

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

TUESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 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.

Elected Members, Majority Party:

Mr. F. Bowman

Mr. B.S. Rai

Mr. S.M. Saffee

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.B. Gajraj

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. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree.

Absent:

The Honourable Ram Karran, Minister of Communications and Works - on leave.

Mr. Ajodha Singh - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 7th of February, 1958, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Mr. Ajodha Singh from the 11th to the 15th of February; and
- (ii) Mr. B.S. Rai from the 12th to the 20th of February, to enable him to attend a meeting of the Council of the University College of the West Indies in Jamaica.

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BIL NO. 7 1958.

Before the Order of the Day was proceeded with, the Financial Secretary asked leave of the Council to withdraw the Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1958 - No. 7/1958, and intimated that he proposed to amend the Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1957 - No. 43/1957, by incorporating therein the provision of the former Bill.

The relevant amendment had been circulated to members on that day.

With the consent of the Council, the Bill was withdrawn.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

Item 1 - MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES, 1958.

Council resumed the debate on the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Estimates of Development Expenditure for the year 1958 which have been laid on the table, with the amendments recommended in the Report of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council dated 20th January, 1958, totalling TWENTY-THREE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-EIGHT DOLLARS as detailed by Heads in the undermentioned Schedule and of the projects therein being financed from the Development Fund Ordinance, 1954.

../ SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE

Head No.	Head of Estimate	Estimate in 1958
I.	Agriculture	\$ 763,516
II.	Civil Aviation	175,484
III.	Drainage and Irrigation	6,919,062
IV.	Education	517,353
V.	Finance	72,455
VI.	Forest	127,876
VII.	Geological Survey	532,304
VIII.	Health	323,793
IX.	Housing	2,020,775
X.	Lands and Mines	22,000
XI.	Land Settlement	1,856,230
XII.	Post Office	2,697,000
XIII.	Public Works	4,434,530
XIV.	Transport and Harbours	2,590,868
XV.	Miscellaneous	201,206
XVI.	Rural Self Help	120,000
XVII.	Social Welfare	15,100
XVIII.	Local Government	79,586
XIX.	Rural Electrification	272,000
XX.	Amerindian Development	23,000
		\$23,764,138

After discussion, Mr. Burnham withdrew his motion for a reduction by \$1: of Head IX Housing, in the Schedule to the motion.

Further amendments for a reduction by \$1: were moved in respect of the undermentioned Heads and after discussion were withdrawn:-

- XVI - Rural Self Help.
- XIX - Rural Electrification.
- XIII - Public Works.

Thereafter the following members spoke to the motion generally:-

- Mr. Gajraj
- Dr. Jagan
- Mr. Burnham
- Mr. Jai Narine Singh
- Mr. Benn.

After the Financial Secretary had replied, the question was put and the motion was affirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.05 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 12th of February, 1958.

Confirmed,



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

12th February, 1958.