

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THIRD SESSION

1959 - 1960

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

FRIDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY, 1960.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. D.M. Hedges.
The Honourable the Attorney-General, Mr. A.M.I. Austin, Q.C.
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. F.W. Essex, C.M.G.

Ministers

The Honourable Dr. C.B. Jagan,
Minister of Trade and Industry.
The Honourable B.H. Benn,
Minister of Natural Resources.
The Honourable Janet Jagan,
Minister of Labour, Health and Housing.
The Honourable Ram Karran,
Minister of Communications and Works.
The Honourable B.S. Rai,
Minister of Community Development and Education.

Elected Members, Majority Party

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
Mr. E.B. Beharry
Mr. F. Bowman

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.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 4th of February, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

By the Financial Secretary:

In terms of section 8(2) of the Census Ordinance,
Chapter 64 - Census Regulations, 1960 (No. 2).
(F.S.G. 323/56 III(3) (Circulated).

ORAL ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS

Question No. 3

Mr. Tasker asked the Chief Secretary the following question:

QUESTION: In view of the concern expressed by the Honourable Attorney-General, in the course of the Budget Debate on January 19, regarding the lack of debates on motions by Members of the Opposition, will the Honourable Chief Secretary state whether Government intends to observe the provisions of Standing Order 20 of the Legislative Council; and, if so, when opportunity will be afforded to debate the twenty-seven motions by Private Members of which notice has already been given in this session?

The Chief Secretary gave the following reply:

ANSWER: As the Honourable Member is aware, Standing Orders are for the regulation and orderly conduct of the proceedings of this Council and the Government Members, for their part, endeavour to comply with them. It is the practice here, as it is in the United Kingdom House of Commons, that Private Members' Motions are not placed on the Order Paper until the Government has had the opportunity of considering questions of policy arising out of such Motions. This process inevitably takes time, but I am sure the Honourable Member will appreciate any attempt to vary this procedure will lead to ill-formed and inconclusive debates on Private Members' Motions.

It is the Government's wish that the Council should sit on Wednesdays to take Private Members' Motions whenever possible. The Honourable Member will appreciate, however, that there will be occasions when, because of important Government business, such sittings cannot be held.

Mr. Tasker asked a Supplementary Question.

PUBLIC BUSINESSORDER OF THE DAYMOTION

Item 1 - MR. BOWMAN'S MOTION CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE DELEGATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS.

Council resumed the debate on Mr. Bowman's motion and the amendments moved thereto at the previous meeting.

After several members had spoken, Mr. Fredericks moved the following amendment to Mr. Benn's amendment:-

Substitution of the figure "2" for the figure "1" in the second line.

Mr. Davis seconded the amendment.

At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Bowman was replying when, on a motion by Mr. Tello seconded by Mr. Gajraj, it was agreed to continue the sitting to 6.00 p.m.

Mr. Bowman concluded his reply and the Speaker put the amendment moved by Mr. Fredericks which was carried on the following division:-

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Hubbard	Mr. Bowman	The Financial Secretary
Mr. Fredericks	Mr. Beharry	The Attorney-General
Mr. Davis	Mr. Tasker	The Chief Secretary
Mr. Gajraj	Mr. Tello	
Mr. Jai Narine Singh	Mr. Jackson	
Mr. Ajodha Singh	Mr. Campbell	
Mr. Saffee	Mr. Burnham	
Mr. Rai	Mr. Kendall	
Mr. Ram Karran		
Mrs. Jagan		
Mr. Benn		
Dr. Jagan		
<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>

The motion as amended and passed was as follows:-

RESOLVED, That this Council recommends that the delegation to the Constitutional talks be comprised of 3 Members of the Majority Party, 3 Members of the Elected Opposition and 2 Nominated Members.

Mr. Fredericks then moved and Mr. Beharry seconded that Council should proceed immediately with the selection of the eight Members to comprise the delegation.

At this stage on a point of order by Mr. Burnham that notice of the motion should be given, the Speaker ruled that the motion was consequential.

