

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

1961 - 1962

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 44th 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 JULY, 1962.

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Government

People's Progressive Party

(i) Ministers

Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan,  
Premier and Minister of Development and Planning.  
The Honourable B.H. Benn,  
Minister of Natural Resources.  
The Honourable Ram Karran,  
Minister of Works and Hydraulics.  
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 Finance.  
Mr. S.M. Saffee, Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Ministry of Works and Hydraulics.

(iii) Other Members

Mr. G.L. Robertson  
Mr. M. Bhagwan  
Mr. J.B. Caldeira  
Mr. V. Downer  
Mr. M. Hamid  
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. W.O.R. Kendall, Deputy Speaker.  
Mr. J. Carter  
Mr. E.F. Correia  
Mr. N.J. Bissember  
Mr. W.A. Blair

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

(ii) United Force

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

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.  
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. F.A. Narain (Ag.)

Absent:

Mr. S. Campbell - on leave.  
Mr. B.S. Rai.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Motion for Adjournment

(i) Request by Mr. Correia re West Coast Berbice Road.

His Honour the Speaker referred to the permission granted to Mr. E.F. Correia at the sitting held on the 12th of July, 1962, to raise on the motion for the adjournment the question of the bad condition of the West Coast Berbice Road. As time did not permit Mr. Correia to do so at the last sitting, the Speaker stated that he would allow him to raise the matter at this sitting.

(ii) Request by Mr. Bissember re Statements in the Senate by the President and Minister of Trade and Industry and in the Press by the Minister of Natural Resources.

His Honour the Speaker read a letter from Mr. N.J. Bissember seeking permission to raise on the motion for the adjournment the following matters which appeared in the Press:-

- (a) Statements made in the Senate by the President and the Minister of Trade and Industry concerning a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- (b) A Statement made by the Minister of Natural Resources, reported in the "Guiana Graphic" of the 19th of July, 1962, concerning the Chairman of the Commonwealth Inquiry Commission.

The Speaker felt that as the first matter concerned another Chamber of the Legislature, it would be improper for the Assembly to debate it. On the other matter, he agreed to permit Mr. Bissember to raise it at the appropriate time.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

### Inaccurate Press Reports

The Minister of Finance referred to certain inaccurate reports appearing in that day's issues of the "Guiana Graphic" and the "Daily Chronicle" on his remarks on the National Development Savings Levy Bill, 1962, at the previous sitting, and requested that corrections be made by the newspapers concerned in the next issues.

## PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second and Third Readings.

Item 1 - TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1962  
Bill No. 17/1962 (L.A.)

On a motion by the Minister of Communications the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

## MOTIONS

Item 2 - MOTION TO REFUND STAMP DUTY ON PRIVATE BILL.

On a motion by Mr. Saffee, seconded by Mr. Hamid, the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That this Assembly recommends to Government the refund to the British Guiana United Sad'r Islamic Anjuman of the sum of one hundred dollars paid in terms of the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 298, for the Private Bill intituled "An Ordinance to incorporate certain persons as trustees of the body known as the United Sad'r Islamic Anjuman, to vest in such persons certain property and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid".

Item 3 - MOTION TO REFUND STAMP DUTY ON PRIVATE BILL.

On a motion by Mr. Kendall seconded by Mr. Wharton the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That this Assembly recommends to Government the refund to the Bible Protestant Congregational Church of British Guiana of the sum of one hundred dollars paid in terms of the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 298, for the Private Bill intituled "An Ordinance to incorporate the Bible Protestant Congregational Church of British Guiana and for purposes connected therewith".

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

At 2.42 p.m. the Minister of Natural Resources moved the adjournment of the Assembly.

### West Coast Berbice Road

Mr. Correia raised the question of the bad condition of the West Coast Berbice Road .

Other Members and the Minister concerned spoke.

Suspension of Sitting

At 3.56 p.m. the sitting was suspended for tea.

Resumption of Sitting

At 4.32 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT (Contd.)

Speech by Minister of Natural Resources concerning the  
Chairman of the Commonwealth Inquiry Commission.

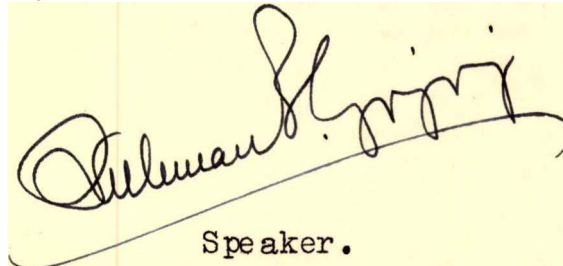
Mr. Bissember referred to the speech made by the Minister of Natural Resources and reported in the Guiana Graphic of the 19th of July, 1962, concerning the Chairman of the Commonwealth Inquiry Commission.

Objections by Mr. Benn and Mr. Mann to the matter being discussed in the Legislative Assembly disclosed that the speech was made by the Minister of Natural Resources in his capacity as Chairman of the People's Progressive Party at the Party's Headquarters.

In view of the foregoing and as the Minister did not wish to say anything on the matter, the Speaker decided that there should be no further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.55 p.m. and on a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

25th July, 1962.