

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Constituted under the British Guiana  
(Constitution) (Temporary Provisions)  
Order in Council, 1953)

FRIDAY, 9TH JULY, 1954

The Council met at 2 p.m., the  
Deputy Speaker, Mr. W. J. Raatgever,  
C.B.E., in the Chair.

## PRESENT :

The Deputy Speaker, Mr. W. J.  
Raatgever, C.B.E.

### *Ex-Officio Members:—*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Mr.  
John Gutch, C.M.G., O.B.E.

The hon. the Attorney-General,  
Mr. G. M. Farnum (Acting).

The Hon. the Financial Secretary,  
Mr. W. O. Fraser, O.B.E.

### *Nominated Members of Executive Council:—*

The Hon. Sir Frank McDavid,  
C.M.G., C.B.E. (Member for Agriculture,  
Forests, Lands and Mines).

The Hon. P. A. Cummings (Member  
for Labour, Health and Housing).

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum, O.B.E.  
(Member for Local Government, Social  
Welfare and Co-operative Development).

The Hon. G. H. Smellie.

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj.

The Hon. R. C. Tello,

### *Nominated Officials:—*

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

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

### *Nominated Unofficials:—*

Mr. W. A. Phang.

Mr. L. A. Luckhoo, Q.C.

Mr. C. A. Carter.

Mr. E. F. Correia.

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb.

Mr. H. Rahaman.

Miss Gertrude 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. H. H. Tross (acting).

### *Absent:—*

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

The Hon. W. O. R. Kendall (Member  
for Communications and Works).  
—on leave.

Mr. T. Lee.

Mr. W. A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.  
—on leave.

The Deputy Speaker read prayers.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, the 17th of June, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

**The Deputy Speaker:** I have to announce that His Honour the Speaker has been granted leave to Tuesday, the 13th of July, inclusive. Mr. Macnie has informed me that he regrets he is unable to attend today's meeting and I have granted him leave to be absent today.

## REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The following documents were laid on the table—

The Report of the Trustees of the Mitchell Trust Fund for the year 1953 together with the financial statements and the Director of Audit's certificate thereon.—**The Chief Secretary** (Mr. Gutch).

Proclamation No. 8 of 1954 made by His Excellency the Governor under Section 126 (1) of the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Ordinance, Chapter 13, with effect from the 18th of June, 1954, and gazetted on the 19th of June, 1954.—**The Attorney-General** (Mr. Farnum).

Reports (3) of the Georgetown Planning Commissioners for the period 1st February, 1952 to 31st January, 1954, together with the Director of Audit's certificate thereon.

The Annual Report of the Government Analyst for the year 1953.—**The Member for Labour, Health and Housing** (Mr. Cummings).

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Notice was given of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills—

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to make a special provision in regard to the Pension and Gratuity payable to Edward Arden Carter."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Teachers' Pension Ordinance with respect to the Teachers' Pension Register."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to regulate and control the collection of money or the sale of articles for charitable or other purposes from house to house and in public places."

"A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Explosives Ordinance to regulate the sale, purchase and possession of explosives."—**The Chief Secretary**.

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Legal Practitioners Ordinance."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the law with respect to the Administration of Criminal Justice and otherwise to amend the Criminal Law."—**The Attorney-General**.

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Cinematograph Ordinance with respect to the granting of licences."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Holidays with Pay Ordinance, 1952, with respect to the procedure for making orders under section three thereof."—**The Member for Labour, Health and Housing**. (Mr. Cummings).

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 1948, to provide for the minimum number of persons capable of registration."—**The Member for Local Government and Co-operative Development**. (Mr. Farnum).

**Mr. Farnum:** I also give notice that I shall ask, with the consent of the Council, to withdraw Item 4 on the Order of the Day, as the Bill I have just given notice of introduction and first reading is substituted for that one.

### ORDER OF THE DAY

#### INDIAN LABOUR (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Mr. Farnum:** I do not propose to proceed today with the first reading of this Bill intituled—

"An Ordinance further to amend the Indian Labour Ordinance"

for the reason that a notice, dated 26th June, 1954, has been published in the *Gazette* of the 3rd of July, 1954, (Notice No. 1,047) inviting all persons interested in the Bill to submit their comments within one month of the date of the notice. There are quite a number of persons objecting to certain terms and, I think, it is only right that we should allow them full opportunity to submit their comments to Government. Consequently I am asking the consent of Council to allow me not to proceed with this Bill today.

First reading of Bill deferred.

WELCOME TO DEPUTY SPEAKER

**Mr. Cummings :** I crave your leave, as I should have done this before the Order of the Day, to welcome you, sir, on this the first occasion on which you are presiding at a meeting of this Council. I feel sure I express the feelings of the entire Council when I say that the business of this Council will be conducted with dignity and despatch.

