

FIRST SESSION

1954 - 1955

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

THURSDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1955.

PRESENT:

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

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, O.B.E.
The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. F.W. Holder, C.M.G., 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 G.H. Smellie
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
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
Mr. Sugrim Singh

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

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

Absent

Mr. E.F. Correia - on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 4th of March, 1955, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker announced that Mr. Gajraj would be out of the Colony from the 12th to the 19th of March, inclusive, and that leave had been granted him for this period.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The following documents were laid on the table:-

(i) By the Attorney General:

The Report of the Administrators of the Patoir Trust Fund for the year 1954 together with the Director of Audit's certificate.

(L. 112 II).

(ii) By the Member for Communications and Works:

The Report of the Director General of Colonial Audit on the Accounts of the British Guiana Transport and Harbours Department for the year ended the 31st of December, 1952, together with the Governor's comments thereon.

(TH 122/24/3) (Circulated).

GOVERNMENT NOTICESMOTION

The Member for Labour, Health and Housing gave notice of the following motion:

WHEREAS by Resolution No. III of the Legislative Council passed on the 25th day of March, 1954, Part IX of the Housing Ordinance, 1946 (No. 24 of 1946) was continued in force up to the 31st day of March, 1955;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the said Part of the Ordinance shall continue in force for a further period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Part IX of the Housing Ordinance, 1946 (No. 24 of 1946) shall continue in force for a further period of one year from the 1st April, 1955.

ORDER OF THE DAYGOVERNMENT BUSINESSBILLS - First Reading

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955 -
Bill No. 12/1955.

On a motion by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines seconded by the Financial Secretary the

.. / BILL

BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION ORDINANCE, 1940, was read a first time.

GEORGETOWN TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL, 1955 -
Bill No. 10/1955.

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by Mr. Gajraj the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE GEORGETOWN TOWN COUNCIL ORDINANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE PAYMENT OF A GRATUITY WHERE AN OFFICER OR SERVANT DIES IN THE SERVICE OF THE GEORGETOWN TOWN COUNCIL was read a first time.

CRIMINAL LAW (OFFENCES)(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955 - Bill
No. 11/1955.

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by Mr. Gajraj the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL LAW (OFFENCES) ORDINANCE was read a first time.

GAMBLING PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955 - Bill No. 13/1955.

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by Mr. Gajraj the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE GAMBLING PREVENTION ORDINANCE was read a first time.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (APPEALS)(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955 -
Bill No. 8/1955.

At the request of the Attorney General consideration of item 5 in the Order of the Day was deferred.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION BY REV. BOBB CONCERNING "FEDERATION".

~~Questions as to the admissibility of the motion were raised and the Speaker ruled that the motion should be proceeded with.~~

Accordingly Rev. Bobb. moved the following motion which was seconded by Mr. Jailal, who reserved his speech until later in the debate:-

That this Council, having noted the steps which are being taken by other Caribbean Governments and by Her Majesty's Government towards the creation of a British Caribbean Federation and the statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies in Parliament to the effect that the constitutional instruments will provide that British Guiana and other territories which might care to do so will be quite free to join the Federation, is of the opinion that British Guiana should join the Federation and that the question of this country's participation therein should be re-examined.

This Council further prays His Excellency the Governor to take such steps as he may deem fit to keep British Guiana in close touch with the action now proceeding towards the setting up of the Federation and to ascertain the state of public opinion in this country towards participation in the Federation.

The following members spoke to the motion:

The Chief Secretary.
Mr. Smellie.

Mr. Sugrim Singh was speaking to the motion when the hour of adjournment was reached.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.05 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, the 11th of March, 1955.

Confirmed,

A rectangular stamp containing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature appears to be 'Eustace J. P. ...' with a flourish at the end.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

11th March, 1955.