

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 54th 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, 26TH OCTOBER, 1962.

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Government

People's Progressive Party

(i) Ministers

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.  
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. J.B. Caldeira  
Mr. V. Downer  
Mr. M. Hamid  
Mr. H. Lall  
Mr. M. Shakoer

Members Constituting the Minority

(i) People's National Congress

Mr. W.A. Blair  
Mr. J.G. Joaquin  
Mr. R.J. Jordan  
Mr. H.M.S. Wharton

(ii) Independent

Mr. B.S. Rai

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

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

Absent:

Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan,  
Premier and Minister of Development and Planning - on leave.  
The Honourable B.H. Benn,  
Minister of Natural Resources - on leave.  
Dr. the Honourable F.H.W. Ramsahoye,  
Attorney-General - on leave.  
Mr. M. Bhagwan - on leave.  
Mr. D.C. Jagan - on leave.  
Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C. - on leave.  
Mr. W.O.R. Kendall, Deputy Speaker - on leave.  
Mr. J. Carter - on leave.  
Mr. E.F. Corneia - on leave.  
Mr. N.J. Bissenber - on leave.  
Mr. R.S.S. Hugh - on leave.  
Mr. C.A. Merriman - on leave.  
Mr. F.S. d'Aguilar - on leave.  
Mr. S. Campbell - on leave.  
Mr. R.H. Cheeks - on leave.  
Mr. E.E. Melville.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Welcome and Congratulations to Acting Premier.

His Honour the Speaker welcomed back the Honourable Ram Karran, Minister of Works and Hydraulics, from his recent illness, and congratulated him on his appointment as Acting Premier.

(ii) Bill and Amendments from Senate.

His Honour the Speaker read two letters from the Vice-President of the Senate forwarding for the consideration of the Assembly the following:-

- (a) Senate amendments made to the Defence Bill, 1962, on the 22nd of October, 1962;
- (b) Fire Brigade (Amendment) Bill, 1962, passed by the Senate on the 22nd of October, 1962.

The Fire Brigade (Amendment) Bill, 1962, was read the first time.

(iii) Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members:-

Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan  
The Honourable B.H. Benn  
Mr. M. Bhagwan  
Mr. D.C. Jagan  
Mr. C.A. Merriman.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(i) By the Minister of Works and Hydraulics:

Annual Report of the Government Technical Institute for the period 1st September, 1960 to 31st August, 1961.  
(No. 3/34/69)(Circulated).

../ (ii)

(ii) By the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing:

- (a) Annual Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1961. (P. 77/11 IX)(Circulated).
- (b) Report entitled 'Outbreak of Chemical Food Poisoning in the Essequibo Coast and Wakenaam'. (No. 37/81 II)(Circulated).
- (c) Report on the Supreme Court and Deeds Registry for the year 1961. (L. 44/2)(Circulated).

(iii) By the Minister of Finance:

Financial Paper No. 6/1962 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Recurrent Estimates for October, 1962, totalling \$10,001. (G. 4/62 II)(Circulated).

#### QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

##### Question No. 44

Mr. Wharton asked the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing the following question:

QUESTION: When does Government propose to undertake the laying of the pipes along the East sideline dam to serve the Mortuary and the Health Centre at Lichfield, West Coast, Berbice?

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The laying of pipes along the East sideline dam to serve the Health Centre at Lichfield, West Coast, Berbice, is now in progress. It is considered uneconomical to extend the line to the Mortuary which is only used occasionally. Instead, it is proposed to erect storage drums to collect rain water from the roof.

##### Question No. 45

Mr. Wharton asked the Minister of Works and Hydraulics the following question:

QUESTION: Are excess commodities during such periods when there is over-production of fish, fruits, greens and vegetables made available to the hospitals, prisons and other such institutions?

The Minister of Works and Hydraulics gave the following reply:

ANSWER: No, Sir. Hospitals, prisons and other such institutions either purchase their normal requirement from the Government Marketing Division or produce their own. In periods of glut surpluses appear after the needs of institutions have been met. In the case of milk, it is sometimes possible that some institutions can use more than they normally require and in such cases surpluses are made available without charge.

