

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION

1954 - 1955

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution)(Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

WEDNESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1955.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, O.B.E.  
The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. F.W. Holder, C.M.G., Q.C.  
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. W.O. Fraser, O.B.E.

Nominated Members of Executive Council

The Honourable Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.  
(Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines).  
The Honourable P.A. Cummings  
(Member for Labour, Health and Housing).  
The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall  
(Member for Communications and Works).  
The Honourable G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E.  
(Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and  
Co-operative Development).

The Honourable G.H. Smellie

Deputy Speaker

Mr. W.J. Raatgever, C.B.E.

Nominated Officials

Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.  
Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. T. Lee  
Mr. W.A. Phang  
Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.  
Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.  
Mr. C.A. Carter  
Mr. E.F. Correia  
Rev. D.C.J. Bobb  
Mr. H. Rahaman  
Miss Gertie H. Collins  
Mrs. Esther E. Dey  
Dr. H.A. Fraser  
Lt. Col. E.J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D.  
Mr. R.B. Jailal  
Mr. Sugrim Singh

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

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

Absent

The Honourable R.B. Gajraj - on leave.  
The Honourable R.C. Tello - on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, the 15th of March, 1955, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leave

The Speaker announced that Mr. Tello had been granted leave from the 16th to the 21st of March, 1955, inclusive.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The following documents were laid on the table:-

(i) By the Financial Secretary:

The Report of the Trade Commissioner in the United Kingdom for the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras for the period 1st July, 1954 to 31st December, 1954.  
(IC. 121/2/2 II).

(ii) By the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines:

The Annual Report and Financial Statement of the East Demerara Water Conservancy Board for the year ended 31st December, 1954.  
(DI. 172/3 II).

INACCURATE PRESS REPORT

Before the Order of the Day was proceeded with, Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines) was granted leave to refer to an erroneous report in that day's issue of the Daily Argosy of certain remarks made by him the previous day in Council on the motion concerning Federation.

Sir Frank read the relevant extract from the report in the Daily Argosy and explained what had actually been said by him, which was supported by Mr. Sugrim Singh.

Sir Frank pointed out that the report was inaccurate and misleading and asked that steps be taken to have it corrected in the following day's issue of that newspaper.

The Speaker remarked that it was not the first time that Members had complained about inaccurate reports of the proceedings of the Council appearing in the Press, and intimated that he would instruct the Clerk to call the attention of the proprietors and The Editor of the Daily Argosy to the erroneous column.

The Speaker also emphasised the urgent necessity of having accurate reporting of the Council's proceedings in the Hansard and hoped that this matter would also be remedied.

ORDER OF THE DAY  
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS

With the consent of Council consideration of Items 1 to 5 in the Order of the Day was deferred.

MOTION BY THE MEMBER FOR LABOUR, HEALTH AND HOUSING FOR CONTINUING IN FORCE PART IX OF THE HOUSING ORDINANCE, 1946 (NO. 24 OF 1946) FOR ONE YEAR WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST APRIL, 1955.

With Council's consent and on a motion by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, the following Resolution was carried:

RESOLVED, That Part IX of the Housing Ordinance, 1946 (No. 24 of 1946) shall continue in force for a further period of one year from the 1st of April, 1955.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION BY REV. BOBB CONCERNING "FEDERATION".

Council resumed the debate on the following motion:-

That this Council, having noted the steps which are being taken by other Caribbean Governments and by Her Majesty's Government towards the creation of a British Caribbean Federation and the statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies in Parliament to the effect that the constitutional instruments will provide that British Guiana and other territories which might care to do so will be quite free to join the Federation, is of the opinion that British Guiana should join the Federation and that the question of this country's participation therein should be re-examined.

This Council further prays His Excellency the Governor to take such steps as he may deem fit to keep British Guiana in close touch with the action now proceeding towards the setting up of the Federation and to ascertain the state of public opinion in this country towards participation in the Federation.

Mr. Sugrim Singh concluded his speech. He was followed by Sir Frank McDavid, Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, who was speaking to the motion when the hour of adjournment was reached.

In order to expedite the business of the Council, Members agreed to sit the following day from 2.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. with a short interval of half-an-hour for tea.

.. /ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to  
2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 17th of March, 1955.

Confirmed,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric Storer Balfour". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Speaker..

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
British Guiana.

17th March, 1955.