

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

1961 - 1962

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 29th 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, 26TH APRIL, 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.

(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. M. Shakoor

(b) Members Constituting the Minority

(i) People's National Congress

Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C.  
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. R.E. Cheeks  
 Mr. E.E. Melville

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. S. Campbell - on leave.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Deputy Speaker announced that Mr. Campbell had been granted an extension of leave for two weeks with effect from the 20th of April.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

The Minister of Home Affairs (the Honourable B.S. Rai) made a Statement concerning the alleged withdrawal of a charge of attempted arson against one Arnold Parsram.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

In Committee of Supply

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1962 - L.A. Bill No. 4/1962.

Consideration of DRAFT ESTIMATES, 1962, resumed.

HEAD

AMOUNT

45. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT -  
 SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS ..  
 \$8,327,058:

Committee of Supply resumed consideration of HEAD 45 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT - SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Suspension of Sitting

At 4.00 p.m. Committee of Supply was still considering HEAD 45 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT - SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS, when the sitting was suspended for tea.

Resumption of Sitting

At 4.35 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

HEADAMOUNT

45. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT -  
SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS ..  
\$8,327,058:

Committee of Supply resumed consideration of HEAD 45 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT - SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS.

After further discussion, Committee of Supply approved the amendments proposed by the Minister of Finance at the previous sitting on Wednesday, 25th April.

Thereafter, the Head was increased by \$11,100: and passed at .. .. .. .. \$8,338,158:

55. PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS .. \$45,943:

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, Committee of Supply approved of the following amendment to the "Notes" of Sub-head 1(5). Clerical Establishment .. \$4,824:

1 Class I Clerk was substituted for  
1 Class II Clerk.

Thereafter, the Head was passed as printed at .. .. .. .. \$ 45,943:

Suspension of Sitting

At 6.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended for dinner.

Resumption of Sitting

At 8.10 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

TOTAL OF SCHEDULE

The Minister of Finance informed Committee of Supply that the total of the Schedule, as approved by the Committee, was \$58,950,459:

Clause 1 - Short Title - was passed as printed.

Clause 2 - was amended by the substitution of the words "fifty-eight million, nine hundred and fifty thousand, four hundred and fifty-nine" for the words "fifty-nine million, one hundred and eighty-six thousand, two hundred and thirty-eight";

PREAMBLE - was amended as follows:

- (i) the words "sixty-five million, five hundred and forty-four thousand, four hundred and sixty-nine" were substituted for the words "sixty-five million, seven hundred and eighty thousand, two hundred and forty-eight";

- (ii) the words "is chargeable by law on the revenues or public funds of British Guiana" were substituted for the words "has been provided for by law" in the sixth line;
- (iii) the words "fifty-eight million, nine hundred and fifty thousand, four hundred and fifty-nine" were substituted for the words "fifty-nine million, one hundred and eighty-six thousand, two hundred and thirty-eight".

The Minister of Finance then stated the revised financial position, having regard to the amendments made in the Estimates, and incorporated in the Schedule to the Bill.

Assembly resumed.

#### Report and Motion for Third Reading.

The Minister of Finance reported to the Assembly that the Appropriation Bill, 1962, was considered in Committee of Supply and passed with amendments.

The Minister then moved "That the Bill be now read the third time".

#### Amendment proposed by Mr. Burnham

Mr. Burnham moved the following amendment:

- (i) deletion of the word "now"; and  
 (ii) substitution of the words "this day six months" for the words "~~the~~ third time".

The Deputy Speaker informed Mr. Burnham that in terms of Standing Order No. 68, his amendment could not be entertained.

#### Division on Third Reading

Thereafter the question was put and negatived on the following division:-

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Shakoor	Mr. Melville
Mr. Jagan	Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Hamid	Mr. d'Aguiar
Mr. Caldeira	Mr. Wharton
Mr. Bhagwan	Mr. Merriman
Mr. Saffee	Mr. Jordan
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Joaquim
Mr. Wilson	Mr. Hugh
Dr. Ramsahoye	Mr. Blair
Dr. Jacob	Mr. Bissember
Mr. Chandisingh	Mr. Correia
Mr. Ram Karran	Mr. Carter
Dr. Jagan	Mr. Burnham
	Mr. Kendall (Deputy Speaker)

Item 2 - MOTION TO APPROVE DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES, 1962.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the following motion was adopted:

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Assembly approves of the Estimates of Development Expenditure for the year 1962 which have been laid on the Table, totalling THIRTY ONE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY SIX DOLLARS as detailed by Heads in the undermentioned SCHEDULE and of the projects therein being financed from the Development Fund established under the Development Fund Ordinance, 1954.

SCHEDULE

<u>Head No.</u>	<u>Head of Estimate</u>	<u>Estimate in 1962</u>
		\$
I.	Agriculture	1,230,217
II.	Civil Aviation	339,000
III.	Drainage and Irrigation	8,013,783
IV.	Education	1,744,231
V.	Industry & Credits	2,000,000
VI.	Geological Surveys	550,338
VII.	Health	444,605
VIII.	Housing	1,938,794
IX.	Lands & Mines	160,000
X.	Land Development	1,029,000
XI.	Post Office	300,000
XII.	Public Works	8,322,968
XIII.	Transport & Harbours	3,048,106
XIV.	Miscellaneous	33,136
XV.	Rural Self-Help	100,000
XVI.	Social Welfare	105,000
XVII.	Local Government	100,000
XVIII.	Amerindian Development	178,088
XIX.	Tourism	100,000
XX.	Electricity Development	1,800,600
XXI.	Forests	80,100
		31,617,966

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.30 p.m., and on a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources (the Honourable B.H. Benn), the sitting was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Confirmed,

Deputy Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

28th April, 1962.