

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION

1963 1964

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MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 35th 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, 13TH MAY, 1964,

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Governmen

(i) Ministers

Dr. 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. J. Carter, Q.C.  
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.

(iii) Independent

Mr. B.S. Rai.

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

Absent

Mr. S. Campbell  
Mr. E.E. Melville - on leave.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

DEATH OF MR. J.A.E. YOUNG, GENERAL MANAGER, TRANSPORT  
AND HARBOURS DEPARTMENT

With the leave of His Honour the Speaker, the Minister of Communications, the Honourable E.M.G. Wilson, informed the Assembly of the sad news received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that Mr. J.A.E. Young, General Manager, Transport and Harbours Department, had died in a hospital in Copenhagen, where he was attending a United Nations Conference. The Minister, on behalf of Members, expressed sympathy to the wife and relatives of Mr. Young.

DEATH OF MR. JORDAN'S MOTHER

His Honour the Speaker, on behalf of Members and himself, expressed sympathy to Mr. R.J. Jordan on the death of his mother.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that Mr. Melville had been granted leave for 1 month from the 4th of May, 1964.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(a) By the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands

Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Milk Pasteurisation Plant for the year ended 31st December, 1961.

(M. 2/114/2/15).

(b) By the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing

Annual Report of the Registrar General for the year 1959.

(Circulated)(RG: 11/4).

(c) By the Minister of Finance

(i) Financial Paper No. 3/1964 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Recurrent Estimates for January to April, 1964 (Supplementary), totalling \$18,958.00.

(G.4/64)(Circulated)

(ii) Financial Paper No. 4/1964 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Development Estimates for January to April, 1964 (Supplementary), totalling \$7,000.00.

(G.7 /64)(Circulated)

The Minister of Finance gave notice of his intention to move, at the next sitting of the Assembly to be held on Thursday, the 14th of May, 1964, the suspension of Standing Order No. 69 to enable Financial Papers Nos. 3/1964 and 4/1964 to be considered at that sitting.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Question No. 32

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

Question: Has Government received the report of the Watchmen's Advisory Committee and if so how soon does Government propose to consider and take appropriate action in respect of the working conditions affecting all watchmen in Government and private employment?

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

Answer: Yes Sir, and action will soon be taken.

A supplementary question was asked by Mr. Hugh.

Question No. 33

Mr. d'Aguiar asked the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing the following question:

- Question: (a) Is the Minister aware that the pure water supply well at Hague Government School is out of commission, that there is no fresh water for the settlers at Hague Back and the nearest available water is from the punt trench at Cornelia Ida?
- (b) What steps will Government take to remedy the situation?

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

- Answer: (a) The Minister was informed that the well at Hague Government School had ceased flowing due to breakage of the outlet and to blockage by stones and pieces of wood thrown down the casing.
- (b) The Pure Water Supply had already taken steps to remedy the situation.

Question No. 34

Mr. Cheeks asked the Minister of Communications the following question:

- Question: Is the post of General Manager of the Guyana Airways Corporation vacant? If the answer is in the affirmative, when does Government propose to fill it?

The Minister of Communications gave the following reply:

- Answer: (a) Yes Sir. The post of General Manager, B.G. Airways (Govt.) now Guyana Airways Corporation, became vacant on 16th August, 1963, on the termination of the services of Capt. J.M. Farquharson who had been on secondment from British West Indian Airways, Ltd. Capt. H.E. Wendt, Technical Manager, was appointed to act as General Manager of the Corporation with effect from 1st September, 1963.
- (b) The filling of the post of General Manager is the function of the Corporation, and I am advised that the Corporation is now advertising for the filling of the post substantively.

Question No. 35

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

Question: Is Government now ready to extend the pipe-line along the eastern side line of No. 28 Village on the West Coast of Berbice thereby relieving the suffering endured by the forty odd families living in that area?

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

Answer: Extensions of the mains alone would not solve the problem. What is required is a pressurised system which would involve operational charges and the readiness of the people of the area to meet these charges.

