

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECOND SESSION

1962 — 1963

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 38th 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 1.30 p.m.

on

TUESDAY, 21ST MAY, 1963.

Present

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R. B. Gajraj.

(a) *Members of the Government*

People's Progressive Party

(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, Jnr.

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. L. E. M. Mann,

Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Social Development.

Mr. S. M. Saffee,
Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Lands.

(iii) Other Members

Mr. M. Bhagwan
Mr. J. B. Caldeira
Mr. V. Downer
Mr. M. Hamid
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. S. Campbell
Mr. R. E. Cheeks
Mr. E. E. Melville

(iii) Independent

Mr. B. S. Rai

Clerk of the Legislature – Mr. E. V. Viapree (Ag.)
Senior Clerk – Mr. B. M. Viapree.

Absent

Mr. G. L. Robertson

Prayers

The Clerk read prayers.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

Item 1 — MOTION RE CONTINUATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

The Assembly resumed the debate on the following motion:

WHEREAS on the 8th day of May, 1963, Proclamation No. 2 of 1963 was made by the Governor declaring a public emergency for the purposes of article 14 of the Constitution of British Guiana:

AND WHEREAS the said Proclamation was laid before both Chambers of the Legislature in pursuance of the provisions of sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (3) of the said articles:

AND WHEREAS the said Proclamation shall be of effect for fourteen days beginning on the 8th day of May, 1963, in terms of paragraph (b) of the said article unless the Legislature resolves that it shall be of effect for a further period not exceeding three months from the date on which it would otherwise expire.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Proclamation No. 2 of 1963 made on the 8th day of May, 1963, do continue in force until the 15th day of August, 1963, unless sooner revoked.

Mr. Campbell resumed his speech to the motion. At 1.45 p.m. Mr. Campbell was speaking to the motion when Mr. Burnham moved and Mr. Kendall seconded that he be granted an extension of 15 minutes in terms of Standing Order 32(10) (b). The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

FOR

Mr. Melville
Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Campbell
Mr. Wharton
Mr. Merriman
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Joaquin
Mr. Hugh
Mr. Blair
Mr. Bissember
Mr. Correia
Mr. Kendall
Mr. Burnham

AGAINST

Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Lall
Mr. Jagan
Mr. Hamid
Mr. Downer
Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Saffee
Mr. Mann
Mr. Bowman
Mr. Wilson
Dr. Ramsahoye
Dr. Jacob
Mr. Chandisingh
Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. Benn

Motion negatived.

At 3.00 p.m. Mr. **Hugh** was speaking to the motion when Mr. Correia moved and Mr. Bissember seconded that he be granted an extension of 15 minutes. The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

FOR

Mr. Rai
Mr. Melville
Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Campbell
Mr. d'Aguiar
Mr. Wharton
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Joaquin
Mr. Hugh
Mr. Blair
Mr. Bissember
Mr. Correia
Mr. Kendall
Mr. Burnham

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AGAINST

Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Lall
Mr. Jagan
Mr. Hamid
Mr. Downer
Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Saffee
Mr. Mann
Mr. Bowman
Mr. Wilson
Dr. Jacob
Mr. Chandisingh
Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. Benn
Dr. Jagan

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Motion negatived.

At 3.40 p.m. Mr. **Cheeks** was speaking to the motion when Mr. Jordan moved and Mr. Joaquin seconded that he be granted an extension of 15 minutes. The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

FOR

Mr. Rai
Mr. Melville
Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Campbell
Mr. d'Aguiar
Mr. Wharton
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Joaquin
Mr. Hugh
Mr. Blair
Mr. Bissember
Mr. Correia
Mr. Carter
Mr. Kendall
Mr. Burnham

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AGAINST

Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Lall
Mr. Jagan
Mr. Hamid
Mr. Downer
Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Saffee
Mr. Mann
Mr. Bowman
Mr. Wilson
Dr. Ramsahoye
Dr. Jacob
Mr. Chandisingh
Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. Benn
Dr. Jagan

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Motion negatived.

Suspension of Sitting

At 4.00 p.m. Mr. Jordan was speaking to the motion when the sitting was suspended for tea.

Resumption of Sitting.

At 4.50 p.m. the sitting was resumed, Mr. Jordan continued his speech.

At 5.05 p.m. Mr. Joaquin moved and Mr. Hugh seconded that he be granted an extension of 15 minutes. The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

<i>FOR</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>
Mr. Melville	Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Lall
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Jagan
Mr. d'Aguiar	Mr. Hamid
Mr. Wharton	Mr. Downer
Mr. Merriman	Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Jordan	Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Joaquin	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Hugh	Mr. Mann
Mr. Blair	Mr. Bowman
Mr. Bissember	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Correia	Dr. Ramsahoye
Mr. Carter	Dr. Jacob
Mr. Kendall	Mr. Chandisingh
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ram Karran
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Jagan
15	17

Motion negatived.

