

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

THURSDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 1956.

PRESENT:

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

Ex-Officio Members

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

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. W.A. Phang
Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.
Mr. C.A. Carter
Mr. E.F. Correia
Mr. H. Rahaman
Miss Gertie H. Collins
Mrs. Esther E. Dey
Dr. H.A. Fraser
Mr. R.B. Jailal
Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.

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

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

Absent

The Honourable the Chief Secretary - Mr. F.D. Jakeway, C.M.G.,
O.B.E., - on leave.
The Honourable R.C. Tello - on leave.
Mr. J.I. Ramphal - on leave.
Mr. T. Lee - on leave.
Rev. D.C.J. Bobb - on leave.
Mr. Sugrim Singh.

The Speaker read prayers.

WELCOME TO HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

Members extended a cordial welcome to His Honour the Speaker on resumption of office following his return from leave of absence in the United Kingdom.

The Speaker thanked Members and took the opportunity to place on record an expression of his appreciation of the able manner in which Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E., had conducted the business of the Council during his absence from the Colony *and paid tribute to the valuable services rendered by him as a member of the Council*

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 22nd of November, 1956, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements -

(i) Resignations:

Receipt of a letter from His Excellency the Governor dated the 20th November, 1956, to the effect that:-

- (a) Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E., Deputy Speaker, recently appointed as Director of Land Settlement had resigned as a Member of the Council with effect from the 15th November, 1956; and
- (b) Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C., had resigned as a Member of the Executive Council with effect from the 17th November, 1956.

(ii) Leave

Leave of absence from that day's meeting had been granted to -

- (i) The Honourable Chief Secretary.
- (ii) Mr. J.I. Ramphal.
- (iii) Mr. T. Lee.
- (iv) Rev. D.C.J. Bobb and
- (v) Mr. Sugrim Singh.

PAPERS LAID(a) By the Financial Secretary:

Minutes of Meetings of Finance Committee held on 18th and 31st May, 1956, 21st August, 1956 and 7th September, 1956.

(Circulated).

(b) By the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines:

(i) Sessional Paper No. 9/1956 - The Regional Rice Agreement, 1956, together with the official Circulation and Conference papers and extracts from the reports of the proceedings of the Regional Economic Committee of the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras relating to the Agreement.

(Circulated).

(ii) Sessional Paper No. 10/1956 - Statement on Sessional Paper No. 9/1956 relating to the Regional Rice Agreement, 1956.

(Circulated).

(c) By the Member for Communications and Works:

Report of the Director of Audit, British Guiana, on the Accounts of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year ended 31st December, 1955, together with a certified copy of the Financial Statement.

(TH. 122/24/I IV).

OTHER NOTICES

MOTIONS

Mr. Luckhoo gave notice of the following motions:

(i) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House respectfully recommends to His Excellency the Governor the suspension of the operation of the Emergency Order prepared in accordance with Section 5 of the B.G. (Emergency) Order in Council, 1953.

(ii) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House respectfully recommends to Government that Legislation be enacted similar to the Matrimonial Causes Act 1950, Section 18, as to additional jurisdiction in proceedings by a wife.

(iii) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House respectfully recommends to Government that early steps be taken to introduce legislation in this Colony on lines similar to that embodied in the provisions of the Homicide Bill, 1956, at present under consideration by the House of Commons whenever the said Act becomes law in Great Britain.

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(iv) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House respectfully recommends that Government enacts legislation to provide that the Government shall be subject to all those liabilities in tort in respect of which, if it were a private person of full age and capacity, it would be liable if committed by its servants or agents as is provided for under the provisions of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947.

(v) WHEREAS the residents of Lands on both sides of the Railway line at Kitty are desirous of acquiring the lands on which their houses stand;

AND WHEREAS the use for these lands as a railway marshalling yard has been abandoned:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House respectfully recommends to Government that all of the tenants occupying these said lands be permitted the opportunity of purchasing the lands at a reasonable price, taking into consideration the fact that the tenants have been responsible for the building up and care of the lands over many years.

(vi) WHEREAS the tenants of lands at Ruimveldt and Alexander Village are suffering great hardship since they cannot freely sell, repair or sublet their own houses;

AND WHEREAS these lands are included in the Industrial Zone of the Greater Georgetown Plan.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House respectfully recommends to Government that Government should either forthwith rehouse the tenants as was undertaken to be done by Government or take the necessary steps to have the Ruimveldt and Alexander Village areas excluded from the Industrial Zone in the Greater Georgetown Plan.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

- (i) The Financial Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUPPLIES GRANTED IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Financial Secretary intimated that he hoped to circulate copies of the Estimates to Members over the week-end and to present his Budget Statement on the second reading of the Bill on Friday, 30th November, 1956; and, with the concurrence of Members, to commence consideration of the Estimates in Finance Committee on Monday, 3rd December, 1956.

- (ii) The Member for Labour, Health and Housing gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

WAGES COUNCILS BILL, 1956.

(Bill No. 53/1956 published 17.11.56).

- (iii) The Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

GEORGETOWN TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT No. 3) BILL, 1956.

(Bill No. 52/1956 published 10.11.56).

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - First Reading.

Item 1 - (a) WAGES COUNCILS BILL, 1956 - BILL No. 53/1956.

The BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WAGES COUNCILS was read a first time.

(b) GEORGETOWN TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT No. 3) BILL, 1956 - BILL No. 52/1956.

The BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE GEORGETOWN TOWN COUNCIL ORDINANCE was read a first time.

(c) APPROPRIATION BILL, 1956 - BILL No. 54/1956.

The BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUPPLIES GRANTED IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL was read a first time.

BILL - Second Reading.

Item 2 - HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 47/1956.

On a motion by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines seconded by the Attorney General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE GRANT OF LICENCES AUTHORISING THE UTILISATION OF THE WATERS OF THE COLONY FOR THE PURPOSE OF GENERATING ELECTRICAL ENERGY, AND FOR MATTER CONNECTED THEREWITH was read a second time, and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendments in Committee

AmendmentsClause 2. Interpretation

Deleted:-

The definition of the term "licensed area".

Clause 13:

- (a) Inserted after the word and comma "licensee," in the fourth line, the words - "or upon the cancellation of the licence".
- (b) inserted after the word "that" in the seventh line, the words - "where the undertaking is being taken over otherwise than upon cancellation of the licence".
- (c) inserted after the word "term" in the marginal note, the words - "or upon cancellation of licence".

MOTIONSItem 3 - MOTION RE SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING 1955 TO BE ADMITTED AS A CHARGE TO PUBLIC FUNDS.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing, Council adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this Council approves of the Statement of Supplementary Expenditure totalling \$869,475.57 which has been incurred during the year 1955 and has not been included in any previous schedule and is to be admitted as a charge to Public Funds under Colonial Regulation 223(2)(c) and which has been laid on the table

Item 4 - MOTION RE SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE INCURRED DURING 1955, TO BE ADMITTED AS A CHARGE TO THE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing, Council adopted the following Resolution -

RESOLVED, That this Council approves of the Statement of Supplementary Expenditure totalling \$1,858,146.00 which has been incurred during the year 1955 and has not been included in any previous schedule and is to be admitted as a charge to the Development Fund, and which has been laid on the table.

BILL - Second Reading.

Item 5 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION 1 BILL 1 6 -
BILL No. 51 19 .

On a motion by the Financial Secretary, seconded by the Attorney General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW AND CONFIRM CERTAIN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE YEAR ENDED THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1955, was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.10 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2,00 p.m. on Thursday, the 29th of November, 1956.

Confirmed,



Speaker.

Public Buildings,
 British Guiana.

29th November, 1956.