**Mr. Ramphal :** May I associate myself with the hon. Member who has just spoken. I think I speak for the ordinary Members of the Council. I personally will miss you from my left, as you have been a great source of inspiration to me from time to time, let alone the bits of perspiration I endure holding you down from time to time. I think, what is an addition to the Chair is a loss to the rest of the Council. I feel sure that your voice we will miss on this side of the Council and, like the last speaker, I feel sure you will adorn the Speaker's Chair and we will give you on our part every support possible.

**The Chief Secretary :** On behalf of the Official Members I should also like to add words of welcome to those already spoken. It has been a very great pleasure to us that you should

have this opportunity of presiding as Deputy Speaker over us, and I hope you will be in that Chair on a number of future occasions. I should like to congratulate you on the very business-like way on which you entered on your duty.

**Mrs. Dey :** I would be amiss if I do not speak on behalf of my friend on the other side and myself, as the only two ladies in the Council. Perhaps, your being in the Chair has brought me some luck. I have not to ask your permission to sit and address the Council, as you see, and I have no intention to take any of the prerogatives of the Chair away from you.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Members, this is a very pleasant surprise, and I do appreciate it very much. I do appreciate also the kind remarks made by hon. Members, and I wish to say "Thank you" in reply.

MORAVIAN CHURCH (INCORPORATION)  
BILL WITHDRAWN

The next item on the Order Paper was a motion (by Mr. Lee) for the first reading of a Bill intituled—

"An Ordinance to incorporate the British Guiana Conference of the Moravian Church and to vest therein all property in the Colony of British Guiana now held and which may hereafter be acquired by any person or by any association, society or other body of persons on behalf of or for the use or benefit of the British Guiana Conference of the Moravian Church in the Colony and to make provision for the administration thereof."

**Mr. Phang :** The Member responsible for this Bill (Mr. Lee) has notified the Speaker that he has been requested by the promoters to withdraw it, but he is unable to be present here today. He has therefore requested me to ask leave on his behalf

[Mr. Phang]

to withdraw the Bill, and I do so accordingly.

Withdrawal agreed to.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Leave has been granted to withdraw the Bill. I think it is a good idea on the part of the mover to withdraw it, because it is something that would have brought some controversy in this Council. There are two factions involved, and they both feel that they are right. I, personally, told them that they should go and settle their differences and, that having done so, they could come back here and amend the law in the manner they like.

#### DIocese OF GUIANA BILL, 1954.

**Col. Haywood:** I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intituled—

“An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Diocese of Guiana.”

**Mrs. Dey** seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

#### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL WITHDRAWN

The next item on the Order Paper was a motion (by the **Chief Secretary**) for the second reading of the Bill intituled—

“An Ordinance to amend the Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 1948, to provide for the minimum number of persons capable of registration and for the compulsory sale of produce through a registered society in certain cases.”

**Mr. Speaker:** This Bill has been withdrawn.

Withdrawal agreed to.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT (LOTS NOS. 67—74 COUNTRY DISTRICT) BILL, 1954.

Council resumed consideration in Committee of the Bill intituled—

“An Ordinance to amend the Local Government Board Notice No. 1,954, dated 5th December, 1949, appearing in the Gazette of 10th December, 1949 and for purposes connected therewith.”

**Mr. Farnum:** This Bill was left in Committee for the reason that the hon. Member, Mr. Lee, had asked whether we could give the assurance that no transport passed between the 10th December, 1949 and the day on which this Bill was put before the Council was affected by the typographical error which was made in the Schedule to a notice in the Gazette and relating to the description of the Northern boundary of an area of land in the country of Berbice which was declared a Country District to be known as “Lots 67-74 Country District”. It will be remembered that the object of this Bill was really to amend that typographical error, the number “61” being printed for the number “67” in the description of the Northern boundary of the district.

The Bill was left in the Committee stage because Mr. Lee asked whether we could say that no transport had been passed in the meantime carrying the wrong description. I could not answer the question then, but I am in a position to do so now. All the transports passed since the notice was published in the *Gazette* on the 10th December, 1949, carried the correct description of the area—“Lots 67-74” Country District—so that the typographical error—“61-74”—which is referred to in the Bill, does not affect the transports already passed.

**The Deputy Speaker :** Are you ready to proceed with the Bill, clause by clause, now?

**Mr. Farnum:** Yes, Sir.

Bill considered in Committee. clause by clause, without amendment.

Council resumed.

**Mr. Farnum :** With the permission of the Council, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed.

**Mr. Smellie** seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS

**The Deputy Speaker :** This concludes the business of the day. It has

been a very short meeting. I suppose the members responsible for this took pity on me and gave me a short agenda as it is my first meeting. Before adjourning, I would like to ask hon. members to remain seated after we adjourn because I would like to have a short discussion with them.

The Financial Secretary has also intimated to me that he would like to have a meeting of the Finance Committee this afternoon, if hon. Members have no objection. Council now stands adjourned until Thursday next, July 15, at 2 p.m.