

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, 18TH MAY, 1960.

PRESENT:

The Deputy Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj - In the Chair.

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. A.L. Jackson

Mr. Jai Narine Singh

Mr. E.B. Beharry

Mr. F. Bowman

Nominated Members

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. E.V. Viapree (Ag.).

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. F.A. Narain (Ag.)

Absent:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson - on leave.

Mr. S. Campbell.

The Clerk read prayers.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. R.B. GAJRAJ TO PRESIDE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. R.B. Gajraj informed the Council that, at the request of the Government of the West Indies, Sir Donald Jackson had been released from his duties as Speaker for such period of time as he might be engaged as a member and as Chairman of a Commission appointed to deal with the revision of salaries of the Federal Civil Service as well as the emoluments of the members of both Houses of the Federal Parliament including the Presiding Officers. Sir Donald Jackson left the Colony on the 8th of May, 1960.

At the request of Mr. Gajraj, the Clerk read a letter dated 5th May, 1960, from His Excellency the Governor, appointing Mr. Gajraj to be the Member of the Legislative Council to preside at the sittings of the Council during the absence in the West Indies of the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

Mr. Gajraj promised that he would endeavour to discharge his duties with credit to the Council and satisfaction to himself.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 24th of March, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Racial Policy and Disturbances in South Africa.

The Deputy Speaker read a letter dated 26th March, 1960, from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, acknowledging receipt of Legislative Council Resolution No. VIII passed on the 24th of March, 1960, concerning the disturbances and resultant loss of lives in the Union of South Africa, and intimating that arrangements were being made for copies of the Resolution to be despatched to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(ii) Leave

The Deputy Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members:-

- (a) The Honourable Dr. C.B. Jagan, Minister of Trade and Industry, for the period 19th to 30th April, 1960.
- (b) The Honourable Janet Jagan, Minister of Labour, Health and Housing, for the period 19th April to 15th May, 1960.
- (c) Mr. R.C. Tello for the period 20th to 28th April, 1960.
- (d) Mr. E.B. Beharry for the period 12th to 22nd April, 1960.
- (e) Mr. A.L. Jackson for the period 18th to 28th April, 1960.
- (f) Mr. S.M. Saffee for the period 19th to 31st May, 1960.
- (g) Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E., for the period 15th to 23rd April, 1960.

(iii) Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Australia.

The Deputy Speaker stated that a copy of the Report of Proceedings of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held at Canberra, Australia, in November, 1959, had been received, and that the speech by Mr. F. Bowman, British Guiana's delegate, at the Conference, was recorded on page 125.

PAPERS LAID(a) By the Chief Secretary:

- (i) Annual Report of the British Guiana Volunteer Force for the year 1959.
(No. M. 272/1/17)(Circulated).
- (ii) Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Kamarang Trade Store for the year ended 31st December, 1959.
(No. M. 1/22^{II}).
- (iii) Report of the British Guiana Constitutional Conference held in London in March, 1960.
(C.M. 262/19/1)(Circulated).

(b) By the Attorney-General:

- Report of the Director of Audit on the Books and Accounts of the Patoir Trust Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1959.
(O.R. No. 112).

(c) By the Financial Secretary:

- (i) Order in Council No. 30 of 1960 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 8th day of March, 1960, and published in the Gazette on the 26th of March, 1960.
(F.S.C.Ex. 26/56^{III}(1))(Circulated).
- (ii) Progress Report on Development Expenditure for the quarter ended 31st December, 1959.
(F.S.G. 250/54 XI)(Circulated).
- (iii) Report on the Operations of the British Guiana Credit Corporation for the year ended 30th June, 1959.
(F.S.G. 359/54 III)(Circulated).
- (iv) Reports and Financial Statements of the Trotman Trust Fund for the years 1957 and 1958, together with the Director of Audit's Certificate thereon.
(F.S.G. 107/53).
- (v) Report on the British Guiana Development Programme 1960-1964, by Kenneth Berrill, B.Sc., M.A., University Lecturer in Economics, Cambridge. (Sessional Paper No. 2/1960).
(F.S.G. 248^B/54^{II})(Circulated).

