

FOURTH SESSION

1960 - 1961

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, 12TH JANUARY, 1961.

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. 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. W.O.R. Kendall
Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C.
Mr. S. Campbell
Mr. A.L. Jackson
Mr. Jai Narine Singh
Mr. E.B. Beharry
Mr. F. Bowman

Nominated Members

Mr. R.B. Gajraj
Mr. R.C. Tello
Mr. R.E. Davis
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. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E. - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, the 11th of January, 1961, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

By the Minister of Communications and Works:

Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year ended 31st December, 1959.
(TH 122/24/1).

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Inaccurate Press Report

The Minister of Community Development and Education was granted leave to refer to a report in that day's issue of the Daily Chronicle on his remarks in Council the previous day on the Education (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. Rai expressed the view that the report was not only inaccurate, but also inadequate and unfair. He pointed out that the statement "Slavery was not incompatible with Christianity", attributed to him by the press, was, in fact, a quotation from the Reverend Mortier, a leading Methodist Missionary. Also he was reported to have said "the Church was not to resist civil authority but to obey on several matters", while what he did say was "the Church must obey the State on secular matters".

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILL - Second and Third Readings.

Item 1 - EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 31/1960.

The Minister of Community Development and Education resumed and concluded his speech on the motion for the second reading of the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE.

Thereafter, the question was put and Council divided and voted thereon as follows:-

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Hubbard	Mr. Bowman
Mr. Gajraj	Mr. Beharry
Mr. Jai Narine Singh	Mr. Fredericks
Mr. Ajodha Singh	Mr. Davis
Mr. Saffee	Mr. Tello
Mr. Rai	Mr. Jackson
Mr. Ram Karran	Mr. Campbell
Mrs. Jagan	Mr. Burnham
Mr. Benn	Mr. Kendall
Dr. Jagan	
The Financial Secretary	
The Attorney-General	
The Chief Secretary	

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The Bill was read a second time.

Council then resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 - Short Title - was amended as under and passed:-

Substituted: The figures
"1961" for "1960".

Clause 2 - was passed as printed.

Clause 3 (i) Mr. Bowman moved the following amendments to the new section 32A(1):-

- (a) Substitution of the word "all" for the word "any" in the fourth line.
- (b) Addition of the letter"s" to the word "school" in the fifth line.
- (c) Substitution of the word "continue" for the word "cease" in the sixth line.
- (d) Deletion of the word "an" in the seventh line, and addition of the letter"s" to the word "school" in the same line.
- (e) Deletion of all of the words in the subsection following the word "school" in the seventh line, and substitution therefor of the following:

"and that Schools Control Committees be established to govern and control all denominational schools on the basis of three representatives from each denomination and two from Government."

The Chairman ruled that the amendments could not be accepted for the reason ~~that they were~~ opposed to the principles of the Bill.

(ii) Mr. Tello moved the following amendment to the new section 32A(1):-

Substitution of the words "twelve months" for the words "one month" in the third line thereof.

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

../ FOR

FOR 4 AGAINST

Mr. Bowman	Mr. Hubbard
Mr. Beharry	Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Davis	Mr. Jai Narine Singh
Mr. Tello	Mr. Ajodha Singh
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Rai
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. Kendall	Mrs. Jagan
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Jagan
	The Financial Secretary
	The Attorney-General
	The Chief Secretary

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(iii) Mr. Tello moved the insertion of the following words after the word "Land" in the third line of the new section 32C:-

"as defined by a plan registered in the Lands and Mines Department".

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

FOR	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Hubbard	Mr. Jackson
Mr. Beharry	Mr. Gajraj	Mr. Burnham
Mr. Tello	Mr. Jai Narine Singh	Mr. Kendall
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Ajodha Singh	
	Mr. Saffee	
	Mr. Rai	
	Mr. Ram Karran	
	Mrs. Jagan	
	Mr. Benn	
	Dr. Jagan	
	The Financial Secretary	
	The Attorney-General	
	The Chief Secretary	

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Clause 3 was then passed as printed.

SCHEDULE - was amended and passed as under:-

Inserted: "St James' Anglican Waramuri".

Council resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Minister of Community Development and Education, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

../ BILL

Item 2 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUTION AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS BILL ELECTION PROCEDURE
1960 - Bill No.
17/1960.

On a motion by the Minister of Community Development and Education seconded by the Minister of Natural Resources, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTITUTION, ELECTION PROCEDURE AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH was read a second time.

Bill referred to a Select Committee

Thereafter, the Bill was referred to a Select Committee for consideration and report.

BILL - Second Reading and Committee

Item 3 - AMERINDIAN (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 23/1960.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary seconded by the Attorney-General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AMERINDIAN ORDINANCE was read a second time.

Council then resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 - was amended as under and passed:-

Substituted: The figures "1961" for "1960".

Clause 2 - At the request of the Attorney-General, consideration of Clause 2 was deferred to enable him to consider a proposal made by Mr. Burnham to amend subsection 3 of the new section 13.

Council resumed.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings.

Item 4 - NEW AMSTERDAM ELECTRIC LIGHTING ORDER (EXTENSION
BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 35/1960.

On a motion by the Minister of Communications and Works seconded by Mr. Saffee, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND FURTHER THE DURATION OF THE NEW AMSTERDAM ELECTRIC LIGHTING ORDER, 1960, AND TO AMEND THE SAID ORDER, was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendment in Committee:-

Clause 1 - Short Title - Substituted: The figures "1961" for "1960".

../ Item 5 -

Item 5 - HOUSING OF LABOUR WORKERS ON SUGAR ESTATES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 37/1960.

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Minister of Communications and Works, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE HOUSING OF LABOUR WORKERS ON SUGAR ESTATES ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendment in Committee:-

Clause 1 - Short Title - Substituted: The figures "1961" for "1960".

BILL - Second Reading and Committee.

Item 6 - TAX (AMENDMENT NO. 3) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 34/1960.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Attorney-General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE was read a second time.

Council had resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause when the hour of adjournment was reached.

Council resumed.

Appointment of Select Committee

The Speaker announced the appointment of the following Members to comprise the Select Committee to consider and report on the Local Authorities (Constitution, Election Procedure and Financial Provisions) Bill, 1960:

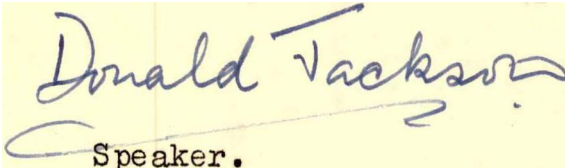
1. The Honourable Minister of Community Development and Education, Mr. B.S. Rai - Chairman.
2. The Nominated Member - Mr. R.B. Gajraj.
3. The Member for New Amsterdam - Mr. W.O.R. Kendall.
4. The Member for Georgetown Central - Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C.
5. The Member for Georgetown South - Mr. Jai Narine Singh.

The quorum was fixed at three.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.05 p.m. the Speaker adjourned the Council to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 18th of January, 1961.

Confirmed,


Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

18th January, 1961.