

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION

1954 - 1955

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a meeting of the Legislative

Order in Council, 1953, held in the Chamber of the  
Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown,  
Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

WEDNESDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1955.

PRESENT:

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

Ex-Officio Members

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  
The Honourable R.B. Gajraj  
The Honourable R.C. Tello

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 the Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, O.B.E. -  
Indisposed.  
Mr. W.J. Raatgever, C.B.E., Deputy Speaker - Indisposed.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, the 22nd of March, 1955, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker announced that the Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, O.B.E. and the Deputy Speaker, Mr. W.J. Raatgever, C.B.E. were unable to be present at that day's meeting through indisposition.

INACCURATE PRESS REPORTS

Before the Order of the Day was proceeded with, Mr. Correia was granted leave to draw Council's attention to an inaccurate 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.

Mr. Cummings also observed that there were inaccuracies in the report of his speech.

EAST COAST ROAD

Dr. Fraser was granted leave to draw attention to the deplorable condition of the East Coast road and to ask that early steps be taken to repair the road.

Mr. Sugrim Singh and Mr. Jailal supported Dr. Fraser.

The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall (Member for Communications and Works) intimated that everything possible was being done to improve the condition of the road.

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.

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

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.

The following members spoke to the motion:-

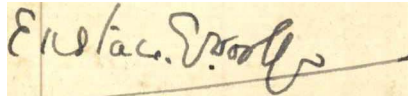
Mr. W.O. Fraser, Financial Secretary  
Mr. W.O.R. Kendall, Member for Communications  
and Works.

Mr. Ramphal was speaking o the motion when the hour of adjournment was reache .

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.05 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 24th of March, 1955.

Con irmed,



S eaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
British Guiana.

24th March, 1955.