

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, 12TH 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.R.E.

The Honourable the Attorney-General, Mr. A.M.I. Austin, Q.C.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary, . 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. 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. B.S. Rai - on leave.

Mr. Ajodha Singh - on leave.

The Clerk read prayer .

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, the 11th of February, 1958, as printed and circulated, were taken and read and confirmed.

On a suggestion by the Speaker Council agreed to give priority to items 6 and 7.

PUBLIC BUSINESS  
ORDER OF THE DAY.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings.Item 6 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 43/1957.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary, seconded by the Attorney-General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 - Short Title - was amended by substituting the figures "1958" for "1957" and passed.

Clauses 2 and 3 - were passed as printed.

Clause 4 - the following was inserted as a new clause 4:-

"Exemption from import duty. No. 35 of 1955.	4. Section 5A of the Principal Ordinance, as inserted by section 2 of the Tax (Amendment No. 3) Ordinance, 1955, shall be amended by the addition thereto of the following proviso -
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'Provided that duty chargeable as aforesaid shall be remitted if the beer is officially taken or purchased for the consumption of Her Majesty's Armed Forces stationed in the Colony.' "

Clause 5 - Clause 4 of the Bill was re-numbered as Clause 5 and amended as follows:-

"Commencement. 5. Sections 2 and 3 of this Ordinance shall be deemed to have come into operation on the 6th December, 1957."

Title and Enacting Clause - were passed as printed.

Council resumed.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Attorney-General the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

Item 7 - CUSTOMS AMENDMENT NO. 2 BILL 1 - Bill No. 44/1957.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary, seconded by the Attorney-General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendments in Committee:-

../ Clause 1 .

Clause 1 - Short Title - was amended by

- (i) deleting "No. 2," and
- (ii) substituti the figures "1958" for "1957".

MOTIONS

Item 1 - MR. TELLO'S MOTION RECOMMENDING THAT 1ST MAY BE DESIGNATED AS "LABOUR DAY" AND BE DECLARED A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

Mr. Tello moved and Mr. Jackson seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED;

That this Council recommends to Government that the 1st of May in each year be designated as "Labour Day" and be declared a Public Holiday.

Mr. Tasker moved and Mr. Fredericks seconded ~~that~~ the motion be amended by the addition of the words "in substitution of an existing Public Holiday" at the end of the motion.

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

FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Tasker	Mr. Tello
Mr. Hubbard	Mr. Jai Narine Singh
Mr. Fredericks	Mr. Jackson
Mr. Davis	Mr. Campbell
Mr. Gajraj	Mr. Burnham
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Kendall
Mrs. Jagan	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Beharry	
Mr. Benn	
Dr. Jagan	
The Financial Secretary	
The Attorney-General	
The Chief Secretary	

7.

Amendment affirmed.

Thereafter, the motion as amended was put and carried.

Item 2 - MR. GAJRAJ'S MOTION CONCERNING THE ATTAINMENT OF INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BY THE ISLANDS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

On a motion by Mr. Gajraj, seconded by Mr. Jai Narine Singh, Council adopted the following resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this Council expresses its pleasure and satisfaction at the attainment of internal self-government by the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, and requests that its congratulations and good wishes for the future be communicated by telegram to the Government of that territory.

Item 3 - MR. GAJRAJ'S MOTION CONCERNING THE INAUGURATION OF THE FEDERATION OF THE WEST INDIES.

On a motion by Mr. Gajraj, seconded by Mr. Tello, Council adopted the following resolution:-

../ RESOLVED

RESOLVED, That with the arrival in Trinidad of Lord and Lady Hailes on Friday, the 3rd of January, 1958, and the inauguration of the new Federation of the West Indies, this House places on record its congratulations to the people of the ten island territories and to their leaders who, during the last ten years, have toiled unceasingly towards this end; and sends its good wishes to the Governor General for a happy and successful term of office, and to the leaders and people of the West Indies for success in every sphere of Federal endeavour, including the early achievement of Dominion status; and expresses its appreciation of the desire and efforts by West Indian leaders over the years to secure the participation of this Colony in the Federation, and for enabling us to participate in those Federal services in which this Colony is interested;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Council directs that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor General of the West Indies, to each island legislature and to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Item 4 - MR. JAI NARINE SINGH'S MOTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Item 5 - MR. JAI NARINE SINGH'S MOTION RECOMMENDING COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION FROM THE AGE OF FIVE YEARS.

At the request of Mr. Jai Narine Singh and with Council's consent, consideration of the above items was deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.55 p.m. the Attorney-General moved the adjournment of the Council.

The motion was put and carried.

Thereafter the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, the 21st February, 1958.

Confirmed,

*Donald Jackson*

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

21st February, 1958.