

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, 3RD AUGUST, 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. M.S. Porcher (Ag.)
The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. C. Wylie, Q.C., E.D.
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 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

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
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. E.V. Viapree.

Absent

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E.,
Q.C. - on leave.
The Honourable P.A. Cummings
(Member for Labour, Health and Housing) - on leave.
The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall
(Member for Communications and Works) - on leave.
The Honourable L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.
Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O. - on leave.
Mr. J.I. Ramphal - on leave.
Miss Gertie H. Collins
Mr. Sugrim Singh

The Deputy Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd August, 1956, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Speaker announced that the Honourable W.O.R. Kendall had been granted leave of absence from that meeting.

WELCOME TO DEPUTY SPEAKER ON OCCUPANCY OF THE CHAIR.

The Chief Secretary, on behalf of Government and the Council, extended a warm welcome and best wishes to Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E., on his appointment as Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Lee, Mr. Correia and Mr. Carter joined in extending good wishes to the Deputy Speaker.

Thereafter, the Deputy Speaker thanked the Chief Secretary and Members for the sentiments and good wishes expressed.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS.

The following document was laid on the table:-

By the Chief Secretary:

The Speech broadcast by His Excellency the Governor on Sunday, 29th July, 1956.

(Circulated).

GOVERNMENT NOTICESBILL

The Chief Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION ORDINANCE.

(Bill No. 37/1956 published 28.7.56).

ORDER OF THE DAYREPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Phang asked the Chief Secretary the following questions, notice of which had been given on the 19th of July, 1956. With Council's consent the following replies by the Chief Secretary, which were printed and circulated, were taken as read:-

QUESTION 1: With reference to the news item in the "Guiana Graphic" of 11th July, 1956, to the effect that insects had been destroying valuable records in the Housing Department Building to the extent that an officer had to use an insect exterminating bomb, will Government give the assurance that the said valuable records were not the files of the old and irreplaceable Colonial Newspapers, the subject of recent questions in this Honourable House?

ANSWER 1: Government gives the assurance that the files of the old and irreplaceable Colonial Newspapers stored in the premises of the Housing Department are not the records referred to in the news item in the "Guiana Graphic" of 11th July, 1956.

QUESTION 2: Is Government still satisfied that the irreplaceable records are being protected satisfactorily from damage?

ANSWER 2: Yes, Sir.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

BILL - Third Reading.

Item 2 - FISHERIES BILL, 1956 - BILL NO. 12/1956.

On a motion by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines seconded by the Financial Secretary, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE FISHING IN THE WATERS OF THE COLONY was read a third time and passed as amended in Committee with the following further amendment:-

Clause 18 - The word and figure "section 33" were substituted for the word and figure "section 34" in the fourth line.

BILL - Second Reading.

Item 3 - RICE FARMERS (SECURITY OF TENURE) BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 22/1956.

The Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines moved and the Attorney General seconded that the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE BETTER SECURITY OF TENURE FOR TENANT RICE FARMERS; TO LIMIT THE RENT PAYABLE FOR THE LETTING OF RICE LANDS; AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED WITH THE MATTERS AFORESAID be read a second time.

Mr. Rahaman, Dr. Fraser and Mr. Correia spoke to the motion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 8th of August, 1956.

Confirmed,



Deputy Speaker.

Public Buildings,
British Guiana.

8th August, 1956.