At 5.40 p.m. Mr. Bissember was speaking to the motion when Mr. Joaquin moved and Mr. Cheeks seconded that he be granted an extension of 15 minutes. The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

<i>FOR</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>
Mr. Melville	Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Lall
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Jagan
Mr. d'Aguiar	Mr. Hamid
Mr. Wharton	Mr. Downer
Mr. Merriman	Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Jordan	Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Joaquin	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Hugh	Mr. Mann

Mr. Blair
 Mr. Bissember
 Mr. Correia
 Mr. Carter
 Mr. Kendall
 Mr. Burnham

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Mr. Bowman
 Mr. Wilson
 Dr. Ramsahoye
 Dr. Jacob
 Mr. Chandisingh
 Mr. Ram Karran
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Jagan

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Motion negatived.

At 6.20 p.m. Mr. Correia was speaking to the motion when Mr. Merriman moved and Mr. Blair seconded that he be granted an extension of 15 minutes. The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

FOR

Mr. Melville
 Mr. Cheeks
 Mr. Campbell
 Mr. d'Aguiar
 Mr. Wharton
 Mr. Merriman
 Mr. Jordan
 Mr. Joaquin
 Mr. Hugh
 Mr. Blair
 Mr. Bissember
 Mr. Correia
 Mr. Carter
 Mr. Burnham

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AGAINST

Mr. Shako or
 Mr. Lall
 Mr. Jagan
 Mr. Hamid
 Mr. Downer
 Mr. Caldeira
 Mr. Bhagwan
 Mr. Saffee
 Mr. Mann
 Mr. Bowman
 Mr. Wilson
 Dr. Ramsahoye
 Dr. Jacob
 Mr. Chandisingh
 Mr. Ram Karran
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Jagan

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Motion negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.30 p.m. Mr. Wharton was speaking to the motion when the sitting was adjourned to 8.00 p.m.

Resumption of Sitting

At 8.25 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

At 8.50 p.m. Mr. Wharton was speaking to the motion when Mr. Jordan moved and

Mr. Merriman seconded that he be granted an extension of 15 minutes. The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

FOR

Mr. Melville
 Mr. Cheeks
 Mr. Campbell
 Mr. d'Aguiar
 Mr. Wharton
 Mr. Merriman
 Mr. Jordan
 Mr. Joaquin
 Mr. Hugh
 Mr. Blair
 Mr. Bissember
 Mr. Correia
 Mr. Carter
 Mr. Kendall
 Mr. Burnham

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AGAINST

Mr. Shakoor
 Mr. Lall
 Mr. Jagan
 Mr. Hamid
 Mr. Downer
 Mr. Caldeira
 Mr. Bhagwan
 Mr. Saffee
 Mr. Mann
 Mr. Bowman
 Mr. Wilson
 Dr. Ramsahoye
 Dr. Jacob
 Mr. Chandisingh
 Mr. Ram Karan
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Jagan

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Motion negatived.

At 8.55 p.m. **Mr. Burnham** in terms of Standing Order 9(2) moved that the business under discussion be interrupted but **His Honour the Speaker** ruled that there was no other business on the Order Paper and therefore the debate on the motion should be continued.

At 9.25 p.m. **Mr. Joaquin** was speaking to the motion when Mr. d'Aguiar moved and Mr. Jordan seconded that he be granted an extension of 15 minutes. The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

FOR

Mr. Rai
 Mr. Melville
 Mr. Cheeks
 Mr. Campbell
 Mr. d'Aguiar
 Mr. Wharton
 Mr. Merriman
 Mr. Jordan
 Mr. Joaquin
 Mr. Hugh
 Mr. Blair
 Mr. Bissember
 Mr. Correia
 Mr. Carter

AGAINST

Mr. Shakoor
 Mr. Lall
 Mr. Jagan
 Mr. Hamid
 Mr. Downer
 Mr. Caldeira
 Mr. Bhagwan
 Mr. Saffee
 Mr. Mann
 Mr. Bowman
 Mr. Wilson
 Dr. Ramsahoye
 Dr. Jacob
 Mr. Chandisingh

Mr. Kendall
Mr. Burnham
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Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. Benn
Dr. Jagan
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Motion negatived.

