

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the Fourth Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana at its Fourth Session, 1951, held at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, on

FRIDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 1951,

AT 2 P.M.

PRESENT:

The President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Campbell Woolley, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.  
The Honourable the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. Gutch, O.B.E.  
" " the Acting Attorney General, Mr. A.C. Brazao  
" " the Acting Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. W.O. Fraser  
" " C.V. Wight, C.B.E. (Western Essequibo)  
" " Dr. J.B. Singh O.B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo)  
" " Dr. J.A. Nicholson (Georgetown North)  
" " W.J. Raastgever (Nominated)  
" " V. Roth, O.B.E. (Nominated)  
" " C.P. Ferreira (Berbice River)  
" " T.T. Thomson (Nominated)  
" " G.A.C. Farnum, C.B.E. (Nominated)  
" " D.P. Debidin (Eastern Demerara)  
" " J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central)  
" " W.C.R. Kendall (New Amsterdam)  
" " A.T. Peters (Western Berbice)  
" " W.A. Phang (North Western District)  
" " G.H. Smellie (Nominated)  
" " J. Carter (Georgetown South)  
" " L.A. Luckhoo (Nominated)  
" " W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E. (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 16th of November, 1951, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Appointment of Select Committee to consider the Summary Jurisdiction Offences Bill, 1951.

In pursuance of Council's proposal on the 15th of November for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Bill, 1951, for controlling the use of loud speakers at public meetings, His Excellency informed Council that the personnel of the Committee would be -

The Attorney General (Acting), Chairman  
Mr. D.F. Debidin  
Mr. J. Fernandes  
Mr. G.H. Smellie  
Mr. J. Carter.

BUDGET 1952

The Financial Secretary and Treasurer informed Members that he would present the Budget Statement and the draft Estimates of Expenditure for 1952 at the next meeting of Council to be held on Wednesday, the 28th of November, 1951.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following:-

The Parcel Postage Surface Rates (Great Britain, Northern Ireland and beyond and H.M. Forces) Regulations, No. 31 of 1951.  
(M.P. 140/7/12/2 II).

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

The Attorney General gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:-

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO VALIDATE THE FILING OF RETURNS BY CERTAIN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES, AND FURTHER TO AMEND THE LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE, 1930, BY ENACTING THE REGISTRAR TO EXTEND THE TIME WITHIN WHICH RETURNS MAY BE FILED BY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES.  
(M.P. 118/11 II).

UNOFFICIAL NOTICE

Mr. Farnum gave notice of the following motion:-

WHEREAS Ordinance No. 0 of 1951 "being an Ordinance further to amend the Tax Ordinance, 1939" was passed in the Legislative Council on the 15th of June, 1951, making provision for the granting, upon application, of licences for selling drugs and poisons under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, Chapter No. 103;

AND WHEREAS during the debate on the said Ordinance there were expressions of deep concern and sympathy for a number of persons in a particular category; to wit, those having had over 20 years experience, either as Sicknurse and Dispenser attached to estate Hospitals or who have been practising under qualified Druggists and Medical Practitioners continuously for over 20 years; since such persons might be refused a licence to sell drugs and poisons;

AND WHEREAS this class of persons number about 12 and are in charge of a d/or are proprietors of Drug Stores in various parts of the Colony and have been rendering humanitarian service to the community where their Drug Stores are situated;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Council recommend to Government the early introduction of such legislative measures as would permit the aforesaid class of persons to sell Drugs and Poisons under all of the schedules to the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, Chapter 103.

ORDER OF THE DAY

MR. DEBIDIN'S MOTION RECOMMENDING THE TRAINING OF WOMEN  
IN RURAL AREAS IN MIDWIFERY

Mr. Debidin moved and Mr. Phang seconded the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Council recommend to Government the very early establishment of facilities for the training of a sufficient number of women drawn from the rural areas of the Colony, particularly of the remote districts, in a course of midwifery, practical and theoretical with a view to their being registered as midwives;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council recommend the appointment of a Select Committee to consider all the detail involved by the aforesaid recommendation, and report thereon to this Honourable Council as early as possible.

(M.P. 71/55/1).

The Colonial Secretary explained the existing arrangements for the training of women in midwifery and after discussion it was agreed that the motion should be referred to the Legislative Council Medical Department Advisory Committee to consider whether anything more could be done than is being done at present.

MR. FERNANDES' MOTION FOR INCREASING GOODS TRANSPORTATION  
LICENCES IN THE GEORGETOWN ROSICNOL AREA.

Mr. Fernandes moved and Mr. Luckhoo seconded the following motion:-

WHEREAS there is considerable increase in the production of rice in the area between the Demerara and Berbice Rivers;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council recommend to Government the early increase in the number of lorry licences issued in this area.

(M.P. 66/2 IV).

After discussion, the motion was amended to read as follows and adopted:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council recommend to Government the early increase in the number of lorry licences in the area between the Demerara and Berbice Rivers.

DR. NICHOLSON'S MOTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONTRIBUTORY PENSION SCHEME.

Dr. Nicholson moved the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Council recommends to Government the appointment of a SELECT COMMITTEE to examine the question of the institution of a Contributory Pension Scheme for the workers of this country and to make recommendations,

(M.P. 93/17/10).

In seconding the motion, Mr. Debidin stated that if the motion is accepted by the House, he would ask that his motion on the same subject should be considered by the Select Committee to be appointed.

Mr. Fernandes spoke to the motion.

When the hour of adjournment was reached, Mr. Wight was speaking to the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

The President adjourned Council to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, the 28th of November, 1951, when the Budget for 1952 will be presented.

Cc firmed,

C. Hooley.

President.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
Public Buildings,  
British Guiana.  
28th November, 1951.