

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION

1954

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

FRIDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 1954.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C.

Ex Officio Members

The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. F.W. Holder, Q.C.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. W.O. Fraser, O.B.E.

Nominated Members of Executive Council

~~The Honourable Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.~~

... (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines)

The Honourable P.A. Cummings

(Member for Labour, Health and Housing)

The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall

(Member for Communications and Works)

The Honourable G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E.

(Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development).

The Honourable R.B. Gajraj

The Honourable R.C. Tello

Deputy Speaker

Mr. W.J. Raatgever, C.B.E.

Nominated Officials

Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.

Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. T. Lee

Mr. W.A. Phang

Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.

Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.

Mr. C.A. Carter

Mr. E.F. Correia

Rev. D.C.J. Bobb

Mr. H. Rahaman

Miss Gertie H. Collins

Mrs. Esther E. Dey

Dr. H.A. Fraser

Lt. Col. E.J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D.

Mr. R.B. Jailal

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree (Ag.)

Absent

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, O.B.E.

The Honourable G.H. Smellie - on leave.

Mr. Sugrim Singh - on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 25th of November, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The following documents were laid on the table:

- (i) By the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development on behalf of the Member for Communications and Works:

The Constitution of the British Caribbean Air Transport Advisory Council.  
(C.Av. /30/14/2<sup>I</sup> - C)(Circulated).

- (ii) By the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development:

The Annual Report of the Probation Service for the year 1953.  
(SW 348/9/1)(Circulated).

ORDER OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILL - First Reading.

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS) BILL, 1954 -  
Bill No. 52/1954.

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by Mr. Gajraj the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS TO THE TOWN COUNCILS OF GEORGETOWN AND NEW AMSTERDAM AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH was read a first time.

MOTIONS

APPROVING RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN PROFESSOR RICHARDSON'S REPORT ON SOCIAL SECURITY IN BRITISH GUIANA.

Council resumed the debate on the following motion and amendment:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Honourable Council accepts in principle the recommendations contained in Professor Richardson's Report on Social Security in British Guiana and approves of the proposals of the Governor in Council on those recommendations as set out in paragraph 34 of Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1954.

Amendment:

Substitution of a semi-colon for the full stop at the end of the motion and the addition of the following words:

"and that this Council records its grateful thanks to Professor Richardson for his valuable Report."

After discussion the motion as amended was put and carried.

INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSIONS

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by Mr. Gajraj, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That the amount of pension payable under and in accordance with the provisions of the Old Age Pensions Ordinance, 1944, as fixed in subsection (1) of section 8 of the said Ordinance shall, with effect from the 1st day of July, 1954, be varied -

- (a) in the case of a person ordinarily resident in the Georgetown area from four dollars and fifty cents per mensem to seven dollars and fifty cents per mensem; and
- (b) in the case of a person ordinarily resident elsewhere than in the Georgetown area from three dollars per mensem to five dollars and fifty cents per mensem;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, That Resolution No. XXVIII passed by the Legislative Council on the 9th day of March, 1951, be annulled with effect from the 1st day of July, 1954.

BILLS - Second Reading.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 46/1954.

On motions by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ORDINANCE WITH RESPECT TO EXEMPTION FROM INCOME TAX was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 47/1954.

On motions by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, 1934, was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

RENT RESTRICTION (CONTINUANCE) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954 -  
Bill No. 48/1954.

On motions by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE RENT RESTRICTION (CONTINUANCE) ORDINANCE, 1954 was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendment in Committee:-

Clause 2: Proviso - Substitution of the word "fifteenth" for the word "thirteenth" in the fourth line.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (19 3)(No. 2) BILL, 1954 -  
Bill No. 49/1954.

On motions by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW AND CONFIRM CERTAIN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE YEAR ENDED THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1953, was read a second time and was hereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 51/1954.

On motions by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by Mr. Ramphal the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE FACTORIES ORDINANCE, 1947, was read a second time and was hereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

NEW AMSTERDAM TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954 -  
Bill No. 50/1954.

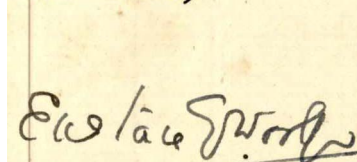
On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by Mr. Tello the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE NEW AMSTERDAM TOWN COUNCIL ORDINANCE, 1949, was read a second time.

Further consideration of the Bill was deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.05 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 2nd of December, 1954.

Confirmed,



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
British Guiana.

2nd December, 1954.