

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

1961

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the Fifth Sitting of the Legislative Assembly of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council, 1961, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on  
FRIDAY, 20TH OCTOBER, 1961.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj.

(a) Members of the Government

People's Progressive Party

(i) Ministers

The Honourable B.H. Benn,  
Minister of Natural Resources.  
The Honourable Ram Karran,  
Minister of Works and Hydraulics.  
The Honourable B.S. Rai,  
Minister of Home Affairs.  
The Honourable R. Chandisingh,  
Minister of Labour, Health and Housing.  
Dr. the Honourable Charles Jacob, Jr.,  
Minister of Finance.  
Dr. the Honourable F.H.W. Ramsahoye,  
Attorney-General.  
The Honourable E.M.G. Wilson,  
Minister of Communications.

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. G. Bowman, Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Ministry of Natural Resources.  
Mr. L.E.M. Mann, Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Ministry of Works and Hydraulics.

(iii) Other Members

Mr. S.M. Saffee  
Mr. G.L. Robertson  
Mr. M. Bhagwan  
Mr. J.B. Caldeira  
Mr. V. Downer  
Mr. M. Hamid  
Mr. G. McL. Henry  
Mr. D.C. Jagan  
Mr. H. Lall  
Mr. M. Shakoor

(b) Members Constituting the Minority

(i) People's National Congress

Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C.  
Mr. J. Carter  
Mr. E.F. Correia  
Mr. N.J. Bissember  
Mr. W.A. Blair  
Mr. R.S.S. Hugh

Mr. J.G. Joaquim  
Mr. R.J. Jordan  
Mr. C.A. Merriman  
Mr. H.M.S. Wharton

(ii) United Force

Mr. P. d'Aguiar  
Mr. S. Campbell  
Mr. R.E. Cheeks  
Mr. E.E. Melville

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

Absent:

Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan,  
Premier and Minister of Development and Planning -  
out of the Colony.  
Mr. W.O.R. Kendall, Deputy Speaker - on leave.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Natural Resources on behalf of  
the Attorney-General:

Report of the Supreme Court and Deeds  
Registry for the year 1960.  
(L. 44/2<sup>IV</sup>) (Circulated).

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Leave was granted to Mr. d'Aguiar to refer to the speech made by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics at the previous sitting concerning an incident alleged to have taken place at a political meeting held at Mahaicony in which Mr. d'Aguiar was the central figure.

Mr. d'Aguiar stated that the incident as related by the Honourable Member bore very little relationship to what in fact actually took place.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER.

On a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources the Assembly agreed that the motion under consideration be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order No. 9(2).

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

MOTION

Item 1 - MOTION TO APPROVE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AS SET OUT IN HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Burnham resumed his speech on the following motion:

/..

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly approves of the Government's policy as set out in His Excellency the Governor's Address at the official opening of the Legislature on 6th October, 1961.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for tea.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Burnham concluded his speech.

Mr. Mann spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended for dinner.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.00 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Chandisingh spoke to the motion.

MOTION TO EXTEND HOUR OF SITTING

At this stage on a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources, in terms of Standing Order 9(1), it was agreed to continue the sitting beyond 10.00 p.m. in order to complete the debate on the motion.

Mr. Correia and Mr. Jacob spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the question was put and the motion carried.

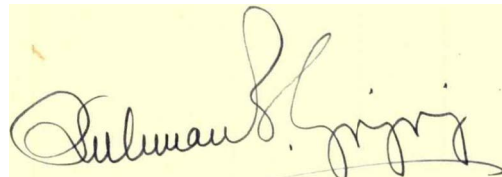
BUSINESS FOR NEXT SITTING

Before the adjournment was taken the Minister of Natural Resources intimated that the business for the next sitting would include -

- (i) INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961
- (ii) FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT BILL, 1961
- (iii) MOTION CONCERNING INDEPENDENCE FOR BRITISH GUIANA.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11.56 p.m. the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 1st November, 1961.



Speaker.

Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.  
23rd October, 1961.