The question was put and carried.

Dr. Jagan moved and Mr. Benn seconded the nomination of the following Members:-

1. Mr. Burnham
2. Mr. Jackson
3. Mr. Gajraj
4. Mr. Davis
5. Mr. Rai
6. Mr. Benn.

Mr. Benn moved and Mr. Rai seconded the nomination of the following Members:-

1. Dr. Jagan
2. Mr. Jai Narine Singh.

Mr. Bowman moved and Mr. Tello seconded the nomination of the following Members:

1. Mr. Tello
2. Mr. Kendall.

Mr. Tello moved and Mr. Kendall seconded the nomination of the following Member:

Mr. Bowman.

The nomination of Mr. Beharry by Mr. Burnham was withdrawn at Mr. Beharry's request.

Mr. Burnham moved and Mr. Tello seconded the nomination of the following Member:-

Mr. Campbell.

At 6.00 p.m. on a motion by the Chief Secretary seconded by Mr. Gajraj, it was agreed that the sitting should continue until 6.30 p.m.

Voting then proceeded with the following results:-

1. Mr. Burnham

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Bowman	-	Mr. Burnham
Mr. Beharry		The Financial Secretary
Mr. Tasker		The Attorney-General
Mr. Hubbard		The Chief Secretary
Mr. Fredericks		
Mr. Davis		
Mr. Tello		
Mr. Gajraj		
Mr. Jai Narine Singh		
Mr. Jackson		
Mr. Campbell		
Mr. Kendall		
Mr. Ajodha Singh		
Mr. Saffee		
Mr. Rai		
Mr. Ram Karran		
Mrs. Jagan		
Mr. Benn		
Dr. Jagan		
<u>19</u>	-	<u>4</u>

2. Mr. Jackson

At the request of the Member, his nomination was withdrawn.

3. Mr. Gajraj

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Tasker	Mr. Bowman	Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Hubbard	Mr. Beharry	Mr. Campbell
Mr. Fredericks	Mr. Jackson	The Financial Secretary
Mr. Davis	Mr. Burnham	The Attorney-General
Mr. Tello	Mr. Kendall	The Chief Secretary
Mr. Jai Narine Singh		
Mr. Ajodha Singh		
Mr. Saffee		
Mr. Rai		
Mr. Ram Karran		
Mrs. Jagan		
Mr. Benn		
Dr. Jagan		
<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

4. Mr. Davis

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Beharry	Mr. Davis
Mr. Tasker	Mr. Tello	Mr. Jackson
Mr. Hubbard	Mr. Campbell	Mr. Burnham
Mr. Fredericks		Mr. Kendall
Mr. Gajraj		The Financial Secretary
Mr. Jai Narine Singh		The Attorney-General
Mr. Ajodha Singh		The Chief Secretary
Mr. Saffee		
Mr. Rai		
Mr. Ram Karran		
Mrs. Jagan		
Mr. Benn		
Dr. Jagan		
<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>

5. Mr. Rai

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Tasker	Mr. Fredericks	Mr. Bowman
Mr. Hubbard		Mr. Beharry
Mr. Davis		Mr. Tello
Mr. Gajraj		The Financial Secretary
Mr. Jai Narine Singh		The Attorney-General
Mr. Jackson		The Chief Secretary
Mr. Campbell		
Mr. Burnham		
Mr. Kendall		
Mr. Ajodha Singh		
Mr. Saffee		
Mr. Rai		
Mr. Ram Karran		
Mrs. Jagan		
Mr. Benn		
Dr. Jagan		
<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>

6. Mr. Benn

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Tasker	Mr. Bowman	Mr. Beharry
Mr. Hubbard	Mr. Tello	The Financial Secretary
Mr. Fredericks		The Attorney-General
Mr. Davis		The Chief Secretary
Mr. Gajraj		
Mr. Jai Narine Singh		
Mr. Jackson		
Mr. Campbell		
Mr. Burnham		
Mr. Kendall		
Mr. Ajodha Singh		
Mr. Saffee		
Mr. Rai		
Mr. Ram Karran		
Mrs. Jagan		
Mr. Benn		
Dr. Jagan		
<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>

