

BRITISH GUIANA

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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, 19TH 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. S. Campbell
Mr. A.L. Jackson
Mr. Jai Narine Singh

Nominated Members

Mr. R.B. Gajraj
Mr. R.C. Tello
Mr. H.J.M. Hubbard
Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E.

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

Absent:

Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C.
Mr. E.B. Beharry.
Mr. F. Bowman.
Mr. R.E. Davis - on leave.
Mr. A.M. Fredericks.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, the 18th of January, 1961, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961.
(Bill No. 3/1961 to be published 21.1.61).

PUBLIC BUSINESSORDER OF THE DAYBILL - First Reading.

Item 1 - The following Bill was read the first time:-

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961 - Bill No. 3/1961.

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

BILLS - Committee and Third Reading.

Item 2 - AMERINDIAN (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 23/1960.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary, Council resolved itself into Committee to resume consideration of the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AMERINDIAN ORDINANCE, clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 2 - The Chief Secretary stated that when the Bill was last considered, Clause 2 had been deferred to enable the Attorney-General to consider a proposal made by Mr. Burnham to amend subsection (3) of the new section 13.

The Chief Secretary then moved the following substitution which was put and carried:-

"(3) The Commissioner, the district commissioner or an officer may, if necessary, appeal to any court having jurisdiction to hear an appeal against any decision arising out of proceedings instituted under this section, and may, for that purpose, retain the services of counsel, and in all respects take such steps on behalf of the Amerindian as he may think fit."

Clause 2 as amended was thereafter put and carried.

Clauses 3 to 5 - were passed as printed.

Council resumed.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

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

On a motion by the Financial Secretary, Council resolved itself into Committee to resume consideration of the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE.

In Committee

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

(a) Subsection (1) - Substituted: the words and figures "Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1961" for "Tax (Amendment No. 3) Ordinance, 1960."

(b) Subsection (2) - Substituted: the date "17th" for the date "9th" in the second line.

Clauses 2 and 3 - were passed as printed.

Council resumed.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

MOTIONS

Item 4 - MR. BURNHAM'S MOTION CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION.

On a motion by Mr. Jackson seconded by Mr. Tello, Mr. Burnham's motion at item 4 was deferred.

Item 5 - MR. BURNHAM'S MOTION CONCERNING LANDS HELD BY SUGAR ESTATES AND NOT PRODUCTIVELY OCCUPIED.

A motion by Mr. Jackson seconded by Mr. Tello for the deferment of Mr. Burnham's motion at item 5 was negatived.

Item 6 - MR. JACKSON'S MOTION CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF DRYING AND STORAGE FACILITIES FOR PADI IN CERTAIN AREAS.

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

WHEREAS it is known that all padi harvested mechanically is reaped before the grain has become completely matured and contains at least 24% moisture and which, if so stored, commences to deteriorate within seventy-two hours;

AND WHEREAS it has been proved that such moisture-laden padi could be successfully treated prior to storage by reducing the excess moisture through mechanical aeration or hot air drying;

../ AND WHEREAS

AND WHEREAS there are at present only two plants for extracting moisture from padi reaped which are both installed in the valley of the Mahaicony River;

AND WHEREAS moisture extracting plants are of vital necessity in an expanding rice industry:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government early installation of drying and storage facilities as follows:-

- (1) One dryer and bond in the De Hoop-Vygeval area (Mahaica).
- (2) One dryer and bond at Britannia, West Coast, Berbice.
- (3) One dryer and bond at Warren, Corentyne.
- (4) One dryer and bond at Bush Lot, Corentyne.
- (5) One dryer and bond at No. 64, Corentyne.

Mr. Campbell, Dr. Jagan, Mr. Tello, Mr. Gajraj, Mr. Benn and Mr. Jai Narine Singh spoke to the motion.

Mr. Jackson was replying when the hour of adjournment was reached.

Telegram received from Mr. Davis

At this stage the Speaker announced the receipt of a telegram from Mr. Davis requesting that his absence from the meeting be excused. The Speaker pointed out that the telegram had been handed in at the Mahaicony Post Office at 12.32 p.m. and was recorded as received at the Georgetown Post Office at 3.56 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.02 p.m. the Speaker adjourned the Council to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 25th of January, 1961.

Confirmed,



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

25th January, 1961.