

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, 9th May, 1946

The Council met at 2 p.m., the Hon. E. G. Woolford, O.B.E. K.C., Deputy President, in the Chair.

### PRESENT

The Deputy President, the Hon. E. G. Woolford, O.B.E., K.C., (New Amsterdam).

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. L. Heape, C.M.G.

The Hon. the Attorney-General (Acting), Mr. F. W. Holder.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. E. F. McDavid, C.B.E.

The Hon. H. N. Critchlow (Nominated).

The Hon. M. B. G. Austin, O.B.E., (Nominated).

The Hon. J. W. Jackson, O.B.E. (Nominated)

The Hon. A. M. Edun (Nominated.)

The Hon. T. T. Thompson (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 8th May, 1946, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

### TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I call upon the hon. the Colonial Secretary to make an announcement. Hon. Members will remember what His Excellency said yesterday.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: With your permission, sir, I would like to read a memorandum I received from His Excellency, which is as follows:—

Honourable Members of Legislative Council,

I would wish to confirm the upshot of our informal conversations yesterday in regard to the Transport and Harbours Bill. I then informed Members that in answer to the report from the Colonial Secretary, received by me in Essequibo, I had suggested this meeting after consultation with Executive Council on Tuesday and I had made the suggestions which I pursued yesterday.

These were in particular two. First the question of road transportation which is of sovereign importance in policy and requires special consideration at the earliest possible date, but I agreed that it was desirable to treat it on its own merits separately. It therefore would be the subject of immediate consideration by Government and by Executive Council, and legislation, if necessary, would come forward to the Legislative Council. It was premature to come to any decision as to what organisation should be set up if such were required. Possible an *ad hoc* specific executive would be required, not necessarily the same as that of the Transport and Harbours though clearly co-ordination of policy would be essential. This matter is entirely open for discussion and in no way prejudged by Government.

My second point was as to the present Bill, from which it had already been decided to drop the clauses touching road transportation. I emphasized very strongly to Members two things, the extreme importance of eliminating the loss on the Transport and Harbours services—which,

if not eliminated, would seriously prejudice our financial position for the future—and secondly, that every advice already received emphasized the importance of employing an executive officer of the first calibre and experience and of vesting in him proper executive powers. I said that this appointment could not be held by a suitable officer except on such consideration.

I said, however, that Government was not necessarily wedded to the present Bill or to the form of it, and that it might conceivably be definitely preferable to have a comprehensive constructive Bill complete in itself and not dependent on reference to the previous legislation. The precise form of organisation which should be set up by such Bill and setting out of powers was discussed with alternative suggestions, but it was, I think, generally agreed that all the proper executive powers necessary would be vested in the chief executive officer as General Manager or under any other title.

With these understandings Members present, who were a substantial majority of the Council, appeared to me to be in general agreement, and on that understanding I have directed the withdrawal of the Bill for action along the lines indicated.

#### NON-ATTENDANCE OF ELECTED MEMBERS.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Members, in view of the fact there is so thin an attendance today, quite

unavoidable I know, I think it is my duty to adjourn this Council to a future date. There are two matters on the agenda for today, matters of importance, and I happen to be the only Elected Member present, but I am not here in that capacity. I cannot vote one way or the other and I prefer, if hon. Members agree with me, that the Council adjourn to a later date. I propose to adjourn to tomorrow, but before I do so, I wish to make one announcement. I hope the same situation will not arise tomorrow because I am going to announce that the Council is going to be prorogued next week Tuesday, the 14th May, prior to the reassembling of the Council in Annual Session on the next day. So I hope hon. Members will find it convenient to be in attendance tomorrow, including the hon. Nominated Members who are usually here and can be depended upon, so that we can have a quorum with some representation of the Elected Members with whom these two motions on the Order Paper are immediately concerned. So with your consent I adjourn the Council until tomorrow at 2 o'clock.