

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

FRIDAY, 11TH 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 Thursday, the 10th of March, 1955, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed, with the following amendment:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION BY REV. BOBB CONCERNING "FEDERATION".

The following was substituted for the first paragraph of the Minute:-

"Questions were raised by the Deputy Speaker as to the competency of the mover to move the motion as permission to do so had not previously been signified or sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor in pursuance of the provisions of Section 48(2) of the British Guiana (Constitution)(Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, and by Messrs. Sugrim Singh and L.A. Luckhoo as to the form and terms of the motion itself, but the objections were overruled by the Speaker."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker announced that he proposed with Council's consent to adjourn the meeting at 3.45 p.m.

ORDER OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

With the consent of Council consideration of Items 1 to 5 in the Order of the Day was deferred.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION BY REV. BOBB CONCERNING "FEDERATION".

Council resumed the debate on the following motion:

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.

Mr. Sugrim Singh resumed his speech.

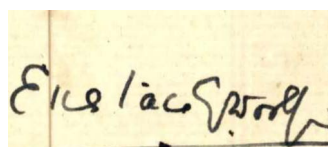
At a later stage Mr. Sugrim Singh gave way to Mr. Gajraj to enable him to speak to the motion as he was due to leave the Colony the following day for Trinidad to attend, as the Colony's observer, the Conference of representatives of British West Indian Governments to re-consider the question of the control of the movement of persons between one member territory of the proposed British Caribbean Federation and another.

On conclusion of Mr. Gajraj's speech further consideration of the motion was deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.55 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 15th of March, 1955.

Confirmed,

A rectangular stamp containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Eric LaSalle'.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

15th March, 1955.