7. Dr. Jagan

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Bowman	-	Mr. Beharry
Mr. Tasker		Mr. Tello
Mr. Hubbard		The Financial Secretary
Mr. Fredericks		The Attorney-General
Mr. Davis		The Chief Secretary
Mr. Gajraj		
Mr. Jai Narine Singh		
Mr. Jackson		
Mr. Campbell		
Mr. Burnham		
Mr. Kendall		
Mr. Ajodha Singh		
Mr. Saffee		
Mr. Rai		
Mr. Ram Karran		
Mrs. Jagan		
Mr. Benn		
Dr. Jagan		
<u>18</u>	-	<u>5</u>

8. Mr. Jai Narine Singh

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Tasker	Mr. Bowman	Mr. Davis
Mr. Hubbard	Mr. Beharry	The Financial Secretary
Mr. Tello	Mr. Fredericks	The Attorney-General
Mr. Gajraj	Mr. Jackson	The Chief Secretary
Mr. Jai Narine Singh	Mr. Burnham	
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Kendall	
Mr. Ajodha Singh		
Mr. Saffee		
Mr. Rai		
Mr. Ram Karran		
Mrs. Jagan		
Mr. Benn		
Dr. Jagan		
<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>

9. Mr. Tello

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Tasker	Mr. Davis
Mr. Beharry	Mr. Hubbard	Mr. Tello
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Fredericks	Mr. Burnham
Mr. Kendall	Mr. Gajraj	The Financial Secretary
	Mr. Jai Narine Singh	The Attorney-General
	Mr. Jackson	The Chief Secretary
	Mr. Ajodha Singh	
	Mr. Saffee	
	Mr. Rai	
	Mr. Ram Karran	
	Mrs. Jagan	
	Mr. Benn	
	Dr. Jagan	
<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>

10. Mr. Kendall

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Jai Narine Singh	Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Beharry		The Financial Secretary
Mr. Tasker		The Attorney-General
Mr. Hubbard		The Chief Secretary
Mr. Fredericks		
Mr. Davis		
Mr. Tello		
Mr. Jackson		
Mr. Campbell		
Mr. Burnham		
Mr. Kendall		
Mr. Ajodha Singh		
Mr. Saffee		
Mr. Rai		
Mr. Ram Karran		
Mrs. Jagan		
Mr. Benn		
Dr. Jagan		
<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

11. Mr. Bowman

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DID NOT VOTE</u>
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Tasker	The Financial Secretary
Mr. Beharry	Mr. Hubbard	The Attorney-General
Mr. Tello	Mr. Fredericks	The Chief Secretary
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Davis	
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Gajraj	
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Jai Narine Singh	
Mr. Kendall	Mr. Ajodha Singh	
	Mr. Saffee	
	Mr. Rai	
	Mr. Ram Karran	
	Mrs. Jagan	
	Mr. Benn	
	Dr. Jagan	
<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>

12. Mr. Campbell

At the request of the Member, his nomination was withdrawn.

On the foregoing results of the voting, the following Members were selected to comprise the delegation:-

A. Majority Party

- (i) Dr. Jagan
- (ii) Mr. Benn
- (iii) Mr. Rai

B. Elected Opposition

- (i) Mr. Burnham
- (ii) Mr. Kendall
- (iii) Mr. Jai Narine Singh

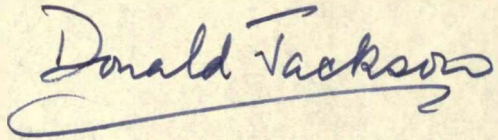
C. Nominated Members

- (i) Mr. Gajraj
- (ii) Mr. Davis.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.20 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to Wednesday, the 10th of February, 1960.

Confirmed,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Donald Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the name.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

10th February, 1960.