(d) By the Minister of Trade and Industry:

- (i) Report of the Directors and Statement of Accounts of the British Guiana Rice Development Company, Limited, for the year ended 31st August, 1959.
(T.I. 5/8/4)(Circulated).
- (ii) The Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Imperial Forestry Institute, University of Oxford, for the academic year, 1958-59.
(FOR. 46/16/3^{II}).

(e) By the Minister of Natural Resources:

- (i) Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government Fish Market and Centre for the year ended 31st December, 1958.
(AGR. 201/21/3/3 II).
- (ii) Documents relating to the Declaration of North Klien Pouderoyen (Extension) Drainage and Irrigation Area:
- (a) Drawing No. 1427 dated 20th December, 1957 showing the North Klien Pouderoyen (Extension) Drainage and Irrigation Area.
- (b) Copy of letter of protest dated 15th September, 1958, from Messrs. Gomes and Gomes, Solicitors, on behalf of their client, Captain J.P. Coghlan.
- (c) Copy of the reply dated 26th September, 1958, from the Chairman of the Drainage and Irrigation Board to Messrs. Gomes and Gomes.
- (d) Copy of further letter dated 22nd October, 1958, from Messrs. Gomes and Gomes.
- (e) Copy of memorandum dated 2nd December, 1959, from the Chairman, Drainage and Irrigation Board, submitting the Board's comments on the letter of protest. (DI. 33/33 IV - T.J. (18)).

(f) By the Minister of Communications and Works:

- (i) Annual Report of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year 1958.
(TH. 122/4 V)(Circulated).
- (ii) Annual Report of the Public Works Department for the year 1958.
(PW. 102/4 V)(Circulated).

(g) By the Minister of Community Development and Education:

Order in Council No. 37 of 1960, made under sections 2 and 4(1)(a) of the District Lands Partition and Re-allotment (Special Procedure) Ordinance, Chapter 174, on the 11th day of March, 1960, and published in the Gazette on the 2nd of April, 1960.
(L.G. 38/33).

GOVERNMENT NOTICESMOTION

The Financial Secretary gave notice of the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 30 of 1960, which was made on the 8th day of March, 1960, and published in the Gazette on the 26th of March, 1960.

PETITIONSCHRISTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (INCORPORATION) BILL, 1960.

The Clerk read a petition presented by Mr. R.E. Davis on behalf of the Reverend Doctor Carl Qualley Lee and the Reverend Samuel Harrichand, introducing a BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO THE CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF BRITISH GUIANA.

The question that the promoters be allowed to proceed was put and carried.

ORAL ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONSQuestion No. 6

Mr. Tasker asked the Minister of Trade and Industry the following question:

QUESTION: In the light of Sessional Paper No. 6/1959, will the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry state what progress has been made with Government's plans:

- (a) to provide factory sites on industrial estates?
- (b) to set up new industries?
- (c) to develop tourist attractions?
- (d) to appoint a Director of Marketing?

The Minister of Trade and Industry gave the following reply:

ANSWER: (a) Factory sites on Industrial Estates

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Housing has just completed negotiations with a Company for the purchase of 19 acres of land in the southern section of Ruimveldt. On this land will be established the first industrial estate in the Colony. It is understood that the area will be available for development in June next and subject to compliance with certain legal requirements and the final approval of Government, work on the laying out of the areas will start immediately after possession is obtained. The plan of development of the area has already been prepared by the Planning Officer.

The Central Housing and Planning Authority has also been asked to prepare a scheme for the development of a much larger industrial estate higher up the East Bank. A third estate will be established along the waterfront of the Government owned Land Development Scheme, Garden of Eden, where an area has been reserved for industrial purposes.

