

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

[VOLUME 1]

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIRST
LEGISLATURE CONSTITUTED UNDER THE BRITISH GUIANA
(CONSTITUTION) ORDER IN COUNCIL, 1961

6th Sitting

Thursday, 21st December, 1961

SENATE

The Honourable Senate met at 9.00 a.m.

Prayers

[The Vice-President in the Chair]

Present:

Appointed under Article 47 (2) (a):

Senator, the Honourable H. J. M. Hubbard, Minister of Trade and Industry
Senator the Honourable C. V. Nunes, Minister of Education and Social
Development

Senator C. V. Christian

Senator M. Khan

Senator C. S. Persaud

Senator H. Thomas

Appointed under Article 47 (2) (b):

Senator Anne Jardim

Appointed under Article 47 (2) (c):

Senator C. V. Too-Chung, Vice-President.

Mr. I. Crum Ewing — Clerk of the Legislature

Mr. E. V. Viapree — Assistant Clerk of the Legislature.

ABSENT:

His Honour the President, Senator Ashton Chase — on leave

Senator Christina Ramjattan — on leave

Senator A. G. Tasker, O.B.E. — on leave.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

The Vice-President (Senator Too-Chung): I have a letter from the President, Senator Ashton Chase, asking to be excused from today's sitting; also a letter from Senator Ramjattan asking to be excused from today's sitting; and Senator Tasker has asked to be given leave to the middle of January.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following Papers were presented:

- (i) Order No. 72 of 1961 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 7th day of November, 1961, and published in the Gazette on the 18th day of November, 1961.
- (ii) Order No. 74 of 1961 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 22nd day of November, 1961, and published in the Gazette on the 2nd of December, 1961.
- (iii) Annual Report of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year 1960.
- (iv) Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1961.
- (v) Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1961.

[Senator Hubbard, Minister of Trade and Industry].

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Senator Hubbard (Minister of Trade and Industry): Your Honour, while we were debating the Financial Administration and Audit Bill, 1961, you raised a question regarding the authority of the Director of Audit in regard to private documents, and I undertook to have the matter clarified

and to inform you of the position. I am now ready to do so. The position is as follows:

Section 23 (2) of the 1961 Bill states —

“The Director of Audit may authorise any officer of his department to perform on his behalf any of his duties or functions under this Ordinance or any other Ordinance other than the certifying and reporting of accounts for the Legislature.”

The present position is outlined in the Audit Department Ordinance, Chapter 69, which states (Section 6) —

“Any of the powers of the Director of Audit for securing a proper audit may be exercised by any officer or clerk authorised by him in that behalf in writing or by any person approved by the Governor.”

It follows therefore that the proposed Bill contemplates no widening of the power in this respect. Indeed, if anything, the provision in the new Ordinance is more restrictive — the functions of the Director of Audit may be delegated to officers of his department.

It is clear, on examination of the two sections, that the new legislation does not merely re-enact the section giving powers to the Director of Audit. Indeed, it restricts those powers since the Director of Audit could now only delegate his powers to an officer of the Department; whereas the old legislation allowed those powers to be delegated to any person approved by the Governor.

The Vice-President: Thank you for your explanation.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ORDER IN COUNCIL No. 72 OF 1961

Senator Hubbard: Your Honour, I beg to move:

“That this Senate in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order No. 72 of 1961

which was made on the 7th day of November, 1961 and published in the Gazette on the 18th day of November, 1961."

Order No. 72 is the legislative provision to give effect to an international convention dealing with tourists to provide that they should have the right to bring in motor vehicles on a temporary basis and prescribe what they could bring in by way of baggage and the like. This is a provision which has been brought into effect in many lands and this Order is intended merely to bring us up-to-date in this connection.

The Vice-President: Are they permitted to bring in motor vehicles?

Senator Hubbard: On a temporary basis. [*Pause.*] No, sir, I am mistaken.

The Vice-President: Except you want to say that it comes under "sport".

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion affirmed.

ORDER IN COUNCIL NO. 74 OF 1961

TAXATION CONCESSION TO TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Senator Hubbard: Your Honour, it is considered desirable that certain taxation concessions should be given in respect of the textile manufacturing industry, an industry which has not yet been set up but which we hope will be set up in due course, to provide free entry of certain raw materials when they come from preferential sources and at a reduced rate of duty when they come from foreign sources; and to give effect, I beg to move

"That this Senate in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order No. 74 of 1961 which was made on the 22nd day of November, 1961 and published in the Gazette on the 2nd day of December, 1961."

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion affirmed.

CONTINUANCE OF RENT RESTRICTION ORDINANCE

Senator Nunes (Minister of Education and Social Development): Your Honour, in moving the Motion standing in my name, I should like to report that an acute housing shortage still exists in this country, and Government has found it necessary, therefore, to continue its protection of tenants in buildings and on house lots throughout the country. I, therefore, formally move that

"Whereas the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186, came into operation on the 8th day of November, 1941;

And Whereas section 33 of the said Ordinance provides that the Ordinance shall continue in force up to and including the 31st day of December, 1951, but that, prior to the expiration thereof, the Legislative Council may, by resolution published in the Gazette, declare that the said Ordinance shall continue in operation for a further period of one year, and that thereafter may from time to time declare that the said Ordinance shall continue in operation:

And whereas the said Ordinance has been continued in operation until the 31st December, 1961:

And Whereas it is considered expedient that the said Ordinance shall be continued in operation for a further period of one year:

Now, therefore, be it resolved: That the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186, shall continue in force for a period of one year up to and including the 31st day of December, 1962."

9.15 a.m.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion affirmed.

ADJOURNMENT AND SEASON'S GREETINGS

Senator Hubbard: I beg to move that the Senate do now adjourn to a date to be fixed. But before you quit the

[SENATOR HUBBARD]

House, sir, I crave your leave to extend to you, on behalf of my fellow Senators, the season's greetings and our very best wishes for a joyous Guianese Christmas.

The Vice-President: Hon. Minister of Trade and Industry, I thank you for your greetings and I heartily reciprocate your good wishes, not only to you but to the other Members of the Senate.

I hope that you will all enjoy this Christmas with your families. I have received, and I believe all of you have received, a card from His Excellency the Governor, and he also sends his good wishes to this Senate.

I declare the Senate duly adjourned to a date to be fixed.

The Senate adjourned accordingly at 9.18 a.m.