

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION

1963 - 1964

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 30th 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, 19TH FEBRUARY, 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. Shakoar.

(b) Members Constituting the Minority

(i) People's National Congress

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.  
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. L.E. Mann, Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Ministry of Education and Social Development.  
Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C. - excused.  
Mr. S. Campbell.  
Mr. B.S. Rai.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Christmas Greetings from Nigeria

His Honour the Speaker announced that he had received from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Federal Republic of Nigeria Branch, Lagos, Nigeria, a Christmas Card, which was posted on the 20th of November, 1963, and received on the 15th of February, 1964.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing:

Annual Report of the Department of Labour for  
the year 1962.

(L: 287/4)(Circulated).

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTION NO. 20

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

Question: Would the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands give a list of all the persons appointed, to act or permanently, as Education Officers in the Ministry with respective qualifications and experience from September 1, 1963?

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

Answer:

Name	Qualifications	Experience	Date of assumption as Acting Education Officer
Neville E. Sutherland	B.S.C.Hons.(Econ.) Trained Grade I Class I Headmaster	1.10.49 -31.12.51: Pupil Teacher - 2 years 1.1.52 -31.8.54: Qualified Master- 2 years 8 months 1.9.54 -31.8.56: Govern- ment Training College Student 1.9.56 -31.12.63: Trained Grade I Senior Master 7 years 4 months 1.1.64 - Appointed Head- master, Covent Garden Government School.	2.9.63
C.B. Philadelphia	B.Sc.Hons.(Econ.) Grade I Headmaster	5.1.53 -31.7.60: Unqualified Master -7 years 7 months. 1.8.60 -31.12.63: Grade I Class II Master - 3 years 5 months. 1.1.64 - Appointed Headmaster, Patentia Government School.	2.9.63
I.S. Doorgasingh	B.Sc.(Natural Science) Qualified Master	Appointed with effect from 16.9.63 - Master, East Ruimveldt Government School.	16.9.63
Cecil Seepersaud	Grade I Class I Deputy Headmaster Diploma Education (Edin.)	8.5.44 - 28.2.46: Unqualified Master 1 year 10 months 1.3.46 -14.9.55: Qualified Master - 9 years 4½ months 15.9.55 -31.8.62: Senior Master 6 years 11½ months. 1.9.62 to present Deputy Head- master - 1 year 5 months.	19.9.63

Name	Qualifications	Experience	Date of assumption as Acting Education Officer
Shri K. Singh	B.Sc.Hons.(Econ.) Grade I Trained Headmaster	8.1.51 -31.8.54: Pupil Teacher 3 years 8 months 1.9.54 -31.8.56: Government Training College. 1.9.56 - 30.4.60: Qualified Class I Grade I Trained Master 3 years 8 months. 1.5.60 - 31.12.63: Senior Master 3 years 8 months. 1.1.64 Appointed Head- master, Zeelugt Govern- ment School.	19.9.63
George Jhagroo	Trained Grade I Class I Head- master	1.9.32 -31.8.34: Government Training College. 1.9.34- 17.11.40: Qualified Master- 6 years 3 months. 18.11.40- 31.12.40 - Senior Master 1½ months. 1.1.41 to present Headmaster - 14 years.	15.9.63
C.A. McDonald	Trained Grade I Class I Head- master	1.11.42 -31.12.43 - Unqualified Master- 1 year 1 month 1.1.44 - 31.8.45 - Qualified Master - 1 year 7 months 1.9.45 - 31.8.47 - Government Training College Student 1.9.47 - 31.8.57 - Qualified Master 10 years 1.9.57 - 28.2.58 - Deputy Headmaster - 6 months 1.3.58 - to present - Headmaster - 6 years	11.9.63

No permanent appointment (as Education Officer) has been made since September 1, 1963.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS - First Reading

HIRE-PURCHASE BILL, 1964

(Bill No. 5/1964 (L.A.) published 15.2.64.

The Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE WITH RESPECT TO  
HIRE-PURCHASE AND SALE UPON CREDIT OF GOODS.

/...

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Items 1 and 2 - MOTIONS BY MR. BURNHAM RE (i) ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS WHO SUFFERED LOSS IN THE 1963 FLOODS, AND (ii) THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

His Honour the Speaker intimated that Mr. Burnham had requested that consideration of these motions be deferred as he was engaged and unable to attend the sitting.

Assembly agreed.

Item 3 - MOTION RE SEVERANCE PAY FOR EMPLOYEES

Mr. Lall moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly accepts the principle of severance pay to be made by employers to their employees as being sound on grounds of social justice and as a medium of social security for workers:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly recommends to Government the introduction, at an early date, of legislation to give effect to the aforementioned principle for the benefit of all workers in this country.

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

Mr. Merriman and Mr. Hugh spoke to the motion.

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

Substitution of a comma for the full stop at the end of the motion, and addition of the following:-

"and that effect should be given to this principle by Government introducing legislation to pay severance pay to all Government employees, classified or unclassified, at the rate of one month's severance pay for every year of service and that this benefit should be extended to all workers."

Mr. Ram Karran spoke.

Suspension of Sitting

At 3.56 p.m. the sitting was suspended for tea.

Resumption of Sitting

At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Chandisingh and Mr. Bissember spoke. Thereafter, Mr. Lall replied.

The amendment was then put and negatived on the following division:

FOR	<u>AGAINST</u>
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. Blair	Mr. Robertson
Mr. Bissember	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Carter	Mr. Bowman
Mr. Kendall	Mr. Wilson
	Dr. Ramsahoye
	Mr. Chandisingh
	Mr. RamKarran
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Jagan

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The motion was then put and carried.

Item 4 - MOTION AUTHORISING MINISTER OF FINANCE TO BORROW MONEY FROM BANK

In terms of Standing Order No. 21, the Attorney General laid over the Governor's recommendation and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly in terms of section 16 of the Financial Administration and Audit Ordinance, 1961 (No. 39) as amended by Ordinance No. 23 of 1963 authorises the Minister of Finance to borrow in whole or in part, by means of advances from the Bank, or by the issue of Treasury Bills, an amount not exceeding six million dollars to meet current requirements from time to time.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the above amount of six million dollars shall be in substitution for the amounts totalling seven million dollars authorised in Resolution No. XIX and LVI of the First Session.

Mr. Jordan and Mr. d'Aguiar spoke to the motion. Thereafter, the Attorney General replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

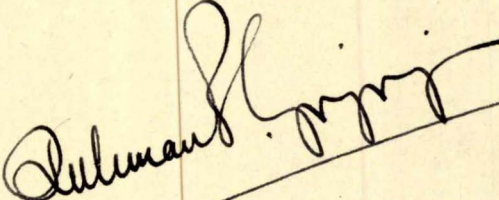
BILL - Second and Third Readings

Item 5 - DAVSON CENTENARY FUND AMENDMENT BILL 1 64 -  
Bill No. 3 1964 L.A. .

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.42 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 26th of February, 1964.



Speaker

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
Georgetown.

22nd February, 1964.