

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 45th Sitting of the Legislative Assembly of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council, 1961, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

THURSDAY, 2ND AUGUST, 1962.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj.

(a) Members of the Government

People's Progressive Party

(i) Ministers

Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan,  
Premier and Minister of Development and Planning.  
The Honourable B.H. Benn,  
Minister of Natural Resources.  
The Honourable Ram Karran,  
Minister of Works and Hydraulics.  
The Honourable R. Chandisingh,  
Minister of Labour, Health and Housing.  
Dr. the Honourable Charles Jacob, Jr.,  
Minister of Finance.  
Dr. the Honourable F.H.W. Ramsahoye,  
Attorney-General.  
The Honourable E.M.G. Wilson,  
Minister of Communications.

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. G. Bowman, Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Ministry of Natural Resources.  
Mr. L.E.M. Mann, Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Ministry of Finance.  
Mr. S.M. Saffee, Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Ministry of Works and Hydraulics.

(iii) Other Members

Mr. G.L. Robertson  
Mr. J.B. Caldeira  
Mr. V. Downer  
Mr. M. Hamid  
Mr. D.C. Jagan  
Mr. H. Lall  
Mr. M. Shakoor

(b) Members Constituting the Minority

(i) People's National Congress

Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C.  
Mr. W.O.R. Kendall, Deputy Speaker.  
Mr. J. Carter  
Mr. N.J. Bissember  
Mr. W.A. Blair  
Mr. R.S.S. Hugh

Mr. J.G. Joaquin  
Mr. R.J. Jordan  
Mr. C.A. Merriman  
Mr. H.M.S. Wharton

(ii) United Force

Mr. S. Campbell  
Mr. R.E. Cheeks  
Mr. E.E. Melville

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.  
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. F.A. Narain (Ag.)

Absent:

Mr. M. Bhagwan.  
Mr. E.F. Correia - on leave.  
Mr. P. d'Aguiar - on leave.  
Mr. B.S. Rai.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that -

- (i) Mr. E.F. Correia had asked to be excused from the sitting on account of illness.
- (ii) Mr. P. d'Aguiar had applied for 15 days leave from the 1st of August, 1962, and had asked that his motion be postponed until his return to the Colony.

Criticism of Speaker in Newspaper.

His Honour the Speaker referred to the criticisms made of him by the Member for Essequibo Islands in an article captioned "Rai's Recriminations" and published on page 1 of the weekly newspaper "Thunder" of Saturday, 21st July, 1962, and ordered that the newspaper publish in its next issue an apology, the wording of which must be approved by him, and that the Member for Essequibo Islands submit a letter of apology to the House, for the breaches of privilege which had been disclosed.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(a) By the Attorney-General:

Electoral Provisions (Registration) Regulations,  
1962 (No. 10). (L.G. 55/1/3)(Circulated).

(b) By the Minister of Works and Hydraulics:

Annual Report and Financial Statement of the East  
Demerara Water Conservancy Board for the year  
ended 31st December, 1961. (D.I. 172/3 II).

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQuestion No. 25

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

QUESTION: In view of the large number of houses throughout the country which are in a hopeless state of disrepair, will Government state on how many occasions over the past five years have the provisions of Section 138 of the Public Health Ordinance, Chapter 145, been invoked?

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

ANSWER: Thirteen Notices were served in the Rural Areas over the past five years under Section 138 of the Public Health Ordinance, Chapter 145.

Under the Georgetown Town Council's By-Laws, ten Notices were served.

Under the New Amsterdam Town Council's By-Laws action was taken on twenty-eight buildings, and further action is pending on thirty-three buildings.

WELCOME TO PREMIER

His Honour the Speaker welcomed back Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan, Premier and Minister of Development and Planning, on his return from his mission to the United Nations.

PUBLIC BUSINESSORDER OF BUSINESS

As Mr. d'Aguiar was out of the Colony, item 1 on the Order Paper was deferred.

It was agreed that the Business should be taken in the following order:-

- (i) Item 1 on Supplementary Order Paper.
- (ii) Item 3 on Order Paper.
- (iii) Item 2 on Order Paper.

MOTIONSItem 1 on Supplementary Order Paper - MOTION RECOMMENDING THE REBUILDING OF A SCHOOL AT PROVIDENCE.

On a motion by Mr. Blair seconded by Mr. Kendall the following Resolution was adopted:-

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Assembly recommends that early steps be taken to build a school at Providence, East Bank, Berbice River, to replace the Providence Congregational School which was destroyed by fire during February, 1962.

Item 3 on Order Paper - MOTION RECOMMENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE RE EMPLOYEES ON COASTAL SHIPS.

Mr. Burnham moved and Mr. Carter seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly recommends to Government the appointment of an Advisory Committee under Section 7 of the Labour Ordinance, Chapter 103, to investigate the conditions of employment on Coastal Ships and to make recommendations as to the minimum rates of wages which should be payable.

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing moved the following amendment which was put and carried:-

- (i) Substitution of the words "that steps should be taken to ascertain whether" for the words "the appointment of" in the second line;
- (ii) Insertion of the words "should be appointed" after the word and figures "Chapter 103," in the third line.

Thereafter the motion as amended was put and carried.

Item 2 on Order Paper - MOTION RE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF RETRENCHMENT.

Mr. Burnham moved and Mr. Bissember seconded the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House calls upon the Government to reverse its policy of retrenchment.

The Minister of Finance moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Insertion of the words "as soon as the bugetary position permits" after the word "retrenchment" in the last line.

Thereafter the motion as amended was put and carried.

STATEMENT BY PREMIER ON MISSION TO UNITED NATIONS.

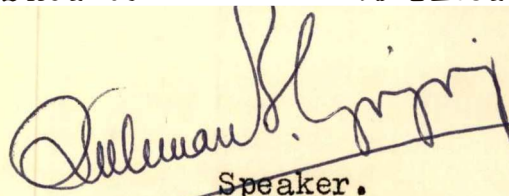
The Premier said that he had hoped to make a statement on his mission to the United Nations, on the following day, but as the Legislative Assembly would not be sitting, he would arrange for copies of the statement to be circulated to Members and for it to be presented formally at the next sitting.

BRITISH GUIANA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS IN JAMAICA.

His Honour the Speaker extended best wishes to Mr. Kendall who was leaving the following day to represent British Guiana at the Independence Celebrations in Jamaica.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.03 p.m. and on a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources, the Assembly was adjourned to be fixed.



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

13th August, 1962.