

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 2.00 P.M.

on

WEDNESDAY, 17TH 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. S.S. Ramphal (Ag.)  
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. W.P. D'Andrade (Ag.)

Ministers

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. 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  
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:

The Honourable Dr. C.B. Jagan,  
Minister of Trade and Industry - on leave.  
Mr. Jai Narine Singh - on leave.  
Mr. A.M. Fredericks - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. S.S. Ramphal, Attorney-General (Acting) and Mr. W.P. D'Andrade, Financial Secretary (Acting), took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance and were welcomed as ex-officio Members of the Council vice Mr. A.M.I. Austin, Q.C. and Mr. F.W. Essex, C.M.G., respectively, who were out of the Colony on official business.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 12th of February, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

Suspension of Sitting

At this stage the Speaker suspended the sitting for a short while in order to receive His Excellency the Governor who was coming to the Council to present awards to persons who had been honoured by Her Majesty the Queen.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

At 2.10 p.m. His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by the Speaker, entered the Council Chamber and made the following presentations:-

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire  
(Civil Division)

To be an Honorary Officer -

DOCTOR CESARE ROMITI

To be an Officer -

JOHN HILTON McBEAN MOORE

To be Members -

COLIN STEWART RIDLEY

HARRY SARRAN RAMSAROOP

The Queen's Fire Service Medal for  
Distinguished Service

JOSEPH THOMAS ATKINSON

Thereafter, His Excellency withdrew from the Chamber.

After a short interval, Council resumed.

ANNOUNCEMENTSLeave

The Speaker announced that -

- (i) The Honourable Attorney-General, Mr. A.M.I. Austin, Q.C., had been granted leave to be out of the Colony on official business for about five to six weeks.

- (ii) The Honourable Financial Secretary, Mr. F.W. Essex, C.M.G., had been granted leave with effect from the 14th February as he was out of the Colony on official business.
- (iii) Mr. Jai Narine Singh had been granted three months leave as he would be out of the colony.
- (iv) Mr. A.M. Fredericks was unable to be present at that day's sitting.

PAPERS LAID

By the Minister of Communications and Works:

Annual Report of the Posts and Telecommunications Department for the year 1958.  
(PT 94/4 IV)(Circulated).

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILL -- Committee and Third Reading

Item 5 - WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 -  
Bill No. 7 1960.

At the request of the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing and with Council's consent, consideration of the following Bill in Committee was resumed:

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

In Committee

Clause 2 - The Attorney-General stated that Government could not accept the suggestion made by Mr. Burnham at the previous sitting for inclusion of a definition for the term "periodic payment".

Thereafter, Clause 2 as printed was put and carried.

Clause 3 - Mr. Tasker moved the following amendment:

Deletion of Clause 3(1)(h) and the substitution thereof of the following:

"(h) by the substitution for the word "twelve" in the proviso to paragraph (d) of the word "ten"."

After discussion, the amendment was put and negatived on the following division:-

../ FOR

FOR	<u>AGAINST</u>	DID NOT VOTE
Mr. Tasker	Mr. Bowman	Mr. Campbell
Mr. Davis	Mr. Hubbard	
	Mr. Tello	
	Mr. Gajraj	
	Mr. Jackson	
	Mr. Burnham	
	Mr. Ajodha Singh	
	Mr. Saffee	
	Mr. Rai	
	Mr. Ram Karran	
	Mrs. Jagan	
	Mr. Benn	
	The Financial Secretary	
	The Attorney-General	
	The Chief Secretary	
2	<u>15</u>	1

Clause 3 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 4 to 9 - were passed as printed.

Council resumed.

### Third Reading

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Minister of Natural Resources, the Bill was read the third time and passed as printed.

### MOTION

Item 1 - MR. BOWMAN'S MOTION CONCERNING THE GRANTING OF FREEHOLD TITLE ON A HIRE-PURCHASE BASIS.

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

WHEREAS the social and economic system which prevails in British Guiana is patterned on that of the Western World, India and Pakistan and provides for free enterprise and the ownership of property;

AND WHEREAS the policy of the Majority Party of the Government is opposed to freehold ownership of land:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council urges upon the Government that freehold title on a reasonable hire-purchase basis be granted to -

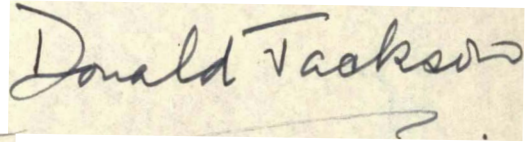
- (i) farmers in respect of land they now occupy in Government Land Settlement Schemes; and
- (ii) persons occupying Crown Lands for farming.

At 4.55 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Tello, Mr. Beharry was granted permission to continue his speech until 5.00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to a date to be fixed.

Confirmed,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald Tasker", written in dark ink on a light-colored, textured paper background.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

24th March, 1960.