

BRITISH GUIANA

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SECOND SESSION

1958 - 1959

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

WEDNESDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 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, C.M.G.

Ministers

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

Elected Members, Majority Party

Mr. S.M. Saffee

Other Elected Members

Mr. W.O.R. Kendall
Mr. L.F.S. Burnham
Mr. A.L. Jackson
Mr. E.B. Beharry
Mr. F. Bowman

Nominated Members

Mr. R.B. Gajraj
Mr. R.C. Tello
Mr. R.E. Davis
Mr.H.J.M. Hubbard

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

Absent:

Mr. Ajodha Singh
Mr. S. Campbell - on leave.
Mr. Jai Marine Singh - on leave.
Mr. A.M. Fredericks - on leave.
Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E. - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, the ^{11th} ~~12th~~ of November, 1959, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed. D.V.

ANNOUNCEMENTSLeave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Mr. Jai Narine Singh for one month with effect from 10th November;
- (ii) Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E. - an extension until the 5th December as he was held back in the United Kingdom on urgent business;
- (iii) Mr. R.B. Gajraj for ten days with effect from 20th November;

and (iv) Mr. A.M. Fredericks from that day's sitting.

PAPERS LAYD

By the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Communications and Works:

Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

(TH. 122/24/1 VI).

ORAL ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONSQuestion No. 17

Mr. Bowman asked the Minister of Communications and Works the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications and Works state whether the Demerara Electric Company, Limited was requested by Government at any time to put all overhead street wiring underground, and the Company refused on the ground that such an undertaking would cost about sixteen million dollars or twice their capital investment?

The Minister of Communications and Works gave the following reply:

ANSWER: In accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the Georgetown Electric Supply and Tramways Ordinance, Chapter 79 (Chapter 238, Laws of British Guiana, 1953, Vol. IV), the Government by letter dated 12th May, 1954, required the Company to place its distributing mains and service lines in the urban area of Greater Georgetown, underground. The Company in a letter dated 6th April, 1955, refused to comply with this requirement contending that it is not reasonable within the meaning of the Section of the Law under which the requirement was made.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1959.
(Bill No. 30/1959 published 14.11.59).

MOTIONMOTION OF SYMPATHY CONCERNING THE DEATH OF DR. J.A. NICHOLSON.

Before the Order of the Day was proceeded with, leave was granted the Minister of Trade and Industry to move and Mr. Jackson to second the following motion which was unanimously adopted, all standing:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council records its profound regret at the death of Dr. J.A. Nicholson, a former Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of this Colony, and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his widow and children.

PUBLIC BUSINESSORDER OF THE DAYBILL - First Reading.Item 1 - INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1959 - Bill No. 30/1959.

The following Bill was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ORDINANCE.

MOTIONSItem 2 - MR. JACKSON'S MOTION CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO MISS JOYCE DE BARROS.

Mr. Jackson moved and Mr. Tello seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that Miss Joyce De Barros be fully compensated for financial loss suffered as the result of the improper termination of her services as Supervisor, School Feeding Division of the Department of Education.

After discussion, the question was put and the motion was negated on the following division:-

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Tello	Mr. Hubbard
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Beharry	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Rai
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. Kendall	Mrs. Jagan
	Mr. Bean
	The Financial Secretary
	The Attorney-General
	The Chief Secretary

Item 3 - MR. JACKSON'S MOTION CONCERNING THE PAYMENT OF
COMPENSATION TO MISS DOREEN LONDON.

Mr. Jackson moved and Mr. Kendall seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that Miss Doreen London be fully compensated for financial loss suffered through the improper termination of her services as a Female Attendant attached to the Mahaica Hospital.

After discussion, the question was put and the motion was negated on the following division:-

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Tello	Mr. Hubbard
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Rai
Mr. Kendall	Mr. Ram Karran
	Mrs. Jagan
	Mr. Benn
	The Financial Secretary
	The Attorney-General
	The Chief Secretary
<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>

Item 4 - MR. TELLO'S MOTION RECOMMENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES TRIBUNAL.

Mr. Tello was moving the following motion when the hour of adjournment was reached:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council invites Government to introduce legislation to provide for the establishment of an Industrial Disputes Tribunal in the Colony.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 25th of November, 1959.

Confirmed,

Donald Jackson
Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

25th November, 1959.