(1) Closure of Debate

At this stage, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands moved in terms of Standing Order 38 "That the question be now put" but His Honour the Speaker disallowed the motion on the ground that, during the tea interval, it was agreed by the Parties that the debate should continue until midnight, if necessary, and also that a few other Members of the Opposition had expressed their desire to speak to the motion for which there was still time available.

At 9.35 p.m. Mr. Blair began his speech to the motion.

Motion Re-Continuation of Sitting.

At 9.55 p.m. the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands moved the suspension of the Standing Orders in order to move a motion for the continuation of the sitting after 10 o'clock in terms of Standing Order 9(1). The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

FOR

Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Lall
Mr. Jagan
Mr. Hamid
Mr. Downer
Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Saffee
Mr. Mann
Mr. Bowman
Mr. Wilson
— Dr. Ramsahoye
Dr. Jacob
Mr. Chandisingh
Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. Benn
Dr. Jagan

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AGAINST

Mr. Rai
Mr. Melville
Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Campbell
Mr. d'Aguiar
Mr. Wharton
Mr. Merriman
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Joaquin
Mr. Hugh
Mr. Blair
— Mr. Bissember
Mr. Correia
Mr. Carter
Mr. Kendall
Mr. Burnham
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Motion carried

Thereafter, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands moved that the sitting do continue until midnight unless the debate on the motion then before the

Assembly was sooner concluded. The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

<i>FOR</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>
Mr. Rai	Mr. Melville
Mr. Shakoor	Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Lall	Mr. Campbell
Mr. Jagan	Mr. d'Aguiar
Mr. Hamid	Mr. Wharton
Mr. Downer	Mr. Merriman
Mr. Caldeira	Mr. Jordan
Mr. Bhagwan	Mr. Joaquin
Mr. Saffee	Mr. Hugh
Mr. Mann	Mr. Blair
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Bissember
Mr. Wilson	Mr. Correia
Dr. Ramsahoye	Mr. Carter
Dr. Jacob	Mr. Kendall
Mr. Chandisingh	Mr. Burnham
Mr. Ram Karran	15
Mr. Benn	
Dr. Jagan	

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Motion carried.

At 10.05 p.m. Mr. Blair resumed his speech and at 10.00 p.m. Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Wharton seconded that he be granted an extension of 15 minutes. The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

<i>FOR</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>
Mr. Melville	Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Lall
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Jagan
Mr. d'Aguiar	Mr. Hamid
Mr. Wharton	Mr. Downer
Mr. Merriman	Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Jordan	Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Joaquin	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Hugh	Mr. Mann
Mr. Blair	Mr. Bowman
Mr. Bissember	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Correia	Dr. Ramsahoye
Mr. Carter	Dr. Jacob
Mr. Kendall	Mr. Chandisingh
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ram Karran
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Jagan

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Motion negatived.

At 10.50 p.m. **Mr. Burnham** was speaking to the motion when Mr. Bissember moved and Mr. Jordan seconded that he be granted an extension of 15 minutes. The Assembly divided and voted as follows:—

<i>FOR</i>	<i>AGAINST</i>
Mr. Rai	Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Melville	Mr. Lall
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Jagan
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Hamid
Mr. d'Aguiar	Mr. Downer
Mr. Wharton	Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Merriman	Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Jordan	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Joaquin	Mr. Mann
Mr. Hugh	Mr. Bowman
Mr. Blair	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Bissember	Dr. Ramsahoye
Mr. Correia	Dr. Jacob
Mr. Carter	Mr. Chandisingh
Mr. Kendall	Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Benn
16	Dr. Jagan
	17

*Motion negatived.**Closure of Debate*

At 11.25 p.m. **Mr. Melville** was speaking to the motion when the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands again moved in terms of Standing Order 38 "That the question be now put" but the Speaker disallowed the motion in order to give Mr. Kendall an opportunity of speaking to the original motion.

At 11.45 p.m. Mr. Kendall moved and Mr. Carter seconded the following amendment to the motion:—

The deletion of the words and figures "the 15th day of August, 1963," and the substitution therefor of the following words and figures "the 22nd day of May, 1963," in the third line of the Resolve Clause.

(3) Closure of Debate.

At this stage, **the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands** again moved in terms of Standing Order 38 "That the question be now put."

At 11.55 p.m. the Speaker ruled that Members were entitled to debate the motion on the amendment and thereupon Mr. Burnham rose to speak on the amendment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12.00 midnight Mr. Burnham was speaking to the motion on the amendment when on a motion by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 24th of May, 1963.

Rahman B. Gajraj,
Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.
Georgetown,
23rd May, 1963.