

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION

1963 - 1964

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 33rd 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

WEDNESDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1964

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

the Honourable C.B. Jagan, Premier and
Minister of Development and Planning.
The Honourable B.H. Benn,
Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands.
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 Home Affairs.
Mr. S.M. Saffee, Parliamentary Secretary to the
Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Lands.

(iii) Other Members

Mr. G.L. Robertson.
Mr. M. Bhagwan.
Mr. J.B. Caldeira.
Mr. V. Downer.
Mr. M. Hamid, J.P.
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. 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.S. d'Aguiar.
Mr. R.E. Cheeks.
Mr. E.E. Melville.

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

Absent

Mr. J. Carter, Q.C.
Mr. S. Campbell.
Mr. B.S. Rai.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Departure of Governor

His Honour the Speaker read a letter dated 29th February, 1964, from His Excellency the Governor, Sir Ralph Grey, G.C.M.G., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., O.B.E., thanking the Legislative Assembly for its Resolution (No. XXXIV) expressing good wishes to him, Lady Grey and family on the occasion of his departure from British Guiana.

His Excellency also proffered thanks to the Legislative Assembly for the many courtesies shown to him, officially and personally, by the Assembly (and the former Legislative Council) as a whole, as well as by Members individually.

(ii) Arrival of new Governor

His Honour the Speaker announced that he had received a letter from the Acting Governor informing him that the new Governor, Sir Richard Luyt, K.C.M.G., D.C.M., would be arriving at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday, the 7th of March, 1964, by the M.V. "Sunrip", and that he would be sworn in shortly after he had landed. Invitees had been reminded to be in their seats not later than 8.30 a.m.

(iii) Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Burnham for two weeks from the 7th of March, 1964.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(i) By the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands:

- (a) Seventy-third Annual Report of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown for the year ended 31st December, 1963.
- (b) Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government Produce Depot, New Amsterdam, for the year ended 31st December, 1961, together with the comments of the Director of Marketing.

(M.2/12/19)

(ii) By the Minister of Finance:

Report of the Executive Commissioner, Board of Commissioners of Currency, British Caribbean Territories (Eastern Group) for the year 1961.

(T.27/54 II).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS - First Reading

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964.

(Bill No. 9/1964(L.A.) published 7.3.64).

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS ORDINANCE.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Item 1 - MOTION BY MR. BURNHAM RE THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Assembly resumed the debate on the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Government take immediate measures to remedy the unemployment situation.

Mr. Bhagwan concluded his speech.

Mr. Burnham replied.

The following amendment moved by Mr. Chandisingh at the previous sitting was put and carried:

Substitution of the words "continue its efforts" for the words "take immediate measures".

The motion as amended was then put and carried as follows:

RESOLVED, That the Government continue its efforts to remedy the unemployment situation.

Item 2 - MOTION BY MR. BHAGWAN RE APPOINTMENT OF SIR RICHARD LUYT AS GOVERNOR OF BRITISH GUIANA.

Mr. Bhagwan moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly requests that the Secretary of State for the Colonies advise Her Majesty the Queen to revoke the appointment of Mr. R.E. Luyt as Governor of British Guiana and, in consultation with the British Guiana Government, to appoint a Guianese as Governor of British Guiana.

Mr. Downer seconded the motion but reserved his right to speak at a later stage.

Mr. d'Aguiar spoke to the motion.

Mr. Burnham was speaking when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

Suspension of Sitting

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

Resumption of Sitting

At 4.38 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Burnham concluded his speech.

Mr. Correia moved and Mr. Merriman seconded the following amendment:-

Deletion of the comma after the word "Government" in the fifth line; and

Insertion of the words "and the Opposition," after the word "Government" in the fifth line.

Mr. Cheeks and Dr. Ramsahoye spoke.

Mr. Benn replied to the motion.

Thereafter the amendment was put and carried on the following division:

FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Wharton	Mr. Melville
Mr. Merriman	Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Jordan	Mr. d'Aguiar
Mr. Joaquin	
Mr. Hugh	
Mr. Blair	
Mr. Bissember	
Mr. Correia	
Mr. Kendall	
Mr. Burnham	
Mr. Shakoor	
Mr. Lall	
Mr. Jagan	
Mr. Hamid	
Mr. Downer	
Mr. Caldeira	
Mr. Bhagwan	
Mr. Robertson	
Mr. Saffee	
Mr. Bowman	
Mr. Wilson	
Dr. Ramsahoye	
Dr. Jacob	
Mr. Chandisingh	
Mr. Ramkarran	
Mr. Benn	
Dr. Jagan	

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The motion as amended was then put and carried as follows:

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Assembly requests that the Secretary of State for the Colonies advise Her Majesty the Queen to revoke the appointment of Mr. R.E. Luyt as Governor of British Guiana and, in consultation with the British Guiana Government and the Opposition, to appoint a Guianese as Governor of British Guiana.

Item 3 - MOTION BY MR. HAMID RE SECURITY OF TENURE TO FARMERS

Mr. Hamid moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Government take steps to provide Security of Tenure to farmers who are engaged in the cultivation of crops other than rice.

Mr. Robertson seconded the motion but reserved his right to speak at a later stage.

Mr. Benn spoke to the motion.

Mr. Cheeks moved and Mr. d'Aguiar seconded the following amendment:-

Insertion of the words "and that Government make available land to farmers at Black Bush and elsewhere on easy purchase rental terms" after the word "rice" at the end of the motion.

After Mr. Robertson had spoken, the amendment was put and negatived on the following division:

FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Melville	Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Lall
Mr. d'Aguiar	Mr. Jagan
Mr. Wharton	Mr. Hamid
Mr. Merriman	Mr. Downer
Mr. Jordan	Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Joaquin	Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Hugh	Mr. Robertson
Mr. Blair	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Bissember	Mr. Bowman
Mr. Kendall	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Burnham	Dr. Ramsahoye
	Dr. Jacob
	Mr. Chandisingh
	Mr. Ram Karran
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Jagan

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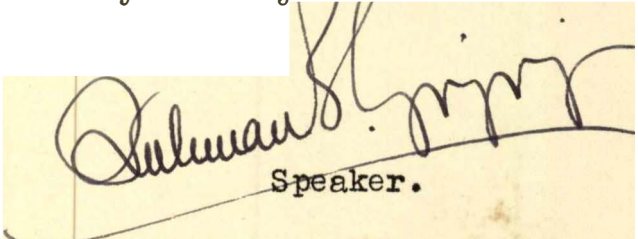
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The motion was then put and carried as follows:

RESOLVED, That the Government take steps to provide Security of Tenure to farmers who are engaged in the cultivation of crops other than rice.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.31 p.m. on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.
10th April, 1964.