(b) New Industries

The recommendations of the Industrial Development Advisory Committee on the establishment of new industries have been examined in the Ministry of Trade and Industry and detailed project reports on a number of industries, e.g. glass, pottery, building blocks from straw, jams and jellies, rice bran oil, and rice distillation, have been prepared. The Report by Mr. E.A. Tenenbaum, Industrial Consultant, whose services were made available through International Cooperation Administration, has just been received and his recommendations give support to the

conclusions reached in my Ministry that there exists in British Guiana opportunities for the establishment of several new industries. However, more detailed study of the technical and economic aspects of many of the projects are necessary before it would be advisable to incur expenditure on them. For this reason, another International Cooperation Administration Consultant is expected shortly to carry out detailed analyses of the industries recommended in the initial survey conducted by Mr. Tenenbaum. These industries are:

- Wood fuel production
- Wood distillation for chemicals and charcoal
- Cement
- Prefabricated reinforced concrete products
- Asbestos cement roofing
- Granite cutting and polishing
- Pre-finished wood flooring, and long wooden joists
- Glass
- Pottery (dishes and sanitary ware)
- Paper
- Cassava by-products
- Meat rendering and glue manufacturing
- Cannery
- Bicycle tires
- Storage batteries
- Bicycle manufacture
- Textiles
- Tanning
- Tanning extract (mangrove)
- Shoe factory
- Dry Cell batteries
- Agricultural machinery (walking tractors, etc.)

(c) Development of tourist attractions

In August, 1959, the Tourist Committee submitted proposals for the development of Tourism in the Colony. These were examined in the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the sum of \$225,000 was included in the 1960-1964 Development Programme to meet the cost of implementing those recommendations of the Committee which were approved by Government. This sum is small compared with expenditure by neighbouring territories, but it is nevertheless something with which to start - to demonstrate that it is worthwhile to spend more, much more it is hoped, in opening up the natural beauty of our country for enjoyment by our own people and by tourists from overseas - visitors who will be able to advertise British Guiana abroad for the opportunities it offers not only for relaxation and sport but also for investment in industrial enterprises.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is now responsible for the development of Tourism and the Tourist Committee functions in an advisory capacity. Steps are being taken to appoint a suitable person as Manager, Tourism Development. In promoting tourism under the direction of the Ministry, the Manager will work in close collaboration with private enterprise operating in this field.

Certain sites, e.g. Kangaruma, Tukeit, Kaieteur Falls, Orinduik, Kamuni Creek, Essequibo Lakes, Madewini Creek, Dixie, Botanic Gardens and No. 63, have been selected for development and 14 prefabricated

../ bungalows

bungalows and communal halls have already been ordered from a local manufacturer for erection on these locations. Each bungalow will be provided with electricity, running water and cooking and sleeping facilities. The development of the Kaieteur National Park is also under consideration. Suitable means of transportation to these locations will be arranged as part of the programme.

(d) Appointment of a Director of Marketing

The vacancy was advertised locally and in the West Indies during October and November, 1959. An offer of appointment to the post was made to the selected candidate during March last, but he has not yet replied.

Supplementary questions were asked by Mr. Tasker, Mr. Jai Narine Singh, Mr. Davis, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Burnham and Mr. Tello.

Question No. 7

Mr. Jackson asked the Chief Secretary the following question:

QUESTION: In view of the fact that the present holder of the post of Assistant Postmaster General is due to go into retirement during 1961, will the Government state whether it is proposed to effect any change in the designation of the post bringing it in line with recent changes made to former titles in the administrative posts of the Post Office Department and if so, how soon is it proposed to appoint a trainee to this post as has been done with respect to the post of Deputy Director of Posts and Telecommunications (In Training)?

