

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 50th 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, 3RD OCTOBER, 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. 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. 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

(iii) Independent

Mr. B.S. Rai

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

Absent:

Mr. P. d'Aguiar - on leave.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Welcome to Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham

His Honour the Speaker welcomed back Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan, Premier and Minister of Development and Planning, and Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C., both of whom had been out of the country for some weeks.

(ii) Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. d'Aguiar for two months from the 29th of September, 1962.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(i) By the Premier and Minister of Development and Planning:

Report of a Commission of Inquiry into Disturbances
in British Guiana in February, 1962.

(Circulated).

(ii) By the Minister of Finance:

Financial Paper No. 4/1962 - Schedule of Additional
Provision on the Development Estimates totalling
\$200,000.

(G.304^B/1958)(Circulated).

The Minister intimated that as copies of this document were circulated to Members at the last sitting, he proposed, with the consent of the Assembly, to move at the appropriate time, the motion for the approval of the proposal set out therein.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Question No. 37

Mr. Blair asked the Minister of Communications the following question:

QUESTION: In view of the fact that the Canje Launch is often held up for an undue length of time at the Canje Bridge, especially on its downward journey, waiting for the bridge to open, or swing to permit it to pass, will the Honourable Minister take the necessary steps to remedy this matter?

The Minister of Communications gave the following reply:

ANSWER: As a result of requests from the users of the Canje Creek Service resident on the West Coast Berbice, the Canje Launch which is scheduled to leave New Amsterdam every Monday morning at 7.00 a.m. now leaves there only after the arrival at New Amsterdam of the 7.00 a.m. ferry from Rosignol. This is done to enable persons from the West Coast Berbice who work in the Canje District to leave home for work on the same morning instead of having to spend a night in New Amsterdam. However, the schedule of the opening and closing of the Canje Creek Bridge was not changed in keeping with the change in departure time of the launch, because it was felt at the time that road users who have to cross the Bridge might be unduly inconvenienced. Consideration is being given to a revised schedule for the opening and closing of the Bridge which will ensure that there is no delay to this service and that there is the minimum inconvenience to users of the road who have to cross the Canje Bridge.

Question No. 38

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

QUESTION: Will the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing say why transports have not yet been passed to purchasers of the Kitty Railway Lands?

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

ANSWER: Before the plan for the Kitty Railway Lands can be deposited for Transport in the Deeds Registry, it is necessary for the Central Board of Health to give its approval.

The Central Board of Health requires that houses now sited on certain reserves in the area should be removed to their correct positions and certain drains dug before it would approve of the plan. The houses are being removed by contract and drains dug as required, but the operation is not expected to be completed before early next year.

This done, the Central Board of Health will be asked to approve of the plan and steps will then be taken to transport lots to the respective purchasers.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

National Contributory Pension Scheme

The Minister of Finance informed the House that the United Nations Technical Assistance Board had secured a specialist in social security who would be available immediately to advise the Government on the establishment of a National Contributory Pension Scheme.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

Strike of Employees at Rice Marketing Board.

His Honour the Speaker read a letter from Mr. Bissember requesting permission to move the adjournment of the Assembly to raise a matter concerning the current strike of employees, followed by violence, etc., reflecting on the operation, functioning and administration of the Rice Marketing Board.

Leave was granted by the Assembly for Mr. Bissember to raise the matter at the appropriate time.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS - First Reading.

PUBLIC CORPORATIONS BILL, 1962.
(Bill No. 24/1962 (L.A.) published 29.9.62).

The Premier and Minister of Development and Planning, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

The Bill was read the first time.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/1962.

The Minister of Finance, in terms of Standing Order No. 21, laid over the Governor's recommendation, and with the leave of the Assembly, moved the following motion which was put and carried:

RESOLVED, That this House approves the proposal set out in Financial Paper No. 4/1962 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Development Estimates totalling \$200,000.

Item 1 - MOTION TO APPROVE COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION TO DISCUSS INDEPENDENCE.

The Premier and Minister of Development and Planning moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has invited a delegation from British Guiana to a conference to be held in the United Kingdom for the purpose of discussing Independence for this country:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly agrees that the delegation should comprise nine Members of the Legislature, three each to be nominated by the Government, the People's National Congress and the United Force.

Mr. Burnham moved and Mr. Kendall seconded the following amendment:

Insertion of the words "and nine advisers, three each to be nominated by the Government, the People's National Congress and the United Force" after the word "Force" in the last line of the resolve clause.

