

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THIRD SESSION

1956 - 1957

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

WEDNESDAY, 10TH APRIL, 1957.

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, C.M.G., O.B.E.
The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. A.M.I. Austin.
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 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 R.C. Tello

Nominated Official

Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.
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
Mr. Sugrim Singh

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

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

Absent

The Honourable P.A. Cummings
(Member for Labour, Health and Housing) - on leave.
Mr. T. Lee - on leave.
Mr. W.A. Phang - on leave.
Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 5th of April, 1957, as printed and circulated, were amended as under and confirmed:

Amendment - Page 3: Penultimate paragraph:

The substitution of the words "whether the expression 'Charwomen' is an appropriate one to use in connection with the services rendered by women in restaurants" for the words "the advisability of defining the expression 'Charwoman' in the Schedule to the Bill".

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

- (i) Resolution No. XLV re death of Sir John Waddington,
G.B.E., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.

The Speaker announced that a card had been received from Lady Waddington and her sons expressing their grateful appreciation of the Council's Resolution of Sympathy on the death of the late Sir John Waddington, G.B.E., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.

- (ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave of absence had been granted to -

- (a) Hon. P.A. Cummings from the 8th to the 14th of April, inclusive, to attend a Conference in Trinidad in connection with the Federal Capital Site; and
- (b) Mr. W.A. Phang for a further period of one month due to illness.

PAPERS LAID

By the Chief Secretary:

The Fourth Report of the Public Service Commission for the period 1st January to 31st December, 1956.
(PSC. 265/13/8)(Circulated).

STATEMENT BY MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCILWater Supply in the Bartica Village District

The Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development made a statement concerning the water supply at Bartica.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957.
(Bill No. 10/1957 published 6.4.57).

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILL - First Reading.

Item 1 - GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 10/1957.

The BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE
GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER ORDINANCE
was read a first time.

BILL - Second Reading.

Item 2 - MONEYLENDERS BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 11/1956.

Council resumed the debate on the motion for the
second reading of the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO
CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO MONEYLENDERS.

On conclusion of the debate the motion was put and
carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

Council resolved itself into a Committee to consider
the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 - was amended by substitution of the
numerals "1957" for "1956" and
passed.

Clause 2 - Mr. Sugrim Singh moved that the following
new paragraph (f) be inserted under
the definition of "moneylender":

"(f) Any person in good faith lending
money by way of mortgage."

After discussion, with the consent
of Committee the amendment was withdrawn
and the clause was passed as printed.

Clause 3 - was passed as printed.

Clause 4 - Mr. Carter moved the deletion of Clause 4.
After discussion, the motion was put and
negatived.

Clause 4 was passed as printed.

Clause 5 - Sub-clause (1) was deleted and the clause
passed as amended.

Clause 6 - was passed as printed.

Clause 7 - was amended as follows and passed:

The figures and word "5, 6 and 26" were substituted for the figures and word "5 and 6".

Clauses 8 to 11 - were passed as printed.

Clause 12 - Sub-clause (1):

The Financial Secretary moved the deletion of sub-clause (1) and the substitution of the following therefor:

"(1) The interest which may be charged on loans by a moneylender shall not exceed -

- (a) in the case of secured loans other than loans secured by bills of sale, simple interest at the rate of twelve per centum per annum;
- (b) in the case of loans secured by bills of sale, simple interest at the rate of eighteen per centum per annum; and
- (c) in the case of unsecured loans, simple interest at the rate of thirty-two per centum per annum."

Mr. Correia moved that the word "ten" be substituted for the word "twelve" in paragraph (a).

After discussion, the motion was put and Council divided and voted thereon as follows:-

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Singh	Mr. Luckhoo	Mr. Jailal
Mrs. Dey	Mr. Farnum	Dr. Fraser
Miss Collins	Mr. Kendall	Mr. Tello
Mr. Rahaman	Sir Frank McDavid	
Rev. Bobb	The Financial Secretary	
Mr. Correia	The Attorney General	
Mr. Carter	The Chief Secretary	
Mr. Ramphal		

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Amendment affirmed.

Mr. Correia moved that the word "twelve" be substituted for the word "eighteen" in paragraph (b).

After discussion, the question was put and Council divided and voted thereon as follows:

FOR	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Singh	Mr. Luckhoo	Mr. Jailal
Mrs. Dey	Mr. Tello	Dr. Fraser
Miss Collins	Mr. Farnum	Rev. Bobb
Mr. Rahaman	Mr. Kendall	
Mr. Correia	Sir Frank McDavid	
Mr. Carter	The Financial Secretary	
Mr. Ramphal	The Attorney General	
	The Chief Secretary	

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Amendment negatived.

Mr. Carter moved that the word "thirty-six" be substituted for the word "thirty-two" in paragraph (c).

After discussion, the Speaker put the motion and Council divided and voted thereon as follows:

FOR	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Singh	Dr. Fraser
Mr. Jailal	Mrs. Dey
Mr. Carter	Miss Collins
Mr. Ramphal	Mr. Rahaman
	Rev. Bobb
	Mr. Correia
	Mr. Luckhoo
	Mr. Tello
	Mr. Farnum
	Mr. Kendall
	Sir Frank McDavid
	The Financial Secretary
	The Attorney General
	The Chief Secretary

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Motion negatived.

Sub-clause (4):

On a motion by the Financial Secretary this sub-clause was deleted and the following substituted therefor:

Cap. 337 "(4) In this section, the expression "secured loans" includes mortgages and loans made on all forms of collateral security, and the expression "bills of sale" has the meaning assigned to it in the Bills of Sale Ordinance."

Clause 12 was passed as amended.

Clauses 13 to 16 - were passed as printed.

At this stage the hour of adjournment was reached.

../ ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to
2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 11th of April, 1957.

Confirmed,

Eustace Spence.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

11th April, 1957.