

BRITISH GUIANA

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THIRD SESSION

1959 - 1960

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 2.30 P.M.

on

THURSDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 1960.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. D.M. Hedges.
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
Mr. Ajodha Singh

Other Elected Members

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

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

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES -

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 3rd of February, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS -Leave

The Speaker announced that the Honourable B.S. Rai, Minister of Community Development and Education, would be on leave on duty from the 5th to the 18th of February, 1960.

ORAL ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONSQuestion No. 2

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

QUESTION: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications and Works state whether all postal mail received by the Post Office before and during the recent strike by Government employees has been either delivered to addressees in British Guiana or despatched to addressees abroad; and if not, what action has been taken to hasten delivery and despatch?

The Minister of Communications and Works gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The Director of Posts and Telecommunications has confirmed that all postal mail received by the Postal Department before and during the recent strike by Government Employees has either been delivered to the addressees in British Guiana or despatched to addressees abroad.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

PUBLIC LOAN BILL, 1960.
(Bill No. 6/1960 published 4.2.60).

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960.
(Bill No. 7/1960 published 4.2.60).

PUBLIC BUSINESSORDER OF THE DAYBILLS - First Reading.

Item 1 - The following Bills were read the first time:

(a) PUBLIC LOAN BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 6/1960.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO CONFER POWER TO RAISE BY LOAN OR LOANS A SUM NOT EXCEEDING SEVENTY-ONE MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

/(b)..

(b) WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 7/1960.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

MOTIONItem 2 - MR. BOWMAN'S MOTION CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS.

Mr. Bowman moved and Mr. Beharry seconded the following motion:

WHEREAS there was divergence of views among the members of the Constitutional Committee on the question as to what kind of Constitution should be recommended for British Guiana, which made it necessary for individual members to submit Minority Reports;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary that all those who submitted Minority Reports should be afforded the opportunity to represent their views as expressed in the Report:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends that the delegation to the Constitutional talks be comprised of all the Members of the Legislative Council who are desirous of going.

Mr. Jackson spoke to the motion.

Mr. Campbell then moved the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Kendall who reserved his right to speak at a later stage:

Deletion of all the words after the words "comprised of" in the third line of the Resolve Clause and the substitution therefor of the following:

" 11 members, 3 representing the People Progressive Party, 3 representing the People's National Congress, 1 representing the Progressive Liberal Party, 1 representing the Guianese Independence Movement, 1 representing the National Labour Front and 2 nominated members selected by them from among their number.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends that the Secretary of the Constitutional Committee should accompany the delegation as its Secretary. "

Mr. Benn moved and Mrs. Jagan seconded formally the following amendment:

Deletion of all the words after the words "comprised of" in the third line of the Resolve Clause and the substitution therefor of the following:

" 3 Members of the Majority Party, 3 Members of the Elected Opposition and 1 Nominated Member. "

Mr. Beharry, Mr. Tasker and Mr. Kendall spoke to the motion.

At 5.15 p.m. Mr. Tello was speaking when the Chief Secretary moved that Council should adjourn until 8.00 p.m.

After some discussion, the Chief Secretary withdrew his motion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.38 p.m. the Council was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, the 5th of February, 1960.

Confirmed,

Donald Jackson
Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

5th February, 1960.