

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

THURSDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 1960.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Major I.O. Smith, O.B.E.(Ag.)
The Honourable the Attorney-General, Mr. A.M.I. Austin, Q.C.
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. W.P. D'Andrade.

Ministers

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, Q.C.
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

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree.

Absent:

The Honourable Dr. C.B. Jagan,
Minister of Trade and Industry - on leave.
Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E. - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 9th of December, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leave

The Speaker announced that the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry (Dr. C.B. Jagan) was out of the Colony on official business and was expected to return by the 19th of December.

PAPERS LAID

By the Financial Secretary:

- (i) Post Office (Overtime) Regulations, 1960 (No. 25), made under section 97 of the Post and Telegraph Ordinance, Chapter 132.
(To be published 17.12.60). (No. E-94/3/1^{IV}).
- (ii) Report of the Directors of the New Widows and Orphans' Fund on the working of the Fund for the year 1959, together with the Director of Audit's Report and Certificate thereon.
(F.S.G. 105/54).
- (iii) Order in Council No. 95 of 1960 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 24th day of November, 1960, and published in the Gazette on the 10th of December, 1960.
(F.S.G. 367/58)(Circulated).

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Motions

(a) The Financial Secretary gave notice of the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 95 of 1960, which was made on the 24th day of November, 1960, and published in the Gazette on the 10th of December, 1960.

(b) The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing gave notice of the following motion:

WHEREAS the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186, came into operation on the 8th day of November, 1941;

../ AND WHEREAS

AND WHEREAS section 33 of the said Ordinance, provides that the Ordinance shall continue in force up to and including the 31st day of December, 1951, but that, prior to the expiration thereof, the Legislative Council may, by resolution published in the Gazette, declare that the said Ordinance shall continue in operation for a further period of one year, and that thereafter may from time to time declare that the said Ordinance shall continue in operation;

AND WHEREAS the said Ordinance has been continued in operation until the 31st December, 1960;

AND WHEREAS it is considered expedient that the said Ordinance shall be continued in operation for a further period of one year:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186, shall continue in force for a period of one year up to and including the 31st day of December, 1961.

ORAL ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS

Question No. 1

Mr. Hubbard asked the Minister of Community Development and Education the following questions:

QUESTION: Will the Honourable Minister of Community Development and Education please say:

- (1) How many more Ordinances will have to be enacted to give full effect to the Government's proposals for Local Government Reform?
- (2) What subjects will these Ordinances deal with?
- (3) What stage has been reached in the preparation of each of the respective Bills?

The Minister of Community Development and Education gave the following reply:

ANSWER: (1) Two more Ordinances will have to be enacted to give full effect to the Government's proposals for Local Government reform, and parts of the Public Health Ordinance will have to be amended.

(2) The first Ordinance will deal with the setting up of the Local Government Service Commission and all matters relating to staff. The second Ordinance will contain all the enabling powers which it is proposed to give to the Local Authorities for the time being.

As already stated the Public Health Ordinance will have to be amended.

(3) The Local Government Service Commission Bill has been drafted.

The Powers Bill is half completed, and drafts of several of the amendments to the Public Health Ordinance have been prepared..

It should be noted that -

- (a) The Financial Instructions to be issued under the Local Authorities (Constitution, Election Procedure and Financial Provisions) Ordinance have been completed.
- (b) Draft Regulations prescribing conditions of service of staff will also have to be prepared by the Local Government Reorganisation Team for consideration by the Local Government Service Commission.

Supplementary Questions were asked by Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Burnham.

Question No. 2

Mr. Burnham asked the Minister of Trade and Industry the following question:

QUESTION: When does Government propose to introduce a Bill to regulate Hire-purchase Agreements?

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Industry gave the following reply:

ANSWER: Preparation of a Bill with respect to Hire-purchase and sale upon credit of goods, etc. is almost complete. The Ministry hopes that it will be before the Legislative Council very soon.

Supplementary Questions were asked by Mr. Burnham.

Question No. 3

Mr. Tello asked the Minister of Communications and Works the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister of Communications and Works state whether Government is negotiating the sale of B.G. Airways (Govt.) to the British Overseas Airways Corporation, and if so, what progress has been made in the negotiations?

The Minister of Communications and Works gave the following reply:

ANSWER: Government is not negotiating the sale of British Guiana Airways (Govt.) to the British Overseas Airways Corporation. I have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded by the presence in this area of the Chairman of the B.O.A.C. and the Chairman of the Corporation's Associated Companies to discuss with them some of our domestic air transport problems with a view to seeing if there is any way in which the Corporation can be of assistance to us in dealing with these problems.

A Supplementary Question was asked by Mr. Tello.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

(a) The Financial Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

LOAN (ELECTRICITY) BILL, 1960.
(Bill No. 32/1960 published 10.12.60).

The Financial Secretary intimated that, with Council's consent, he proposed to proceed with the second reading of the Bill next Wednesday, 21st December.

../ (b)

(b) The Minister of Communications and Works gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

- (i) ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960.
(Bill No. 33/1960 published 10.12.60).

The Minister intimated that, with Council's consent, he proposed to proceed with the second reading of the Bill next Wednesday, 21st December.

- (ii) NEW AMSTERDAM ELECTRIC LIGHTING ORDER (EXTENSION) BILL, 1960.
(Bill No. 35/1960 to be published 17.12.60).

(c) The Chief Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

- AMERINDIAN (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960.
(Bill No. 23/1960 published 10.12.60).

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - First Reading.

Item 1 - The following Bills were read the first time:

- (a) LOAN (ELECTRICITY) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 32/1960.
A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE RAISING OF A LOAN OF TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS STERLING.
- (b) ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 33/1960.
A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE.
- (c) NEW AMSTERDAM ELECTRIC LIGHTING ORDER (EXTENSION) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 35/1960.
A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND FURTHER THE DURATION OF THE NEW AMSTERDAM ELECTRIC LIGHTING ORDER, 1900, AND TO AMEND THE SAID ORDER.
- (d) AMERINDIAN (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 23/1960.
A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AMERINDIAN ORDINANCE.

BILL - Second and Third Readings.

Item 2 - VOLUNTEER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No. 27/1960.

On a motion by the Chief Secretary seconded by the Attorney-General the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE VOLUNTEER ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

BILL - Second Reading.

Item 3 - EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960 - Bill No.
31/1960.

The Minister of Community Development and Education moved that the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE be read a second time.

The Minister of Natural Resources seconded the motion but reserved his right to speak at a later stage.

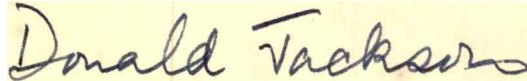
Mr. Davis, Mr. Fredericks, Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Jackson spoke to the motion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.10 p.m. the Speaker adjourned the Council to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, the 16th of December, 1960.

Confirmed,





Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

16th December, 1960.