

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, 27TH OCTOBER, 1960.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Major I.O. Smith, O.B.E.(Ag.)
The Honourable the Attorney-General, Mr. A.M.I. Austin, Q.C.
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. W.P. D'Andrade.

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. L.F.S. Burnham
Mr. S. Campbell
Mr. A.L. Jackson
Mr. Jai Narine Singh
Mr. F. Bowman

Nominated Members

Mr. R.B. Gajraj
Mr. R.C. Tello
Mr. A.M. Fredericks
Mr. H.J.M. Hubbard

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

Absent:

Mr. W.O.R. Kendall - on leave.
Mr. E.B. Beharry.
Mr. R.E. Davis - on leave.
Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E. - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, the 26th of October, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ORAL ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONSQuestion No. 29

Mr. Bowman asked the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour, Health and Housing inform this Council why the Government has not brought forward for debate the motion tabled by me since last year June and again on January 5th this year, which seeks to establish by law a Contributory Pension Scheme for sugar workers, as recommended by the Venn Commission since 1949?

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The Government desires to see a Contributory Pension Scheme for sugar workers but would not wish to see one imposed by law while there was imminent prospect of a voluntary scheme acceptable to both sides of the industry. It is understood that negotiations for such an agreement are now far advanced.

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

Question No. 31

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

QUESTION: Will the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry say what steps have so far been taken to bring British Guiana's Companies legislation up-to-date?

The Minister of Trade and Industry gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The Sub-Committee of the Industrial Development Advisory Committee on Co-ordination and Promotion of Industry recommended a number of amendments to the Companies Ordinance. The Law Reform Committee has prepared an interim amending Bill incorporating three out of four of the amendments recommended by the Sub-Committee of the Industrial Development Advisory Committee and some important provisions of the Companies Act, 1948, of the United Kingdom. The Companies (Amendment) Bill has been referred to the Law Officers and will shortly be submitted to the Governor in Council for approval to introduce in the Legislative Council.

A supplementary question was asked by Mr. Hubbard.

PUBLIC BUSINESS
ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - Second Reading.

Item 1 - AMERINDIAN (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 23/1960.

The Chief Secretary moved and the Attorney-General seconded that the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AMERINDIAN ORDINANCE be read a second time.

After discussion, the question was put and the Bill was read a second time.

Bill referred to a Select Committee

On a motion by the Chief Secretary seconded by the Attorney-General the Bill was referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.

Appointment of the Select Committee

The Speaker announced the appointment of the following Members to comprise the Select Committee to consider and report on the Amerindian (Amendment) Bill, 1960:-

1. The Honourable Chief Secretary - Chairman.
2. The Honourable Minister of Labour,
Health and Housing.
3. Mr. S. Campbell - Member for North Western District.
4. Mr. A.L. Jackson - Member for Georgetown North.
5. Mr. A.M. Fredericks - Nominated Member.

Item 2 - PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 -
Bill No. 16/1960.

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing was moving the motion for the second reading of the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE, 1956, when the hour of adjournment was reached.

Telegram received from Mr. R.E. Davis

The Speaker informed Members of the receipt of a telegram from Mr. Davis intimating that he would be unable to be present at that sitting of the Council.

Broadcasting of Legislative Council Proceedings -
Appointment of Select Committee.

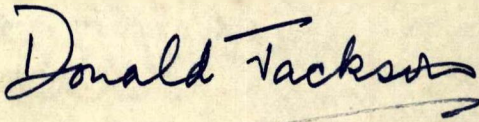
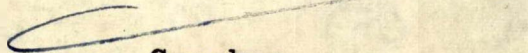
Referring to the Resolution which had been passed at the previous day's Meeting concerning the broadcasting of the proceedings of the Council, the Speaker announced that he had appointed the following Members to serve on the Select Committee:

1. The Honourable Chief Secretary - Chairman.
2. Mr. L.F.S. Burnham - Member for Georgetown Central.
3. Mr. Ajodha Singh - Member for Berbice River.
4. Mr. E.B. Beharry - Member for Eastern Demerara.
5. Mr. R.C. Tello - Nominated Member.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.05 p.m. the Speaker adjourned the Council to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, the 28th of October, 1960.

Confirmed,



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

28th October, 1960.