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
                THURSDAY, 19TH 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. Ajodha Singh

Other Elected Members

  Mr. W.O.R. Kendall
  Mr. S. Campbell
  Mr. A.L. Jackson
  Mr. Jai Narine Singh
  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.M. Saffee - on leave.
  Mr. L.F.S. Burnham - on leave.
  Mr. E.B. Beharry.

                The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, the 18th of May, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leave

The Deputy Speaker announced that Mr. L.F.S. Burnham had asked to be excused from that day's sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Attorney-General gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960.
(Bill No. 13/1960 to be published 21.5.60).

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILL - First Reading.

The following Bill was read the first time:

INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 13/1960.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE INTERPRETATION ORDINANCE.

MOTIONS

Item 1 - MOTION TO CONFIRM ORDER IN COUNCIL NO. 30 OF 1960.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Council adopted the following Resolution:

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.

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. Bowman seconded by Mr. Fredericks, an extension of half an hour was granted to Mr. Tello to speak to the motion.

Mr. Tello concluded his speech.

Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Ajodha Singh, Mr. Rai and Mr. Davis spoke to the motion.

Mr. Benn then spoke to the motion, and on a motion by the Minister of Trade and Industry seconded by Mr. Ajodha Singh, was granted an extension of half an hour.
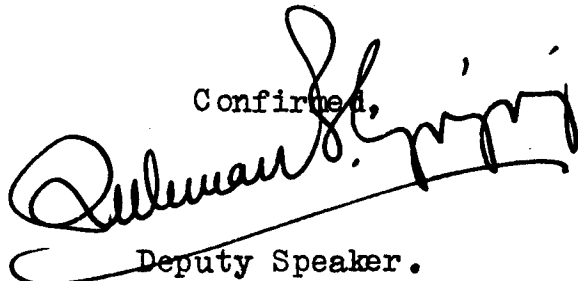
At 4.50 p.m. Mr. Benn concluded his speech.

Mr. Jackson was speaking to the motion when the hour of adjournment was reached.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, the 20th of May, 1960.

Confirmed,

Deputy Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

20th May, 1960.