

FIRST SESSION

1957 - 1958

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution)(Temporary Provisions) Orders in Council, 1953 and 1956, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.  
on

WEDNESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER, 1958.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

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, Q.C.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. F.W. Essex.

Ministers

The Honourable Dr. C.B. Jagan,  
Minister of Trade and Industry.

The Honourable B.H. Benn,  
Minister of Community Development and Education.

The Honourable E.B. Beharry,  
Minister of Natural Resources.

The Honourable Janet Jagan,  
Minister of Labour, Health and Housing.

The Honourable Ram Karran,  
Minister of Communications and Works.

Elected Members, Majority Party

Mr. F. Bowman

Mr. B.S. Rai

Mr. S.M. Saffee

Mr. Ajodha Singh

Other Elected Members

Mr. W.O.R. Kendall

Mr. L.F.S. Burnham

Mr. S. Campbell

Mr. A.L. Jackson

Mr. Jai Narine Singh

Nominated Members

Mr. R.C. Tello

Mr. R.E. Davis

Mr. A.M. Fredericks

Mr. H.J.M. Hubbard

Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E.

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree (Ag.)

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. F.A. Narain (Ag.)

Absent

Mr. R.B. Gajraj - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 30th of October, 1958, as printed and circulated, were amended as under and were thereafter taken as read and confirmed:-

Substitution of the following for the Minute under the Heading "RAISING OF A MATTER OF PRIVILEGE":-

"The Attorney-General referred to the matter of privilege raised by Mr. Davis at the previous meeting and stated that it was a question for the Council to decide. He suggested that an ad hoc Committee of Privileges might be appointed to consider matters of this nature. The Attorney-General also pointed out that no legislation had been enacted to determine and regulate the privileges, immunities and powers of the Legislative Council and the Members thereof."

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker read a Message from His Excellency the Governor concerning the appointment of a Constitutional Committee.

PAPERS LAID

(a) By the Minister of Community Development and Education:  
Annual Report of the Superintendent of Prisons for the year 1957.  
(No. 63/2 II)(Circulated).

(b) By the Minister of Natural Resources:  
Reports of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government Processing Factory for the years ended 31st December, 1956 and 31st December, 1957.  
(No. AGR. 2/14/24/4 III).

(c) By the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing:  
Annual Report of the Registrar General for the year 1956.  
(RG: 11/4 VII)(Circulated).

RAISING OF A MATTER OF PRIVILEGEInaccurate Press Report

The Honourable Janet Jagan, Minister of Labour, Health and Housing, referred to an inaccurate press report published in the Daily Argosy of the 30th of October, 1958, concerning her remarks in the Legislative Council on Mr. Jai Narine Singh's motion recommending the appointment of a Committee to revise the Greater Georgetown Plan.

The Minister stated that neither had a letter written to the Editor of the Press concerned been published, nor a correction of her remarks been made.

Mrs. Jagan added that if the Press continued to misquote her she would be obliged to take further action.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Minister of Trade and Industry gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

TRADE BILL, 1958.  
(Bill No. 31/1958 to be published 8.11.58).

### PUBLIC BUSINESS ORDER OF THE DAY

#### BILL - First Reading.

TRADE BILL, 1958 - Bill No. 31/1958.

The BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND REGULATION OF SUPPLIES AND FOR OTHER MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO AND CONNECTED THEREWITH was read the first time.

#### MOTION

Item 1 - MR. BOWMAN'S MOTION RE TRADE WITH BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA.

Council resumed the debate on the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that a mission be sent immediately to Brazil to ascertain whether the Brazilian Government is interested in establishing an outlet through British Guiana, and to discuss the question of trade between the two countries;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the said mission be sent also to Venezuela to explore the possibility of trade with this Colony.

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Tello  
Mr. Hubbard  
Mr. Tasker  
Mr. Rai  
Mrs. Jagan  
Mr. Saffee  
Mr. Fredericks  
Mr. Kendall  
Mr. Campbell

After Mr. Bowman had replied, the question was put and the motion affirmed.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings.Item 2 - FRANK GUMMER (WIDOW'S PENSION) BILL, 1958 -  
Bill No. 29/1958.

With Council's consent in terms of Standing Order No. 48, and on a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Minister of Trade and Industry, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF A PENSION TO THE WIDOW OF FRANK GUMMER was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 3 - MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS)  
BILL, 1958 - Bill No. 28/1958.

On a motion by the Minister of Community Development and Education seconded by the Attorney-General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS TO THE TOWN COUNCILS OF GEORGETOWN AND NEW AMSTERDAM AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

BILL - Second Reading.Item 4 - SHOPS (CONSOLIDATION) BILL, 1958 - Bill No. 30/1958.

With Council's consent in terms of Standing Order No. 48, the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing moved and the Minister of Communications and Works seconded that the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW TO REGULATE THE OPENING AND CLOSING HOURS OF CERTAIN SHOPS AND THE HOURS OF WORK OF SHOP ASSISTANTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE WELFARE OF SHOP ASSISTANTS; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH be read a second time.

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Tello  
Mr. Tasker  
Mr. Rai.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 p.m. Council was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 6th of November, 1958.

Confirmed,

*Donald Tasker*

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

6th November, 1958.