

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

THURSDAY, 31ST JULY, 1952,

AT 2 P.M.

PRESENT:

The President, His Excellency the Governor Sir Charles Campbell Woolle, 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. Holdor, Q.C.  
" " Dr. J.B. Singh, B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo)  
" " V. Roth, O.B.E. (Nominated)  
" " G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E. (Nominated)  
" " J.P. Coghlan (Demerara River)  
" " D.P. Debidin (Eastern Demerara)  
" " J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central)  
" " Dr. G.L. Gonsalves (Eastern Berbice)  
" " Dr. C. Jagan (Central Demerara)  
# " W.O. Kendall (New Amsterdam)  
" " G.H. Smellie (Nominated)  
" " L.A. Luckhoo (Nominated).  
# " A.T. Peters (Eastern Berbice).

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 25th of July, 1952, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

The Attorney General gave notice of his intention at a later stage to move the suspension of the relevant Standing Rules and Orders to enable him to take the Gambling Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 1952, through all stages.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

Dr. Jagan gave notice of the following motion:-

WHEREAS in British Guiana there are a multiplicity of trade unions and in recent years an increase in the incidence of jurisdictional disputes among trade unions;

AND WHEREAS in the U.S.A. to avoid jurisdictional disputes and the growth of company unions, the National Labour Relations Board (N.L.R.B.) conducts a poll, and awards the union with a majority membership sole powers for purposes of collective bargaining with the employers;

AND WHEREAS the Governments of Canada and Jamaica have adopted labour-relations machinery similar to that of the U.S.A.;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council recommends to Government the enactment of legislation setting up labour relations machinery for the determination and award in cases of jurisdictional disputes to unions with majority membership sole jurisdiction for purposes of collective bargaining.

#### NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Dr. Jagan gave notice of the following questions:-

1. In view of answer 1 that were the Corentyne Road widened to 22 ft., "then it would have been necessary to wait several years until the widened portion of the embankment had had sufficient time to consolidate", will Government say how it has been possible to construct the road over new deviations within one year? Is it a fact that the Resident Engineer was sent to the U.K. and the U.S.A. to secure adequate equipment to do such a job, that such equipment have been purchased, and that one Sheeps-foot roller and a pneumatic type roller are now lying unused at Canje?
2. In view of Government's reply in answer 2, that the original specifications were not (a) a stone filled base course of 4" thickness (b) a 3" to 4" wearing carpet, thereby giving an asphalt of approximately 7" to 8", will Government state whether this type of construction was carried out at parts of the Sheet Anchor Road 200-300 ft. to Milestone No. 2?
3. In view of answer 3 (a) what is responsible for the cracking of the Corentyne Road, and how long does it take for volatile oils to be dispersed and for traffic to reduce percentages of voids? Is it a fact that  $\frac{3}{4}$ " chips put in as an armour course are now disappearing in the sand-bitumen, and cartwheel markings are still appearing? Is Government aware that if the estimate of \$1.93 per sq. yd. as stated in answer 3(B) is correct, then the estimated cost for the construction of the Corentyne Road will be exceeded despite the wide publicity that savings amounting to \$100,000 will be effected?
4. In view of Answer 4 and now that 30 miles of road have been constructed will Government state the following -
  - (a) The distances where the 9" thickness was not considered necessary.
  - (b) The distances where the 9" thickness was considered necessary and sufficient to distribute the loads safely over the sub-base.  
The distances where greater than 9" thickness was found to be necessary.

5. In view of the cost at \$ .26 per sq.yd. as against \$1.93 at Canje, why has this system of construction not been implemented for the construction of the Corentyne Road especially as the 1½" penetration carpet on the East Coast Road has more mechanical strength in relation to sand bitumen?
6. In view of the fact that all modern equipment is at the disposal of the Resident Engineer, is Government satisfied that labour costs are approximately 20% - 25% of the total costs of the road?
7. In view of answer 9, can Government table a chart of the water tables in the wet and dry seasons?
8. In view of answer 11 will Government say whether in the past a monthly soil test statement was attached to the progress reports? If not, does Government consider it advisable that in future monthly soil test statements should be attached to the progress reports, the soil tests showing (1) liquid limits, (2) plastic limits (3) bearing strength, (4) tensile strength (5) shear strength (6) equilibrium moisture content (7) optimum moisture content.
9. Is it a fact that the estimate for the construction of the Lodge Village Road was exceeded by \$13,000, and this excess was met from the Corentyne Road?
10. In view of answer 12, that the "Corentyne Road is not an experiment prior to the construction of other future roads" will Government state reasons why experimental boards have been posted at portions of the Corentyne Road?
11. In view of answer 13 that "the Victor Diesel Engine was purchased as a spare unit for the Steam generator on the bituminous mixing plant" will Government state whether it is possible that a diesel engine can replace a battery ignition gasoline engine when the ignition power is used to ignite sprays of fuel pumped into the boiler? Can a diesel engine supply ignition?
12. In view of answer 16, will Government give the date when the prices of drums were increased from 24¢ to 40¢ per drum, and give also the last receipt for drums purchased by the gateman at 24¢?