The Chief Secretary gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The present holder of the post of Assistant Postmaster General is due to proceed on leave prior to retirement on 1st January, 1961, and will retire on 1st September, 1961. The question of changing the designation and duties of the post is being studied in connection with a review of the staff structure of the Post Office Department. It is not possible to say at present what the final outcome will be or whether it will be necessary to appoint a trainee to the post on the same basis as has been done with respect to the post of Deputy Director of Posts and Telecommunications (In-Training).

Supplementary questions were asked by Mr. Jackson and Mr. Burnham.

Question No. 8

Mr. Tasker asked the Chief Secretary the following question:

QUESTION: What are the staff shortages at Atkinson Airport to which the Director of Civil Aviation has referred, and what action has been taken to remedy them?

The Chief Secretary gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The approved establishment for Air Traffic Control Officers and Air Traffic Control Apprentices is 11. The actual strength is 7 Air Traffic Control Officers and 3 Air Traffic Control Apprentices. A candidate is now in view to fill the existing vacancy for an Air Traffic Control Apprentice.

The circumstances which led to the Director of Civil Aviation's announcement that it may be necessary to curtail Airport services to the hours of daylight arose through shortage of trained Air Traffic Control Officers, but these difficulties have now been overcome.

The Airport will continue to operate on a 24-hour basis.

Mr. Tasker asked a supplementary question.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Minister of Trade and Industry gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

RICE MARKETING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960.
(Bill No. 12/1960 published 7.5.60).

The Minister of Community Development and Education gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960.
(Bill No. 11/1960 published 9.4.60).

MOTION

Appreciation of services rendered by the Honourable F.W. Essex, C.M.G.

With the consent of the Deputy Speaker and the unanimous assent of Members, Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Fredericks seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council records its appreciation of the services rendered to this Colony by the Honourable F.W. Essex, C.M.G., in his capacity as Financial Secretary, and who has been transferred on promotion as Financial Secretary to the High Commissioner for Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland.

After several Members had spoken to the motion, the question was put and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - First Reading.

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

- (a) RICE MARKETING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 12/1960.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE RICE MARKETING ORDINANCE AND TO MAKE A MINOR CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE BRITISH GULANA RICE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION ORDINANCE.

(b) GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL,
1960 - Bill No. 11/1960.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER ORDINANCE.

MOTIONS

Item 2 - MR. BOWMAN'S MOTION CONCERNING THE GRANTING OF FREEHOLD TITLES ON A HIRE-PURCHASE BASIS.

Council resumed the debate on 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.

On a motion by Mr. Tello seconded by Mr. Davis, an extension of twenty minutes was granted to Mr. Beharry to speak to the motion.

Mr. Beharry concluded his speech.

Mr. Fredericks moved the following amendment:

Deletion of the words from "WHEREAS" in the first line to "farming" in the last line, and
Substitution of the following:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that requests from persons desirous of obtaining freehold titles be granted and that payment for such titles be accepted in instalments over a reasonable period of time in respect of -

- (i) lands occupied on Government Land Settlement Schemes, and
- (ii) Crown Lands beneficially occupied for farming.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the condition of any such sale of land be such that continuous maximum utilisation is guaranteed not only in the interest of the purchaser but also that of the common good.

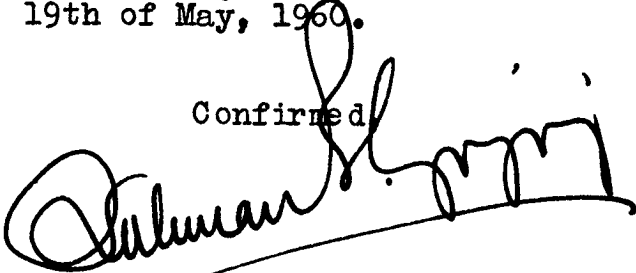
Mr. Davis seconded the amendment and reserved his right to speak at a later stage.

Mr. Tello spoke to the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 19th of May, 1960.

Confirmed



Deputy Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

19th May, 1960.