

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, 18TH 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

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. 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
Mr. Sugrim Singh

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

Absent

The Honourable R.B. Gajraj - on leave.
The Honourable R.C. Tello - on leave.
Mr. T. Lee - on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 17th of March, 1955, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Letter of Appreciation from Mr. J.K. Vaughan-Morgan, M.P.

The Speaker announced that he had received a letter from Mr. J.K. Vaughan-Morgan, M.P., expressing his thanks for the hospitality extended to him by members of the Council during his recent visit to the Colony and his pleasure at being present at a meeting of the Legislative Council.

(ii) Announcement of Select Committee.

The Speaker also intimated that he hoped to announce shortly the personnel of the Select Committee which would investigate and report on the possibility of establishing a plywood industry in the Colony.

INACCURATE PRESS REPORT

Before the Order of the Day was proceeded with Mr. Ramphal was granted leave to draw Council's attention to an inaccurate report in that day's issue of the Daily Argosy of certain remarks made by Mr. Lee the previous day in Council on the motion concerning Federation.

ORDER OF THE DAY
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS

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.

The following members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Luckhoo, who in the course of his speech moved the following amendment to the motion which was seconded by Mr. Carter:

Amendment:

Deletion of -

(i) the words "that British Guiana should join the Federation and" in the ninth and tenth lines of the first paragraph; and,

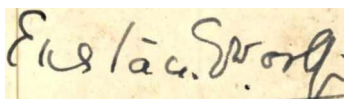
(ii) the whole of the second paragraph.

Mr. Macnie
Mr. Lord.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.50 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 22nd of March, 1955.

Confirmed,



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

22nd March, 1955.