

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

FRIDAY, 20TH 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. 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.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.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 19th of May, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PUBLIC BUSINESS
ORDER OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Item 1 - 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.

Mr. Jackson resumed his speech, and on a motion by Mr. Kendall seconded by Mr. Burnham, was granted an extension of half an hour.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh and Mr. Tasker spoke to the motion.

Mr. Bowman then replied.

In terms of Standing Order 33(12)(b), the Minister of Trade and Industry was granted leave to speak to the motion.

Thereafter, the Deputy Speaker put the following amendment which had been moved by Mr. Fredericks and seconded by Mr. Davis at the meeting held on Wednesday, 18th May, 1960:

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)

- (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.

The amendment was negatived on the following division:-

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Hubbard	The Deputy Speaker
Mr. Beharry	Mr. Ajodha Singh	
Mr. Tasker	Mr. Rai	
Mr. Fredericks	Mr. Ram Karran	
Mr. Davis	Mrs. Jagan	
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Benn	
Mr. Campbell	Dr. Jagan	
Mr. Burnham	The Financial Secretary	
Mr. Kendall	The Attorney-General	
	The Chief Secretary	
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The original motion was then put and negatived.

Item 2 - MR. SAFFEE'S MOTION RE FLAG, COAT OF ARMS AND NAME FOR BRITISH GUIANA.

On behalf of Mr. Saffee, Mr. Ajodha Singh moved and Mr. Rai seconded the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government the appointment of a Committee to -

design a national flag and a coat of arms; and recommend an appropriate name for a politically free and independent British Guiana.

Mr. Benn moved and Dr. Jagan seconded the following amendments which were accepted by the mover and seconder of the motion:-

- (i) Deletion of the word "and" at the end of paragraph (a);
- (ii) Renumbering of paragraph (b) as paragraph (c);
- (iii) Insertion of the following new paragraph (b):

"(b) compose a national anthem; and".

Mr. Burnham suggested the following amendment:-

Insertion of the words "from this House" between the words "Committee" and "to".

Mrs. Jagan, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Fredericks spoke.

Mr. Kendall moved and Mr. Jackson seconded the following amendment:-

Substitution of the words -

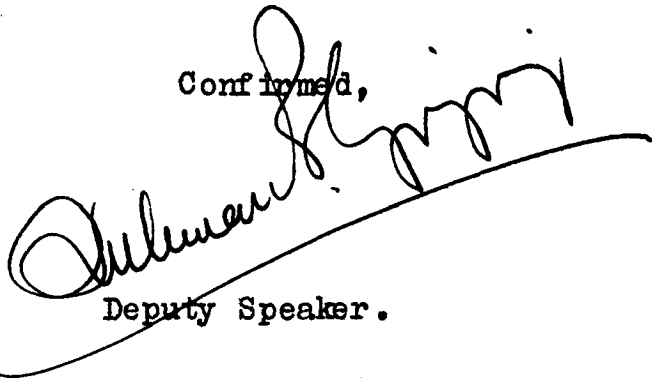
- (i) "That this Council authorises the appointment of a Select Committee of this Council charged with the responsibility for" for the words "That this Council recommends to Government the appointment of a Committee to"; and
- (ii) "designing", "composing" and "recommending" for the words "design", "compose" and "recommend".

Mr. Burnham rose to speak when the hour of adjournment was reached.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 25th of May, 1960.

Confirmed,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Dulman'. It is positioned above the printed title 'Deputy Speaker.'

Deputy Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

25th May, 1960.