The amendment was put and negatived on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Melville	Mr. Shakoor	Mr. Rai
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Lall	
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Jagan	
Mr. Wharton	Mr. Hamid	
Mr. Merriman	Mr. Downer	
Mr. Jordan	Mr. Caldeira	
Mr. Joaquin	Mr. Bhagwan	
Mr. Hugh	Mr. Robertson	
Mr. Blair	Mr. Saffee	
Mr. Bissember	Mr. Mann	
Mr. Correia	Mr. Bowman	
Mr. Carter	Mr. Wilson	
Mr. Kendall	Dr. Ramsahoye	
Mr. Burnham	Dr. Jacob	
	Mr. Chandisingh	
	Mr. Ram Karran	
	Dr. Jagan	
<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>1</u>

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS - Second Reading.

Item 2 - EXCHANGE CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1962 -
Bill No. 23/1962 (L.A.)

At the request of the Minister of Finance, consideration of this Bill was deferred.

Item 3 - DEFENCE BILL, 1962 - Bill No. 22/1962 (L.A.).

His Honour the Speaker stated that His Excellency the Governor had given permission to the Premier to take charge of the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE DEFENCE OF BRITISH GUIANA BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BRITISH GUIANA ARMY AND OTHER UNITS OF HER MAJESTY'S MILITARY FORCES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH AND INCIDENTAL THERETO.

In terms of Standing Order No. 21 the Governor's recommendation was laid over and, on a motion by the Premier, the Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 - 3 were passed as printed.

Clause 4 was amended as follows and passed:

Substitution of the word "realty" for the word "reality" in the second line of subsection (5).

Clauses 5 and 6 were passed as printed.

Clause 7 was amended as follows and passed:

Substitution of the words "not more than six members" for the words "five members" in the second line of subsection (1).

Clauses 8 - 13 were passed as printed.

Clause 14 was amended as follows and passed:

Substitution of the word "of" for the word "before" in the second line of subsection (1).

Clauses 15 - 24 were passed as printed.

Clause 25 was amended as follows and passed:

Substitution of the word "authority" for the word "officer" in the first and fourth lines of subsection (1).

Clauses 26 - 36 were passed as printed.

Clause 37 was amended as follows and passed:

Substitution of the word "known" for the word "know" and the word "provost" for "provest" in the fifth line.

Clauses 38 and 39 were passed as printed.

Suspension of Sitting

At 4.02 p.m. the sitting was suspended for tea.

Resumption of Sitting

At 4.36 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Strike of Employees at Rice Marketing Board.

Mr. Bissember moved the adjournment of the Assembly and raised the question of the current strike of employees, followed by violence, etc., reflecting on the operation, functioning and administration of the Rice Marketing Board.

Other Members and the Minister of Natural Resources spoke.

BILL - In Committee.

DEFENCE BILL, 1962 - Bill No. 22/1962 (L.A.).

Consideration of this Bill was resumed.

In Committee

Clauses 40 - 220 were passed as printed.

Clause 221 was amended as follows and passed:

Deletion of (i) the brackets and figure "(1)" after the figures "221" in the first line;

(ii) subsections (2) and (3).

Clauses 222 and 223 were passed as printed.

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD SCHEDULES were passed as printed.

FOURTH AND FIFTH SCHEDULES were deleted.

Assembly resumed.

Third Reading

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

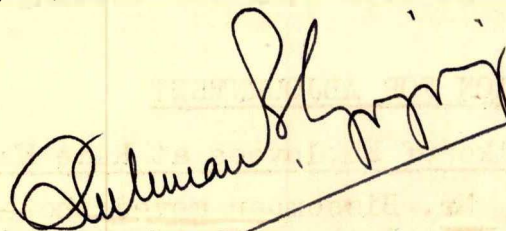
BUSINESS FOR NEXT SITTING

Before the adjournment, the Minister of Natural Resources stated that the business for the next sitting to be held on the 10th of October, 1962, would be the second reading of the following Bills:

- (i) Association of Baptist Churches in British Guiana (Incorporation) Bill, 1962.
- (ii) Probation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill, 1962.
- (iii) Exchange Control (Amendment) Bill, 1962.
- (iv) Public Corporations Bill, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.12 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 10th of October, 1962.



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

6th October, 1962.