Mr. Debidin gave notice of the following questions:-

1. What is the reason for the existing shortage (shortage in the months of July and August, 1952) in the Colony of (a) rice; (b) flour, and (c) edible oil?
2. Who is the person and/or what is the department responsible for checking and ensuring continuous distribution for local consumption of each of the aforesaid commodities?
3. Does the Colony produce more than it consumes in the following commodities - (a) rice, (b) edible oil? What is the difference in quantity between total production, and total local consumption for each of these commodities in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952?
4. What is the total amount of rice exported from the Colony for each of the months January, February, March, April, May, June and July, 1952?
5. What coconut products were exported, giving the quantity of each product, particularly copra and edible oil, in the year 1951, and in each of the months of January to July, 1952, and giving the country of destination in each case?
6. What quantity of rice has been prepared in cartons for export, and what quantity to each country has the rice in cartons been exported?
7. What quantity of rice has been exported in 1951, and during 1952 outside of the contract requirements of those Colonies to which the Rice Marketing Board has been under contract to supply rice in the above period?
8. What is the quantity exported to each of those non-contract countries (if any), in the aforesaid period?

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - First Reading

GAMBLING PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE GAMBLING PREVENTION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 95, BY EXEMPTING CERTAIN LOTTERIES FROM THE OPERATION OF THE PROVISIONS THEREOF was read the first time.

BRITISH GUIANA FILM SOCIETY (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 1952

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO EXEMPT THE BRITISH GUIANA FILM SOCIETY FROM THE PAYMENT OF ENTERTAINMENT DUTY IN RESPECT OF THE EXHIBITION OF CINEMATOGRAPH FILMS, AND TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION WITH RESPECT TO SUCH EXHIBITIONS was read the first time.

✓ WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE was read the first time.

✓ WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION AMENDMENT BILL, 1952

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION ORDINANCE was read the first time.

✓ SPIRITS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE SPIRITS ORDINANCE was read the first time.

MOTION BY DR. JAGAN REGARDING QUESTIONS AND MOTIONS TABLED  
IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Dr. Jagan moved and Mr. De idin seconded the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED that t is Honourable Council recommends that all questions asked in the Legislative Council be replied to within four weeks and that all Members' motions be considered within six months of the time tabled.

After discussion, leave wa granted Dr. Jagan to withdraw the motion.

Motion withdrawn.

✗ DR. JAGAN'S MOTION REGARDING THE INCREASE IN THE FARES AND FREIGHT RATES OF THE TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS DEPARTMENT

The following motion was moved by Dr. Jagan:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council recommends to Government that proposed increased fares and freight charges for railway and st amer services be non-effective until such time as the Legislative Council has fully discussed the recent "Report of the Committee appointed to consider Ways and Means of Effecting Economies".

As the motion was not second'd, Dr. Jagan asked leave to withdraw the motion.

Leave having been granted, the motion was withdrawn.

✓ GAMBLING PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

With Council's consent and on a motion by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary the BILL intituled ~~AN~~ ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE GAMBLING PREVENTION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 95, BY EXEMPTING CERTAIN LOTTERIES FROM THE OPERATION OF THE PROVISIONS THEREOF, was read the second time.

Council was then resolved into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Clause 1 - was passed as printed

Clause 2 - Dr. Jagan moved the insertion of the words  
Sub-para. "political, labour"  
(a)(ii)

between the words "organisation of a" and the word "philanthropic".

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

	<u>Against</u>
Dr. Jagan	Mr. Smellie
Mr. Debidin	Mr. Peters
	Mr. Kendall
	Mr. Fernandes
	Mr. Farnum
	Mr. Koth
	Dr. Singh
	The Attorney General
	The Colonial Secretary

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Title and Enacting Clause - were passed as printed.

Council resumed and on a motion by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary the Bill was read a third time and passed as printed.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1952

On motions by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE JUVENILE OFFENDERS ORDINANCE was read the second time and thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendments:-

Clause 2 - 15B(2)

The word "of" was substituted for the word "or" in the fourth line.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

On motions by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary 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 second time and thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed .

+ BROWNE PENSION BILL, 1952

On motions by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION IN REGARD TO THE PENSIONABLE SERVICE OF CYRIL RUTHERFORD BROWNE was read the second time and thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendment:-

Clause 2 - The words "the purpose of" were inserted between the words "for" and "pension" in the last line.

✓ BLASTING OPERATIONS AMENDMENT BILL 1952

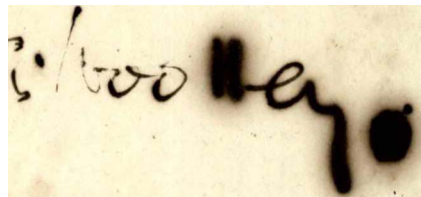
On motions by the Attorney General seconded by the Colonial Secretary the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BLASTING OPERATIONS ORDINANCE, 1930, IN RESPECT OF THE REGULATION OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN BLASTING OPERATIONS was read the second time and thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendment:-

Clause 3 - The word "by" in the first line was deleted.

ADJOURNMENT

The hour of adjournment having been reached, the President adjourned Council to 2 p.m. on the following day.

Confirmed,



President.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
Public Buildings,  
British Guiana.  
1st August, 1952.