

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THIRD SESSION

1956

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, 2ND NOVEMBER, 1956.

PRESENT:

The Deputy Speaker, Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E. - In the
Chair.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, C.M.G., O.B.E.
The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. G.M. Farnum (Ag.)
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. F.W. Essex.

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 L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.

Nominated Officials

Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. T. Lee
Mr. W.A. Phang
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
Mr. R.B. Jailal

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. B.M. Viapree (Ag.)

Absent

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E.,
Q.C. - on leave.
The Honourable R.C. Tello - on leave.
Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O. - on leave.
Mr. Sugrim Singh

The Deputy Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 26th October, 1956, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER.(i) Leave

The Deputy Speaker announced that leave of absence had been granted to the Honourable R.B. Gajraj from the 3rd to the 16th November, as he would be out of the Colony on public duty.

(ii) Mr. J.I. Ramphal - Return from leave of absence.

The Deputy Speaker extended a welcome to Mr. J.I. Ramphal, on his return from leave of absence in the United Kingdom.

PAPERS LAID.

By the Chief Secretary:

- (i) Annual Report of the Probation Service for the year 1955.
(No. 399/3 (Circulated).
- (ii) Statement on Training and Scholarship awards to Public Officers and candidates for appointment to the Public Service of British Guiana.
(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS
ORDER OF THE DAY

BILL - Committee.

Item 1 - PUBLIC UTILITY UNDERTAKINGS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ARBITRATION BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 43/1956.

On a motion by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, Council resolved itself into a Committee to resume consideration of the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE AN ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES IN PUBLIC UTILITY UNDERTAKINGS AND IN CERTAIN SERVICES AND TO PROHIBIT STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN SUCH UNDERTAKINGS OR SERVICES, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, AND FOR PURPOSES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Committee.

Clause 16 - At the request of the Attorney General the amendment ~~made~~ at the previous meeting was withdrawn.

Mr. Lee thereafter moved that the Proviso to the Clause be deleted and the following Proviso substituted therefor -

"Provided ... /

"Provided that no witness shall be required to answer any question or to produce any document where the answer or the production of the document would, in the opinion of the Tribunal, have a tendency to expose the witness or the wife or husband of the witness, as the case may be, to any criminal charge or to any penalty or forfeiture."

After discussion the Deputy Speaker put the amendment and Committee divided and voted thereon as follows -

<u>For</u>	<u>Against.</u>	<u>Did Not Vote.</u>
Miss Collins Mr. Lee	Mr. Jailal Dr. Fraser Mrs. Dey Rev. Bobb Mr. Carter Mr. Phang Mr. Ramphal Mr. Luckhoo Mr. Gajraj Mr. Farnum Mr. Kendall Mr. Cummings Sir Frank McDavid Financial Secretary Attorney General Chief Secretary	Mr. Correia
2	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>

Amendment negatived.

Clause 16. - was passed as printed.

Schedule. - Re-committal. - At the request of Mr. Lee, the Schedule was re-committed.

Mr. Lee then moved that the word "postal" and a comma be inserted between the words "Government" and "telegraphic" in item 11.

After discussion, the Deputy Speaker put the amendment and Committee divided and voted thereon as follows -

<u>For</u>	<u>Against.</u>	<u>Did Not Vote.</u>
Mr. Jailal Mrs. Dey Mr. Correia Mr. Carter Mr. Lee	Dr. Fraser Miss Collins Rev. Bobb Mr. Phang Mr. Ramphal Mr. Luckhoo Mr. Gajraj Mr. Farnum Mr. Kendall Mr. Cummings Sir Frank McDavid Financial Secretary Attorney General Chief Secretary	-

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14

Amendment negatived.

Council resumed.

On a motion by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

BILLS - Second Reading.

Item 2 - INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) BILL. 1956 - BILL No. 48/1956.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary, seconded by the Attorney General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE INTERPRETATION ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendment in Committee.

Amendment

By deleting the words "Interpretation Ordinance" in the marginal note to Clause 2 and substituting therefor the abbreviation and numeral "Cap. 5."

Item 3 - EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS (REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS)(AMENDMENT) BILL. 1956 - Bill No. 49/1956.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS (REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS) ORDINANCE, 1953, was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 4 - INDUSTRIES AID AND ENCOURAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 50/1956.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE INDUSTRIES AID AND ENCOURAGEMENT ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 5 - HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER BILL - Bill No. 47/1956.

With the consent of Council, item 5 was deferred for the next meeting.

MOTION

Item 6 - MOTION CONFIRMING ORDER IN COUNCIL NO. 66 of 1956.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, Council adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 66 of 1956 which was made on the 26th day of September, 1956 and published in the Gazette on 20th October, 1956.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 8th of November, 1956.

Confirmed,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. ...', written over a faint circular stamp.

Deputy Speaker.

Public Buildings,
British Guiana.

8th November, 1956.