

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the Fourth Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana at its Fourth Session, 1951-1952, held at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, on

FRIDAY, 18TH JULY, 1952,

AT 2 P.M.

PRESENT:

The President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Campbell Woolley, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.  
The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,  
Mr. J. Gutch, C.M.G., O.B.E.  
" " the Attorney General, Mr. F.W. Holder, Q.C.  
" " the Financial Secretary and Treasurer,  
Mr. E.F. McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.  
" " C.V. Wight, C. .E. (Western Essequibo)  
" " Dr. J.A. Nicholson (Georgetown North)  
" " W.J. Raatgever, C.B.E. (Nominated)  
" " V. Roth, O.B.E. (Nominated)  
" " T.T. Thompson (Nominated)  
" " J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central)  
" " Dr. C. Jagan (Central Demerara)  
" " W.O.R. Kendall (New Amsterdam)  
" " A.T. Peters (Western Berbice)  
" " W.A. Phang (North Western District)  
" " G.H. Smellie (Nominated)  
" " L.A. Luckhoo (Nominated)  
" " F.E. Morrish (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 17th of July, 1952, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following:-

The Report and financial statements of the Executive Commissioner, British Caribbean Currency Board, for the year 1951.  
(M.P. C. 123/50 VII).

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Mr. Phang on behalf of Mr. Lee gave notice of the following questions:-

1. Is it the case that as alleged there is misappropriation and/or embezzlement of money at the Rice Marketing Board?
2. If the answer is in the negative, will Government take steps to investigate the matter by putting it in the hands of the Police Department?
3. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government cause the Audit Department to immediately carry out the audit of the Rice Marketing Board's books for the last three years?

COLONIAL SECRETARY - RETURN FROM LEAVE

Mr. Wight on behalf of Members extended a cordial welcome to the Colonial Secretary on his return from leave. Mr. Gutch thanked Members.

MARGARINE - CESSATION OF IMPORTS

Mr. Fernandes in referring to the reply by the Acting Colonial Secretary the previous day on the question of the suspension of import licences for Margarine and Compound Lard stated that Import Licences in respect of edible oil were rejected by the Controller of Supplies and Prices since the 8th of July. He added that the shortage of edible oil was serious and urged that early action should be taken in the matter.

His Excellency assured Mr. Fernandes that the matter would be looked into; and added that it was regrettable that seasonal shortages of local commodities should occur and that he had already directed that all precautions should be taken to avoid any such recurrence.

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - First Reading

JUVENILE OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by Mr. Wight the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE JUVENILE OFFENDERS ORDINANCE was read the first time.

✓ GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by Mr. Wight, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL ORDINANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE PERIOD OF DETENTION OF BOYS SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL was read the first time.

BROWNE PENSION BILL, 1952

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by Mr. Wight, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION IN REGARD TO THE PENSIONABLE SERVICE OF CYRIL RUTHERFORD BROWNE was read the first time.

BLASTING OPERATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1952

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by Mr. Wight the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BLASTING OPERATIONS ORDINANCE, 1930, IN RESPECT OF THE REGULATION OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN BLASTING OPERATIONS was read the first time.

x MR. FERNANDES' MOTION RECOMMENDING INTRODUCTION OF AN EDUCATIONAL TAX

Council resumed the debate on the following motion:-

✓ BE IT RESOLVED that this Council recommend to Government -

- (a) that Primary Educational facilities, at present existing, be not curtailed;
- (b) that a special educational tax be imposed to cover any increase cost in connection with Primary Education.

After discussion and with Council's consent, the motion was amended to read as follows and adopted:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council recommend to Government -

- (a) that Primary Educational facilities, at present existing, be not curtailed;
- (b) that if it is found necessary, a special educational tax be imposed to cover any increase cost in connection with Primary Education.

(M.P. 35/39/2/3).

+ MR. LUCKHOO'S MOTION REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA'S APARTHEID POLICY

Mr. Luckhoo was speaking to the following motion when the hour of adjournment was reached:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council condemns the policy of racial segregation enforced by the South African Government and places on record its abhorrence of the attitude adopted to the various races in the pursuit of this policy which is likely to affect adversely the amicable relations existing amongst the peoples of this Colony and of other mixed communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council respectfully prays His Excellency the Governor to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and to the United Nations urging that steps be taken by the United Nations to persuade the South African Government to desist from such a disastrous course and to adopt a policy towards all races in South Africa in keeping with the Declaration of Human Rights.

ADJOURNMENT

The President adjourned Council to 2 p.m. on Friday, the 25th of July, 1952.

Confirmed,

COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
Public Buildings,  
British Guiana.  
25th July, 1952.

*A. L. Luckhoo*  
President.