

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, 15TH OCTOBER, 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 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. Jai Narine Singh

Nominated Members

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.)

A sent

The Honourable B.H. Benn,  
Minister of Community Development and Education - on leave.  
Mr. A.L. Jackson - on leave.  
Mr. R.B. Gajraj - on leave.  
Mr. R.C. Tello - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 10th of October, 1958, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Letter from the Rt. Revd. R.L. Guilly, S.J., O.B.E., expressing thanks for Council's Resolution No. XLII.

The Speaker announced that a letter dated 11th October, 1958, was received from the Rt. Revd. R.L. Guilly, S.J., O.B.E., Bishop of Georgetown, expressing thanks to the Legislative Council, on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church and the Roman Catholics of British Guiana, for Resolution No. XLII of the 10th October, 1958, recording profound regret at the death of His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

PAPEES LAID

- (a) By the Minister of Trade and Industry on behalf of the Minister of Community Development and Education:

Report of the Probation Service for the year 1957.  
(SW. 348/9/1 I) (Circulated).

- (b) By the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing:

Report of the Government Analyst for the year 1957.  
(GA: 3/4 II) (Circulated).

ORDER OF THE DAYMOTIONSItem 1 - MR. JAI NARINE SINGH'S MOTION RE LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEMES.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh moved and Mr. Hubbard seconded the following motion:

WHEREAS it is the present policy of Government to allocate Crown Lands in land settlement schemes by leases for a period not exceeding 21 years:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that the policy of Government in respect of land settlement schemes should be changed to one whereby freehold grants would be issued to the settlers in those schemes now in existence and any Land Settlement Schemes developed in the future.

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

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Tasker	Mr. Ajodha Singh	Mr. Davis
Mr. Fredericks	Mr. Saffee	
Mr. Jai Narine Singh	Mr. Rai	
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Bowman	
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ram Karran	
Mr. Kendall	Mrs. Jagan	
	Mr. Beharry	
	Dr. Jagan	
	The Financial Secretary	
	The Attorney-General	
	The Chief Secretary	
<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>

Motion negatived.

Item 2 - MR. RAI'S MOTION RE THE APPOINTMENT OF A PERMANENT LAW REFORM COMMITTEE.

On a motion by Mr. Rai seconded by Mr. Burnham, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Honourable Council recommends to Government the appointment of a permanent Law Reform Committee.

HOURS OF SITTING

His Honour stated that as it was near the hour of adjournment, he would not request Members to remain to discuss the hours of sitting, as intimated at the previous meeting, but that if time permitted, it might be possible to do so after the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Speaker at 4.55 p.m. adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 22nd of October, 1958.

Confirmed,

*Donald Jackson*

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

22nd October, 1958.