

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 2.00 P.M.

on

TUESDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1959.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. M.S. Porcher (Ag.)
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. H.J.M. Hubbard
Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E.

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

Absent:

Mr. Ajodha Singh.
Mr. A.M. Fredericks - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 5th of March, 1959, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

(a) By the Minister of Trade and Industry:

Sixty-eighth Annual Report of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

(LEG. 33/33 VI).

(b) By the Minister of Natural Resources:

In terms of section 17(2) of Chapter 192 -

Copies of plans, specifications and estimate of the works to be carried out in the proposed Den Amstel/Fellowship Drainage and Irrigation area.

(DI 33/33 III).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Financial Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

CURRENCY BILL, 1959.
(Bill No. 13/1959 published 7.3.59).

PUBLIC BUSINESSORDER OF THE DAY

BILL - First Reading.

Item 1 - CURRENCY BILL, 1959 - Bill No. 13/1959.

The BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND CONSOLIDATE THE LAW RELATING TO CURRENCY AND TO IMPLEMENT AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FOR A UNIFORM CURRENCY IN THE EASTERN GROUP OF THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES was read the first time.

MOTION

Item 2 - MOTION CONCERNING APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES FOR 1959.

On a motion by Mr. Burnham, Council resolved itself into Committee to resume consideration of the Schedule to the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Estimates of Development Expenditure for the year 1959 which have been laid on the Table, with the amendments recommended in the Report of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council dated 7th February, 1959, totalling TWENTY-ONE MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN 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 1959.
I.	Agriculture	\$ 772,965
II.	Civil Aviation	85,990
III.	Drainage and Irrigation	7,684,878
IV.	Education	694,400
V.	Finance	-
VI.	Forest	174,445
VII.	Geological Survey	496,385
VIII.	Health	543,620
IX.	Housing	891,168
X.	Lands and Mines	22,000
XI.	Land Development	999,227
XII.	Post Office	1,528,930
XIII.	Public Works	4,733,144
XIV.	Transport and Harbours	2,158,998
XV.	Miscellaneous	180,554
XVI.	Rural Self Help	300,000
XVII.	Social Welfare	30,172
XVIII.	Local Government	59,732
XIX.	Rural Electrification	36,000
XX.	Amerindian Development	62,008
		<u>\$21,454,616</u>

Questions were raised by members on certain Heads in the Schedule which were replied to.

Council resumed.

Thereafter, the question was put and the motion affirmed.

BILL - Second Reading - Deferred.

Item 3 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1959 - Bill No. 6/1959.

The Financial Secretary moved that the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE be read a second time.

Mr. Burnham moved and Mr. Kendall seconded that the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Bill be adjourned to enable the Public Petitions Committee to conclude consideration of and to report on the Petition tabled by Mr. Tello on the 12th February, 1959, on behalf of Mr. Rudolph Melville and others praying that the proposed increase in the excise duty on beer should not be approved by the Legislative Council.

The question was put and the motion carried unanimously.

The debate on the motion for the second reading of the Tax (Amendment) Bill was accordingly adjourned.

SUPPLEMENT

ITEMS NOT TO BE PROCEEDED WITH AT THIS MEETING.

BILLS - Second Reading.

- 1. The Financial Secretary to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ESTATE DUTY ORDINANCE.

(Bill No. 28/1960 published 3.12.60).
(Notice was given on 9th December, 1960).

- 2. The Minister of Communications and Works to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND FURTHER THE DURATION OF THE NEW AMSTERDAM ELECTRIC LIGHTING ORDER, 1900, AND TO AMEND THE SAID ORDER.

(Bill No. 35/1960 published 17.12.60).
(Notice was given on 15th December, 1960).

- 3. The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE HOUSING OF LABOUR WORKERS ON SUGAR ESTATES ORDINANCE.

(Bill No. 37/1960 published 24.12.60).
(Notice was given on 21st December, 1960).

- 4. The Financial Secretary to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE.

(Bill No. 34/1960 published 17.12.60).
(Notice was given on 9th December, 1960).

- 5. Mr. Davis to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND RE-ENACT THE CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE.

(Bill No. 29/1960 published 10.12.60,
17.12.60 and 24.12.60).

