estimate	Estimate in 1958.
I.	Agriculture	\$ 763,516
II.	Civil Aviation	175,484
III.	Drainage and Irrigation	6,919,062
IV.	Education	517,353
V.	Finance	72,455
VI.	Forest	127,876
VII.	Geological Survey	532,304
VIII.	Health	323,793
IX.	Housing	2,020,775
X.	Lands and Mines	22,000
XI.	Land Settlement	1,856,230
XII.	Post Office	2,697,000
XIII.	Public Works	4,434,530
XIV.	Transport and Harbours	2,590,868
XV.	Miscellaneous	201,206
XVI.	Rural Self Help	120,000
XVII.	Social Welfare	15,100
XVIII.	Local Government	79,586
XIX.	Rural Electrification	272,000
XX.	Amerindian Development	23,000
		\$23,764,138

Questions were raised by members on Head I - Agriculture and were replied to.

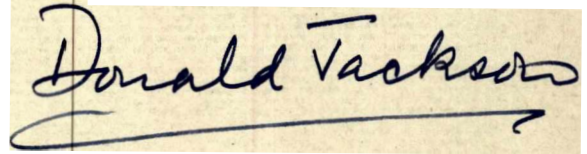
At 4.15 p.m. Council was discussing a motion by Mr. Burnham for a reduction by \$1: of Head IX - Housing, in the Schedule to the motion, when . Kendall moved and Mr. Burnham seconded the adjournment of Council as some members wished to attend a civic recep

../ The motion

The motion was put and carried.

At 4.23 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th of February, 1958.

Confirmed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald Jackson", written on a piece of aged, yellowish paper. The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends across the width of the paper.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

11th February, 1958.