

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

1961 - 1962

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 36th 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

TUESDAY, 22ND MAY, 1962.

PRESENT:

Mr. W.O.R. Kendall, Deputy Speaker - In the Chair.

(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. 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. 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:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj - on leave.
 Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan,
 Premier and Minister of Development and Planning - on leave.
 Mr. S. Campbell.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Letter received from Mr. Speaker Gajraj.

The Deputy Speaker informed Members that he had received a letter from the Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj, conveying greetings to Members.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Natural Resources:

Annual Report of the Social Assistance Department
 for the year 1960.

(SW 1/2 II)(Circulated).

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Question No. 14

Mr. d'Aguiar asked the Minister of Finance the following question:

QUESTION: Will Government state -

- (i) when it proposes to implement the unanimous recommendation of the Assembly in Resolution No. XXI of the 2nd March, 1962, for increasing the minimum basic daily wage for unclassified Government workers from \$3.04 per day to \$4.00 per day with corresponding increases for all unclassified Government workers;
- (ii) whether these increases will be effective from the 2nd March, 1962, when the Resolution was passed?

The Minister of Finance gave the following reply:-

ANSWER: Steps will be taken to implement the recommendation in accordance with its terms, i.e. when funds are available. No funds are available at present to meet the estimated cost of the proposal which is in the vicinity of \$4mn. per annum.

The increases will be effected from the date funds become available to finance them.

Supplementary Questions were asked by Mr. d'Aguiar and Mr. Burnham.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Breach of Privilege committed by the "Evening Post".

The Acting Premier and Minister of Natural Resources (the Honourable B.H. Benn), read an extract from the "Evening Post" of Friday, 18th May, which referred to a decision given by the Deputy Speaker, Mr. W.O.R. Kendall, on Monday, 14th May, as "infamous" and suggested that he should resign.

The Acting Premier opined that it was a breach of privilege and that the newspapers concerned should be asked to withdraw the statement and to apologize.

The Deputy Speaker stated that he had his personal views on the matter and that if the newspapers concerned considered themselves a responsible body, they would apologize.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Inaccurate Press Report

The Minister of Finance stated that in his speech of the 14th May, 1962, on the second reading of the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, he had referred to "deliberate distortions of the Government's policy by certain segments of the Press", and that parts of that very speech were taken out of context and falsified by certain newspapers.

He therefore requested that the falsification in the newspapers should be corrected immediately by the publication, with an equal degree of prominence, of the extracts of the Official Report which he had quoted earlier.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

Item 1 - MOTION TO APPROVE OF THE FISHERIES (PIN SEINE) REGULATIONS, 1962 (No. 8).

On a motion by the Minister of Natural Resources, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That the Legislature in terms of section 33(3) of the Fisheries Ordinance, 1956

BILL - Second Reading.Item 2 - APPROPRIATION BILL, 1962 - Bill No. 12/1962.

The Minister of Finance moved ~~that~~ the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUPPLIES GRANTED IN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE be read a second time, and, thereafter, presented his Budget **Speech (2)**.

In terms of Standing Order No. 21, the Governor's recommendation, signified by the Minister, was laid over.

Mr. Carter spoke to the motion.

Suspension of Sitting

At 4.00 p.m. Mr. Cheeks was speaking to the motion when the sitting was suspended for tea.

Resumption of Sitting

At 4.40 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Cheeks concluded his speech.

Mr. Merriman and Mr. d'Aguiar spoke to the motion.

Suspension of Sitting

At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Jordan was speaking to the motion when the sitting was suspended for dinner.

Resumption of Sitting

At 8.07 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Jordan concluded his speech.

As the Minister of Finance did not wish to exercise his right of reply, the question that the Bill be read a second time was put and carried.

Assembly then resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Draft Estimates, 1962 (No. 2).

In Committee of SupplyDRAFT ESTIMATES, 1962 (No. 2)

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1. GOVERNOR was passed at .. \$	5,300:
2. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE was passed at .. \$	52,492:
3. VOLUNTEER FORCE was passed at .. \$	117,306:
4. SUPREME COURT AND DEEDS REGISTRY was passed at .. \$	369,597:

A motion by Mr. Burnham for the recommittal of HEAD 4 - SUPREME COURT AND DEEDS REGISTRY, was negatived on the following division:-

FOR

Mr. Melville
 Mr. Cheeks
 Mr. d'Aguiar
 Mr. Wharton
 Mr. Merriman
 Mr. Jordan
 Mr. Joaquim
 Mr. Hugh
 Mr. Blair
 Mr. Bissember
 Mr. Correia
 Mr. Carter
 Mr. Burnham

AGAINST

Mr. Shakoor
 Mr. Lall
 Mr. Jagan
 Mr. Hamid
 Mr. Downer
 Mr. Caldeira
 Mr. Bhagwan
 Mr. Robertson
 Mr. Saffee
 Mr. Mann
 Mr. Bowman
 Mr. Wilson
 Dr. Ramsahoye
 Dr. Jacob
 Mr. Chandisingh
 Mr. Rai
 Mr. Ram Karran
 Mr. Benn

1318

<u>HEAD</u>				<u>AMOUNT</u>
5. MAGISTRATES	..	..	was passed at ..	\$ 437,470:
6. LEGISLATURE	..	..	was passed at ..	\$ 59,442:
7. PREMIER'S OFFICE, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING			.. was passed at ..	\$ 565,380:
8. MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES			.. was passed at ..	\$1,038,870:
9. AGRICULTURE	..	..	was passed at ..	\$2,130,193:
10. LANDS AND MINES	..	..	was passed at ..	\$ 614,199:
11. FOREST	..	..	was passed at ..	\$ 681,653:

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.00 p.m. the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m.
 on Wednesday, 23rd May, 1962.

W. Q. R. Sundall

Deputy Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
 Georgetown.

23rd May, 1962.