Question No. 46

Mr. Rai asked the Minister of Finance the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister of Finance say what fees and costs, if any, have been received by the Attorney-General in respect of litigation to which the Government was a party or an interested party, since September, 1961?

Is there any arrangement whereby the Attorney-General will receive fees and/or costs in such matters?

The Minister of Finance gave the following reply:

ANSWER: No fees or costs have been received by the Attorney-General in respect of litigation to which the Government was a party or an interested party since September, 1961.

There is no arrangement whereby the Attorney-General will receive fees and/or costs in such matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESSItem 1 on Supplementary Order PaperMOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 6/1962.

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

On a motion by the Minister of Finance the Standing Orders were suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with the consideration of Financial Paper No. 6/1962.

In Committee of Supply

Financial Paper No. 6/1962 was considered in detail and the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That this House approves the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 6/1962 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Recurrent Estimates for October, 1962, totalling \$10,001.

Assembly resumed.

The Minister of Finance reported that the Committee of Supply had considered and approved of Financial Paper No. 6/1962 and moved that the Assembly agree with Committee of Supply in its Resolution.

Assembly concurred.

Item 1 on Order PaperDEFENCE BILL, 1962 - Bill No. 22/1962 (L.A.) - SENATE AMENDMENTS.

On a motion by the Acting Premier, Assembly agreed to consider the Senate amendments to the Defence Bill, 1962, forthwith.

The amendments as follows were then read:

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- Clause 6      Substituted: The words "The Governor may establish and maintain" for the words "There shall be established and maintained" in subsection (1).
- Clause 7 -    Substituted: The word "may" for the word "shall" after the words "The Governor" in the first line of subsection (1).
- Clause 11 -   Substituted: The word "may" for the word "shall" after the words "Army Council" in the first line.
- Clause 74 -   Substituted: The words "a term not exceeding fifteen years" for the words "any term" at the end of the clause.
- Clause 92 -   Substituted: The words "in British Guiana" for the words "in England" -
- (i) after the words "in civil courts" in the third line of subsection (1);
  - (ii) after the words "civil court" in the sixth line of subsection (1);
  - (iii) after the words "civil court" in the last line of subsection (3).
- Clause 99 -   Substituted: The words "Supreme Court of British Guiana" for the words "High Court of Justice in England".

On a motion by the Acting Premier, Assembly agreed with the Senate amendments.

Item 2 on Order Paper

FIRE BRIGADE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1962 - Bill No. 25/1962 (S) - Second and Third Readings.

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FIRE BRIGADE ORDINANCE, 1957, was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 3 on Order Paper

MOTION TO REFUND STAMP DUTY ON PRIVATE BILL.

On a motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Downer, the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, That the Legislature approves of the remission of the stamp duty of one hundred dollars paid by the Association of Baptist Churches in British Guiana in terms of section 9(33) of the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 298.

Item 1 on Supplementary Order Paper No. 2

MOTION TO EXTEND COMMISSIONER OF TITLE (ADDITIONAL POWERS)  
ORDINANCE, 1960.

On a motion by the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing, the following Resolution was adopted:

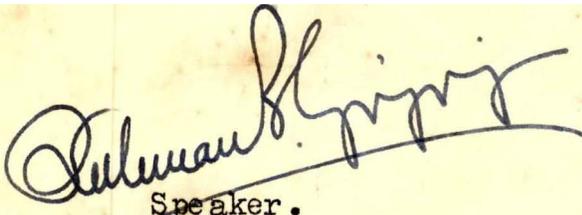
RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of Title (Additional Powers) Ordinance, 1960, shall continue in force for a period of one year up to and including the 4th day of November, 1963.

PROROGATION OF LEGISLATURE

Before the adjournment, His Honour the Speaker intimated that it was likely that the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Premier, would prorogue the Legislature shortly.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.03 p.m. , on a motion by the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

31st October, 1962.

