

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

1961 - 1962

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 31st 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

WEDNESDAY, 2ND MAY, 1962.

PRESENT:

Mr. W.O.R. Kendall, Deputy Speaker - In the Chair.

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

(ii) 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. M. Shakoor

(b) Members Constituting the Minority

(i) People's National Congress

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. S. Campbell
Mr. R.E. Cheeks

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

Absent:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj - on leave.
Mr. H. Lall - on leave.
Mr. L.F.S. Burnham. Q.C. - on leave.
Mr. P. d'Aguiar - on leave.
Mr. E.E. Melville.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Deputy Speaker announced that Mr. d'Aguiar had been granted two weeks leave with effect from that day.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL - First Reading.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1962.
(L.A. Bill No. 11/1962 published 2.5.62).

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND
THE INCOME TAX ORDINANCE.

The Bill was read the first time.

Ruling by His Honour the Deputy Speaker re Motion to approve One-sixth of expenditure provision of Interim Estimates of Expenditure laid on 30th April, 1962.

His Honour the Deputy Speaker referred to the point of order raised by Mr. Carter under Standing Orders Nos. 21 and 37 at the previous sitting on Monday, 30th April, questioning the right of the House to consider a motion by the Minister of Finance seeking authority for expenditure amounting to \$9,391,743:- against the Interim Estimates of Expenditure for 1962.

His Honour ruled that the points raised were without merit and that the motion would be proceeded with.

Mr. Bissember then referred to the requirement of Article 109(4)(a)(ii) of the British Guiana Constitution and raised a further objection which was also overruled by the Deputy Speaker.

Thereafter, Members constituting the Minority, bowed to the Chair and left the Chamber.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

Item 1 - MOTION TO APPROVE ONE-SIXTH OF THE EXPENDITURE PROVISION OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

Assembly resumed consideration of the following motion:-

WHEREAS article 109(4)(b) of the Constitution limits to four months ending 30th April the period during which public funds may be expended in pursuance of the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Ordinance, 1961, in anticipation of the passage of the appropriation law; and

WHEREAS the appropriation law for the year 1962 will not be passed before the expiry of the said period and it is necessary to provide for expenditure on the public services pending the passage of this law:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly approves in accordance with Article 109(4)(a)(ii) of the Constitution one-sixth of the expenditure provision proposed under each of the subheads of the Estimates of Expenditure which have been laid on the Table, to a total of nine million, three hundred and ninety-one thousand, seven hundred and forty-three dollars as detailed by heads in the undermentioned Schedule.

SCHEDULE

<u>Head</u>	Annual Estimate \$	Provision Required \$
Governor	5,300	883
Governor's Office	52,492	8,749
Volunteer Force	117,306	19,551
Supreme Court and Deeds Registry	369,597	61,600
Magistrates	437,470	72,912
Legislature	59,442	9,907
Premier's Office, Council of Ministers and Ministry of Development and Planning	565,380	94,230
Ministry of Natural Resources	1,038,870	173,145
Agriculture	2,130,193	355,032
Lands and Mines	614,199	102,366
Forest	681,653	113,609
Ministry of Works and Hydraulics	44,359	7,393

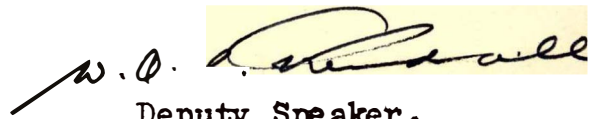
<u>Head</u>	<u>Annual Estimate</u> \$	<u>Provision Required</u> \$
Public Works - Establishment	1,960,405	326,734
Public Works and Sea Defences - Annually Recurrent	4,625,937	770,990
Public Works - Non Recurrent	550,000	91,667
Drainage and Irrigation - Establishment	668,401	111,400
Drainage and Irrigation - Annually Recurrent	725,250	120,875
Ministry of Home Affairs	95,469	15,912
Local Government	632,326	105,388
Interior	282,161	47,027
Police	3,704,857	617,475
Prisons	603,296	100,549
Fire Prevention	570,525	95,088
Printery	562,586	93,764
Probation	92,797	15,466
Essequibo Boys' School	99,268	16,545
Ministry of Labour, Health and Housing	237,707	39,618
Medical - Establishment	1,567,268	261,211
Medical - Bacteriological	204,581	34,097
Medical - X-Ray	108,201	18,034
Medical - Hospitals and Dispensaries	4,916,922	819,486
Town and Country Planning	89,553	14,926
Registration of Births, Deaths, Immigration, etc.	88,987	14,831
Analyst	78,912	13,152
Labour	211,653	35,276
Ministry of Trade and Industry	555,728	92,621
Ministry of Finance	568,942	94,824
Accountant General	1,567,712	261,285
Central Registry	34,967	5,828
Customs and Excise	781,258	130,210
Inland Revenue	191,415	31,902
Licence Revenue	70,895	11,816
Post Office Savings Bank	64,314	10,719
Ministry of Education and Social Development	4,126,107	687,684
Ministry of Education and Social Development - Schools, Institutions and Miscellaneous	8,338,158	1,389,692
The Palms	365,746	60,958
Attorney General	120,138	20,023
Crown Solicitor, Public Trustee and Official Receiver	36,976	6,163
Ministry of Communications	71,497	11,916
Post Office	1,618,289	269,715
Post Office - Telecommuni- cations and Electrical Inspection	1,046,414	174,402
Transport and Harbours	2,199,300	366,550
Civil Aviation	558,211	93,035
Audit	209,361	34,894
Public Prosecutions	45,943	7,657
Public Service Commission	170,740	28,457
Pensions and Gratuities	505,624	84,271
Public Debt	3,969,401	661,566
Loans from Public Funds	340,000	56,667
	<u>\$56,350,459</u>	<u>\$9,391,743</u>

The Premier and Minister of Development and Planning spoke.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.35 p.m., and on a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources (the Honourable B.H. Benn), the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 9th May, 1962.


Deputy Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

7th May, 1962.