A supplementary question as asked by Mr. Wharton.

Question No. 36

Mr. Wharton asked the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands the following question:

Question: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands say when it is proposed to erect a suitable school building to accommodate the pupils of the Johanna Cecilia-Zorg ar as on the Essequibo Coast?

The Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands gave the following reply:

Answer: A site has now been obtained from a private person at Johanna Cecelia and is to be surveyed this month. It is planned to start construction of a new Rural Type School for about 600 children later in 1964.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

(i) LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964.

(Bill No. 15/1964(L.A.) published 9.5.64).

The Attorney-General, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE.

(ii) STATISTICS BILL, 1964.

(Bill No. 16/1964(L.A.): Date of publication -16.5.64).

The Premier and Minister of Development and Planning, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill

/which...

which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE TAKING OF CENSUSES, THE COLLECTION, COMPILATION, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN STATISTICAL INFORMATION AND FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

Item 1 - MOTION BY MR. JORDAN RE THE COLONY'S FINANCES

Mr. Jordan moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of British Guiana for the year ended 31st December, 1961, reveals an alarmingly unsatisfactory state in the administration of the Colony's finances:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly recommends to Government the immediate appointment of an Independent Commission to hold a Public Enquiry into the administration of the Colony's finances.

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

Dr. Jacob spoke to the motion.

Mr. d'Aguiar was speaking when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

WELCOME TO MR. KENDALL

Before suspending the sitting, His Honour the Speaker welcomed back Mr. W.O.R. Kendall, Deputy Speaker, on his return from the 13th Parliamentary Course at Westminster, London, Ireland and Jersey.

Suspension of Sitting

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

Resumption of Sitting

At 4.34 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY - DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Strike and general situation in the Sugar Industry

Assembly resumed the discussion on the strike and general situation in the Sugar Industry allowed on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly at its previous sitting.

Dr. Ramsahoye, Mr. Cheeks and Mr. Ram Karran spoke after which the discussion was concluded.

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Item 1 - MOTION BY MR. JORDAN RE THE COLONY'S FINANCES

Assembly resumed the debate on the following motion:

WHEREAS the Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of British Guiana for the year ended 31st December, 1961, reveals an alarmingly unsatisfactory state in the administration of the Colony's finances:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly recommends to Government the immediate appointment of an Independent Commission to hold a Public Enquiry into the administration of the Colony's finances.

Mr. d'Aguiar concluded his speech.

Mr. Ram Karran spoke to the motion.

Mr. Jordan then replied.

Thereafter the motion was put and negatived on the following division:

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

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BILLS - Second Reading

Item 2 - FULL GOSPEL MOVEMENT STREAMS OF POWER IN BRITISH GUIANA (INCORPORATION) BILL, 1964 - Bill No. 6/1964(L.A.)

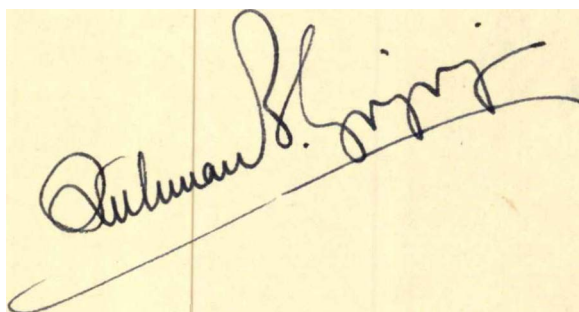
On a motion by Mr. Merriman, seconded by Mr. Wharton, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO INCORPORATE THE FULL GOSPEL MOVEMENT STREAMS OF POWER IN BRITISH GUIANA AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 3 - ASSOCIATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD IN  
BRITISH GUIANA BILL, 1964 - Bill No. 11/1964 (L.A.)

On a motion by Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Blair, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO INCORPORATE THE ASSOCIATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD IN BRITISH GUIANA AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.25 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 14th of May, 1964.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular piece of paper. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Sultan B. Singh". The paper is placed over a vertical line on the page.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

14th May, 1964.