

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION

1963-1964

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 37th 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

TUESDAY, 26TH 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

(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.

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.
Mr. B.S. Rai.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers.

PROCLAMATION SUMMONING THE ASSEMBLY TO MEET AND SIT

The Clerk read Proclamation No. 5 of 1964, made by His Excellency the Governor on the 22nd day of May, 1964, and published in the Gazette of Saturday 23rd May, 1964, summoning the Legislative Assembly to meet and sit at 2.00 o'clock in the afternoon on the 26th of May, 1964.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(i) By the Premier and Minister of Development and Planning

Proclamation No. 3 of 1964 made by His Excellency the Governor on the 22nd day of May, 1964, and published in the Gazette on the 22nd of May, 1964, declaring the existence of a state of public emergency for the purposes of article 14 of the Constitution of British Guiana.

(ii) By the Minister of Finance

Order No. 16 of 1964 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 8th of May, 1964 and published in the Gazette on the 16th of May, 1964.

(64)
(C.Ex.3) (Circulated).

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Question No. 37

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

- Question: (a) When will Government provide running water for the mortuary at Lichfield, West Coast, Berbice?
- (b) Is Government aware that the mortuary attendant has to fetch water from a distance of half a mile whenever there is a post mortem?

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

Answer: Government has already installed a 400 gallon rain water tank at the mortuary. The expenditure which would have to be incurred to extend pipelines to the mortuary cannot be justified in the light of the infrequent use of the mortuary and the small quantities of water required.

Question No. 38

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

- Question: Is it true that Government has decided not to rebuild the school at Providence, East Bank, Berbice River, contrary to Resolution No. XLVIII of 2nd August, 1962?

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

Answer: No. Messrs. Bookers Sugar Estates Ltd. have agreed to lease to Government the old school site plus three additional acres of land, and it is planned to start construction of a new Rural Type school for 400 children later in the year.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

(i) PHARMACY AND POISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964

(Bill No. 17/1964 (L.A.) published 23.5.64).

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE, 1956.

(ii) TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964

(Bill No. 18/1964 (L.A.) published 30.5.64).

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
TAX ORDINANCE.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

Item 1 - MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT WHARVES (CHARGES) RULES, 1964

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

RESOLVED, That the Legislature in terms of section 4 of the Government Wharves Ordinance, Chapter 263, approves of the Government Wharves (Charges) Rules, 1964 which were made by the Governor on the 18th of March, 1964.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings:

Item 2 - STATUTORY PUBLICATIONS BILL, 1964 - Bill No. 7/1964 (L.A.)

On a motion by the Attorney-General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN INSTRUMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 3 - PUBLIC CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964 - Bill No. 8/1964 (L.A.)

On a motion by the Attorney-General, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PUBLIC CORPORATIONS ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 4 - GEORGETOWN CULTURAL CENTRE AMENDMENT BILL 1964 - Bill No. 4 4 S

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GEORGETOWN CULTURAL CENTRE ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 5 - CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964 - Bill No. 9/1964 (L.A.)

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

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Item 6 - CASE PENSION BILL, 1964 - Bill No. 12/1964 (L.A.)

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

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION WITH RESPECT TO THE PENSIONABLE SERVICE OF FREDERICK WALTER ELEAZER CASE was read a second time.

Assembly then resolved itself into Committee to consider the bill Clause by Clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 - A motion by Mr. Burnham for the substitution of the name "Rodway" for the name "Case" was negatived. Clause 1 was then passed as printed..

Clause 2 - was passed as printed.

Clause 3 - A motion by Mr. Burnham for the substitution of the name "James Alwyn Rodway" for the name "Frederick Walter Eleazar Case" was negatived. Clause 3 was then passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION WITH RESPECT TO THE PENSIONABLE SERVICE OF FREDERICK WALTER ELEAZAR CASE was read the third time and passed as printed.

Item 7 - WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1964
B1 No. 13/1964 (L.A.)

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION ORDINANCE BY MAKING PROVISION FOR THE INCREASE OF PENSIONS REGISTERED ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1958, OF PENSIONS REGISTERED SUBSEQUENT TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1958, IN RESPECT OF MARRIED OFFICERS WHO ON THAT DATE WERE AWAITING MEDICAL EXAMINATION, AND OF PENSIONS IN PAYMENT ON THAT DATE.. was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 8 - LI UOR LICENSING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964 -
Bill No. 14/1964 (L.A.)

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LIQUOR LICENSING ORDINANCE was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Item 9 - LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964 -
Bill No. 15/1964 (L.A.)

At the request of the Attorney-General, consideration of this Bill was deferred.

DISTURBANCES IN BRITISH GUIANA

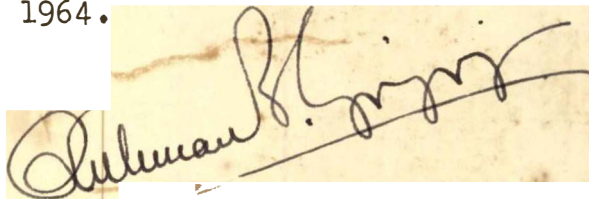
Before the adjournment, His Honour the Speaker referred to the present disturbances in the Colony and, on his invitation, the leaders of the three Political Parties in the Assembly were also allowed to refer to the situation.

Dr. Jagan, Mr. Burnham and Mr. Cheeks (in the absence of Mr. d'Aguiar) spoke.

After a further appeal was made by His Honour, the representatives of the three Parties agreed to appeal to the people of the country to cease those senseless actions and the Premier intimated that Members of the Assembly would be asked to meet informally to discuss further the situation with a view to bringing an end to the disturbances and also achieving a consensus.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.23 p.m. on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 2nd of June, 1964.



Speaker

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

28th May, 1964.