

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

1961 - 1962

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 40th 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, 5TH JULY, 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. Bugh
 Mr. J.G. Joaquim
 Mr. R.J. Jordan
 Mr. C.A. Merriman
 Mr. H.M.S. Wharton

(iii) 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. E.E. Melville - on leave.
 Mr. B.S. Rai.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Attorney-General to take charge of matters concerning
 Ministry of Home Affairs.

His Honour the Speaker announced that the Clerk of the Legislature had been informed by letter that the Premier (Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan) had decided that the Attorney-General (Dr. the Honourable F.H.W. Ramsahoye) should take charge, in the Legislative Assembly, of matters which came within the portfolio of the Minister of Home Affairs and that the Attorney-General had agreed to the proposal.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Premier and Minister of Development and
 Planning:

Annual Report of the British Guiana
 Volunteer Force for the year 1961.
 (Circulated).

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Question No. 20

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

QUESTION: Does Government propose to pass transport to the lessees at La Penitence Village for the lands they occupy? If so, when?

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

ANSWER: Government proposes to pass transport to those tenants at La Penitence who can establish claims of occupancy to the land they occupy except where the land is required for public use in accordance with a planning scheme to provide certain necessary improvements to the village for the benefit of the community. This planning scheme is now under preparation and it is hoped that this will be approved and ready for implementation early in 1963.

Supplementary questions were asked by Mr. Merriman.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL - First Reading.

TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1962.
(Bill No. 17/1962 (L.A.) published 7.7.62)

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

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE
TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS ORDINANCE.

The Bill was read the first time.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approves the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1962 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Recurrent Estimates for June, 1962, totalling \$170,802.

Committee then considered the Schedule.

Item 1: HEAD 2 - GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

Subhead 1. Personal Emoluments ... \$1:

(To provide for the regrading of the salary of the Secretary to the Office of Governor to that of a Permanent Secretary, i.e. \$10,080 per annum).

Mr. Burnham moved the deletion of the item.

After discussion, the Premier and Minister of Development and Planning asked leave to withdraw the item.

Committee agreed.

Items 2 and 3: were passed as printed.

Item 4: HEAD 7 - OFFICE OF PREMIER AND MINISTRY
OF DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING. ..

Subhead 1. Personal Emoluments ... \$3:

(To provide for the creation of the following posts:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (a) 1 Administrative Assistant and Assistant Secretary to the Council of Ministers A7 | \$1.00 |
| (b) 1 Technical Specialist (Consultant on Minerals and Water) at salary of \$9,600 p.a. (F ?) | 1.00 |
| (c) 1 Administrative Assistant for UNTAB Office | 1.00) |

Mr. Burnham moved the deletion of item 4(a).

After discussion, the question was put and the amendment negated on the following division:-

FOR	AGAINST
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. Bowman
Mr. Carter	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Kendall	Dr. Ramsahoye
Mr. Burnham	Dr. Jacob
	Mr. Chandisingh
	Mr. Ram Karran
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Jagan

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Mr. Correia moved the deletion of item 4(b) and after discussion withdrew the amendment.

Mr. d'Aguiar moved the deletion of item 4(b) and 4(c).

After discussion, the question was put and the amendment negated.

Thereafter, item 4 was passed as printed.

Item 5: was passed as printed.

Item 6: HEAD 21 - POLICE.

Subhead 1. Personal Emoluments .. \$1:

(To provide for the creation of two Supernumerary Posts of Senior Superintendent of Police to fill vacancies during the absence on leave of Assistant Commissioner D'Abreu and Senior Superintendent Phoenix).

Mr. Burnham moved the deletion of the item.

After discussion, the question was put and the amendment negated.

Item 7 was passed as printed.

Item 8: HEAD 18 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

Subhead 7. Expenses General Elections .. \$14,915:
and Item 1 of the Supplementary Schedule .. \$ 1,680:

(To provide for payment of unpaid Accounts from 1961. Also to meet remainder of this year's salary for the Commissioner of Elections not provided for in this year's Estimate).

The above items were passed as printed.

Items 9 to 18: were passed as printed.

Item 19: HEAD 57 - PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES.

Subhead 23. Ex gratia payment to Mrs. Gladys King ..
\$1,860:

At the request of the Minister of Finance, the figures "\$1,860" were amended to read "\$1,868" and the item was passed as amended.

Items 20 and 22: were passed as printed.

Item 23: HEAD 44 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Subhead 1. Personal Emoluments .. \$1:

(To provide for the appointment of a Cultural Officer at salary of \$8,640 p.a. to advise the Minister of Education and Social Development on Cultural matters).

At the request of the Minister of Natural Resources, the salary of the post of Cultural Officer was amended to read \$7,200 p.a. instead of \$8,640 p.a. as printed.

Thereafter, the item was passed as amended.

Supplementary Schedule of Additional Provision on the Recurrent Estimates

Items 2 to 4: were passed as printed.

The total of the Schedule was accordingly reduced by \$1: and passed at \$170,801:

Committee of Supply then adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Assembly approves the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1962 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Recurrent Estimates for June, 1962, totalling \$170,801.

Assembly resumed.

The Minister of Finance reported that Committee of Supply had considered and approved of Financial Paper No. 1/1962 as amended and moved that Assembly agree with Committee of Supply in its Resolution.

Assembly agreed.

Item 2 - MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES, JANUARY-JUNE, 1962 - FINANCIAL PAPER No. 2/1962.

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approves the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1962 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Development Estimates for the months of January to June, 1962, totalling \$408,912.

Assembly then resolved itself into Committee to consider the Schedule in detail.

In Committee

HEADS I, II, III and VI were passed as printed.

HEAD VII - HEALTH.

7. Skeldon Hospital .. \$54,138:

At the request of the Minister of Finance, subhead 7 was increased by \$7,754: and passed at \$61,692:

The Head was then increased by \$7,754: and passed at \$71,911:

HEAD X was passed as printed.

The Schedule was accordingly increased by \$7,754: and passed at \$408,912:

Assembly resumed.

The motion was then put and adopted.

BILL - Second Reading Deferred.

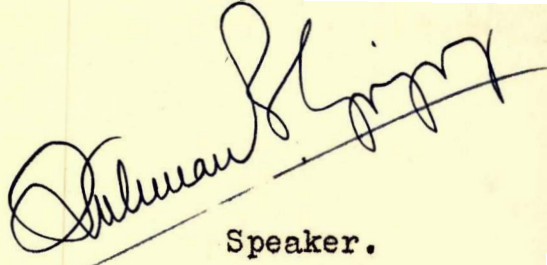
Item 3 - NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SAVINGS LEVY BILL, 1962 - Bill No. 16/1962 (L.A.)

The Minister of Finance informed the Assembly that following discussions with the Trades Union Council, it was proposed that the second reading of the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE LEVY OF COMPULSORY SAVINGS TO BE UTILISED FOR WORKS OF DEVELOPMENT IN BRITISH GUIANA, AND FOR THE ISSUE OF BONDS THEREFOR, THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST THEREON AND OF PRIZES WITH RESPECT THERETO AND FOR THE REDEMPTION THEREOF should be deferred until Thursday, the 12th of July.

Assembly agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.38 p.m. and on a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources (the Honourable B.H. Benn), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 12th of July, 1962.



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

9th July, 1962.