

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION

1963 - 1964

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

THURSDAY, 14TH MAY, 1964

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Government

(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

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. Garter, 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. S. Campbell.
Mr. R.E. Cheeks.

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

Absent

Mr. E.E. Melville - on leave
Mr. B.S. Rai.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Attorney General on behalf of the
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry
of Home Affairs

Report on the General Election of
Members of the Legislative Assembly,
1961.

(H.A.PROB: 22/3/1)
(Circulated).

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Item 1 - MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/1964

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

Assembly then resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House approves the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1964 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Recurrent Estimates for January to April, 1964, totalling \$199,812.00.

A motion by Mr. d'Aguiar for the deletion of item 26 on the Schedule was negatived on the following division:

FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Campbell	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. Correia	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Carter	Dr. Ramsahoye
Mr. Kendall	Dr. Jacob
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Chandisingh
	Mr. Ram Karran
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Jagan

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The motion by the Minister of Finance was then approved.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly agreed with the Committee in its Resolution.

Suspension of Sitting

At 3.58 p.m. the sitting was suspended for tea.

Resumption of Sitting

At 4.37 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

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Item 2 - MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/1964

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

Assembly then resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The following motion by the Minister of Finance was approved:

RESOLVED,

That this House approves the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1964 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Development Estimates for January to April, 1964, totalling \$66,596.00.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly agreed with the Committee in its Resolution.

Item 3 - MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/1964

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, Standing Order No. 69 was suspended to enable Financial Paper No. 3/1964 to be considered at that sitting.

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

Assembly then resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The following motion by the Minister of Finance was approved:

RESOLVED,

That this House approves the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/1964 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Recurrent Estimates for January to April, 1964 (Supplementary), totalling \$18,958.00.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly agreed with the Committee in its Resolution.

Item 4 - MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/1964

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, Standing Order No. 69 was suspended to enable Financial Paper No. 4/1964 to be considered at that sitting.

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

Assembly then resolved it elf into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The following motion by t e Minister of Finance was approved:

RESOLVED,

That this House approves the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4/1964 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Development Estimates for January to April, 1964 (Supplementary), totalling \$7,000.00.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly agreed with the Committee in its Resolution.

Items 11 and 12

Assembly agreed to take items 11 and 12 at this stage.

Item 11 - MOTION RE INCREASES IN TONNAGE AND LIGHT DUES

On a motion by the Minister of Communications, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That the Legislature in terms of section 24(2) of the Transport and Harbours Ordinance, Chapter 261, approves of the increases in the tonnage and light dues specified in the third schedule to the Ordinance as follows:-

I. TONNAGE DUES -

(1) On a sailing vessel -

(a) under 100 tons net register on every ton of the net register tonnage ...\$0 07½

Provided that tonnage dues shall not be levied on any one such sailing vessel more than 4 times in any one year.

(b) between 100 tons and 500 tons both inclusive net register, on every ton of the net register tonnage ... 0 37½

/(c)...

(c) over 500 tons net register, on every ton of the net register tonnage of the vessel or of the cargo landed or taken on board, as the case may be ... 0 45

(2) On a steam vessel, on every ton of the net register tonnage of the vessel or of the cargo landed or taken on board, as the case may be ... 0 45

II. LIGHT DUES -

(1) On every coasting vessel of 10 tons burthen and upwards which enters the port of New Amsterdam from the sea, for every ton of the net register tonnage ... 0 03

(2) On every vessel (ther than a coasting vessel or a vessel under 10 tons burthen) which enters any port of the Colony from the sea, for every ton of the register tonnage ... 0 07½

Item 12 - MOTION RE WRITE-OFF OF LOSSES

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

That this Legislative Assembly authorise the write-off of losses totalling \$12,348.98 as listed in the undermentioned schedule.

SCHEDULE

Losses of Cash and Stores

<u>Department</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Post Office	Remittance of \$3,000 lost intransit between New Amsterdam and Rosignol Post Offices on 27.3.58	\$3,000.00	The mail bag was checked, sealed and sent by registered mail from New Amsterdam and received sealed at Rosignol. On opening however, the money was missing. Police investigations were unsuccessful and they reported that insufficient evidence existed to convict anyone.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Education	\$2,550.00 lost in nugatory expenditures. The cost of materials for building a house for the Head Teacher, Taymouth Manor School, Essequibo Coast.	\$2,550.00	In 1955, a contractor was advanced this amount but was, at the last minute prevented from building because of unsuitability of the site. The materials were removed to the contractor's premises at Pomeroun pending arrangements for an alternative site. These were not finalised until December, 1957. In 1956, the Pomeroun area was flooded, the materials became water-logged and damaged by termites. While the officers who drew up the contract were negligent in not first securing the site, it was not possible to effect disciplinary action against them as they had already left Government employment when the loss was discovered.
Post Office	Loss of Cash and stamps at Tuschen Post Office on the night of 7.9.63	3,401.19	Thieves broke into the apartment of the Postmaster, Mr. Oscar Simon, which is situated above the Post Office itself, murdered him, stole keys to the safe below and escaped with the amounts stated.
Deeds Registry	Loss of Cash between 23rd and 24th September, 1958.	3,397.79	On the afternoon of the 23rd, the office was secured and the two watchmen were left in charge of the compound. On the following morning it was discovered that a window had been prized open and the safe which was embedded in concrete, broken into. Police investigations were unsuccessful in finding the perpetrator of this theft.
	Total	\$12,348.98	

Item 5 - MOTION RE IDENTITY CARDS WITH PHOTOGRAPHS

The Attorney General moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly recommends that all voters be issued with identity cards which should include photographs to be provided at the expense of the Government.

Mr. Burnham, Dr. Jacob, Mr. Cheeks and Mr. Campbell spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Attorney-General replied.

The motion was then put and carried on the following division:-

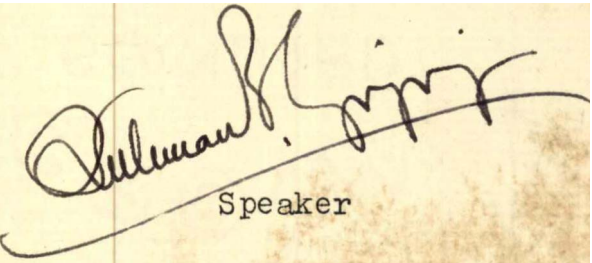
FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Shakoor	Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Lall	Mr. Campbell
Mr. Jagan	Mr. Wharton
Mr. Harid	Mr. Merriman
Mr. Downer	Mr. Joaquin
Mr. Caldeira	Mr. Blair
Mr. Bhagwan	Mr. Bissember
Mr. Robertson	Mr. Kendall
Mr. Saffee	Mr. Burnham
Mr. Bowman	
Mr. Wilson	
Dr. Ramsahoye	
Dr. Jacob	
Mr. Chandisingh	
Mr. Ramkarran	
Mr. Benn	
Dr. Jagan	

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ADJOURNMENT

At 6.00 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.

16th May, 1964.