

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

1961 - 1962

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 16th 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.

FRIDAY, 2ND MARCH, 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 B.S. Rai,
Minister of Home Affairs.
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. L.E.M. Mann, Parliamentary Secretary to the
Ministry of Works and Hydraulics.

(iii) Other Members

Mr. S.M. Saffee
Mr. G.L. Robertson
Mr. M. Bhagwan
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. E.F. Correia
Mr. N.J. Bissember

Mr. W.A. Blair
Mr. R.S.S. Hugh
Mr. J.G. Joaquim
Mr. R.J. Jordan
Mr. C.A. Merriman
Mr. H.M.S. Wharton

(ii) United Force

Mr. P. d'Aguiar
Mr. S. Campbell
Mr. R.E. Cheeks

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

Absent:

Mr. G. Bowman
Mr. E.E. Melville - on leave.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Melville from that day until the 24th of March, 1962.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Premier and Minister of Development and Planning:

Report of the Government Information Services,
British Guiana, for the year 1960.
(Circulated).

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Item 1 - MOTION CONCERNING THE REVISION OF SALARIES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

The Assembly resumed consideration of the following motion and amendments:

MOTION -

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly approves of the payment of salaries to Public Servants with effect from 1st January, 1961, at the rates set out in the Report of the Commission to Review Wages, Salaries and Conditions of Service in the Public Service, British Guiana, 1961, as modified by the Government in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1962 pending final consideration in the light of the decisions arising from discussion in Whitley Council;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That in terms of section 18 of the Financial

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Administration and Audit Ordinance, 1961 (No. 39), this Legislative Assembly authorises the expenditure of \$2,600,000 required to meet the payment of arrears of salaries on the aforementioned basis in respect of the year 1961.

AMENDMENTS - moved at the previous sitting on Thursday, 1st March, 1962.

1. By Mr. d'Aguiar:

(i) Delete - in the first resolve clause the words "as modified by the Government in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1962".

(ii) Insert - as a third resolve clause -

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Assembly recommends that the minimum basic daily wage for unclassified Government workers be increased from \$3.04 per day to \$3.64 per day with corresponding increases for all unclassified Government workers.

2. By Mr. Jordan:

Second resolve clause:

Substitute - a comma for the full stop at the end of the second resolve clause and add the words "and such additional funds as may be necessary."

Third resolve clause proposed by Mr. d'Aguiar:

Substitute - "\$4.00" for the figures "\$3.64" in the third resolve clause moved by Mr. d'Aguiar.

3. By the Premier:

Substitution - of a comma for the full stop at the end of the third resolve clause as moved by Mr. d'Aguiar, including the amendment moved by Mr. Jordan, and addition of the words "subject to funds being available."

Mr. d'Aguiar, with the leave of his seconder, indicated his acceptance of Mr. Jordan's amendment for the substitution of the figures "\$4.00" for "\$3.64" in the third resolve clause.

Mr. Burnham, Mr. Mann, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Bissember and Mr. Benn spoke.

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SUSPENSION OF SITTING

With the consent of Members the suspension in terms of Standing Order 9(6) was taken at 4.20 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At. 5.02 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Jacob replied.

Thereafter, His Honour the Speaker put the first part of Mr. d'Aguiar's amendment, as follows:-

Delete - in the first resolve clause the words "as modified by the Government in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1962."

The amendment was negatived on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Lall
Mr. d'Aguiar	Mr. Jagan
Mr. Wharton	Mr. Hamid
Mr. Merriman	Mr. Downer
Mr. Jordan	Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Joaquim	Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Hugh	Mr. Robertson
Mr. Blair	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Bissember	Mr. Mann
Mr. Correia	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Carter	Dr. Ramsahoye
Mr. Kendall	Dr. Jacob
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Chandisingh
	Mr. Rai
	Mr. Ram Karran
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Jagan

14

18

The Speaker then put the first part of Mr. Jordan's amendment as follows:

Substitute - a comma for the full stop at the end of the second resolve clause and add the words "and such additional funds as may be necessary".

The amendment was carried on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Caldeira	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Campbell		Mr. Mann
Mr. D'Aguiar		
Mr. Wharton		
Mr. Merriman		
Mr. Jordan		

Carried
forward:

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FOR	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Brought Forward: 6	1	2
Mr. Joaquim		
Mr. Hugh		
Mr. Blair		
Mr. Bissember		
Mr. Correia		
Mr. Carter		
Mr. Kendall		
Mr. Burnham		
Mr. Shakoor		
Mr. Lall		
Mr. Jagan		
Mr. Hamid		
Mr. Downer		
Mr. Bhagwan		
Mr. Robertson		
Mr. Wilson		
Dr. Ramsahoye		
Dr. Jacob		
Mr. Chandisingh		
Mr. Rai		
Mr. Ram Karran		
Mr. Benn		
Dr. Jagan		
29	1	2

Thereafter the following amendment moved by the Premier to the insertion of a third resolve clause moved by Mr. d'Aguiar and as amended by Mr. Jordan, was put and carried:-

Substitution of a comma for the full stop at the end of the third resolve clause and addition of the words "subject to funds being available."

The third resolve clause as amended was then put and carried.

Thereafter, the original motion, as amended, was put and carried as follows:

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Assembly approves of the payment of salaries to Public Servants with effect from 1st January, 1961, at the rates set out in the Report of the Commission to Review Wages, Salaries and Conditions of Service in the Public Service, British Guiana, 1961, as modified by the Government in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1962 pending final consideration in the light of the decisions arising from discussion in Whitley Council;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That in terms of section 18 of the Financial Administration and Audit Ordinance, 1961 (No. 39), this Legislative Assembly authorises the expenditure of \$2,600,000 required to meet the payment of arrears of salaries on the aforementioned basis in respect of the year 1961, and such additional funds as may be necessary;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Assembly recommends that the minimum basic daily wage for unclassified Government workers be increased from \$3.04 per day to \$4.00 per day with corresponding increases for all unclassified Government workers, subject to funds being available.

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Item 2 - MOTION AUTHORISING EXPENDITURE FOR THE PURCHASE AND ALTERATION OF PREMISES AT S¹/₂ LOT 21 BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.

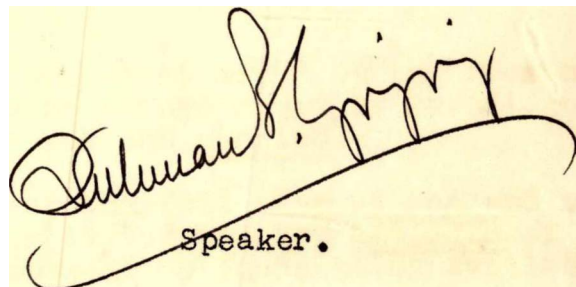
On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Assembly authorises the expenditure of \$81,000 for the purchase and alteration of premises situate at S¹/₂ Lot 21 Brickdam, Georgetown, to accommodate the Ministry of Education and Social Development.

In terms of Standing Order 21, the Governor's recommendation, as signified by the Minister, was laid over.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.18 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Benn, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

8th March, 1962.