

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

WEDNESDAY, 28TH 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. Raatgever (Nominated)
" " V. Roth, O.B.E. (Nominated)
" " C.P. Ferreira (Berbice River)
" " T.T. Thompson (Nominated)
" " G.C. Farnum, O.B.E. (Nominated)
" " J.P. Coghlan (Demerara River)
" " D.P. Debidin (Eastern Demerara)
" " J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central)
" " Dr. G.M. Gonsalves (Eastern Berbice)
" " W.O.R. Kendall (New Amsterdam)
" " A.T. Peters (Western Berbice)
" " W.A. Phang (North Western District)
" " G.H. Smellie (Nominated)
" " J. Carter (Georgetown South)
" " 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 23rd of November, 1951, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The Colonial Secretary laid on the table the following:-

- ✓ (a) The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the grant of holidays with pay. (M.P. 56/34).
- ✓ (b) Building Statistics in British Guiana, for the half year ended the 30th of June, 1951. (M.P. 259/1/3/3 VI).
- ✓ (c) Decision of the Governor in Council on the petition laid in the Legislative Council on the 4th of July by the Honourable C.V. Wight on behalf of Frederick Alexander Millard, formerly employed as a Dredging Engineer in the Public Works Department, praying for a compassionate allowance. (M.P. 181/4).

The Financial Secretary and Treasurer laid on the table the following:-

The draft Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1952.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ANNUAL HOLIDAYS WITH PAY FOR WORKERS IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS.

(M.P. 56/34).

The Financial Secretary and Treasurer gave notice of the following motion:-

That, this Council approves the Estimates of Expenditure for the service of the Civil Government of the Colony for the year ending 31st December, 1952, to be defrayed from the annual revenue of the year and other resources of the Colony and from loan funds.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

Mr. Phang on behalf of Mr. Lee gave notice of the following motion:-

WHEREAS the rice growers of the Colony are dissatisfied with their representatives on the Rice Marketing Board as provided by Ordinance No. 5 of 1946;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to have true and democratic representation on the said Rice Marketing Board;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Council recommend to Government the immediate amendments to the Rice Marketing Ordinance No. 5 of 1946, the following sections:-

- (a) Section 2 by amending the definition of Rice Producer to mean only rice farmer, i.e. by deleting sub-sections (a) and (c).
- (b) Section 4(2)(b) by adding the words 'elected by the Rice Producers Council ballot, and which shall be accepted by the Governor', at the end of the said section.
- (c) Section 5(2)(d) by adding the words 'elected by ballot' after the words 'by the Board'.
- (d) By the insertion of a sub-section (6) to section 15, which should state - There shall be set up an independent Appeal Committee for determining the grades of rice sold to the Board, which shall consist of three persons nominated by the Governor who shall have all the necessary powers to carry out their functions, and whose decisions shall be final.

✓ PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Mr. Wight tabled a petition from Mrs. Bibi Bismillah Khan, wife of Mohamed Hafizullah Khan, deceased, late Class I Clerk of the Official Receiver's Office, praying for an ex gratia allowance.

✓ REQUEST BY MR. DEBIDIN FOR THE DEBATE ON FEDERATION TO BE BROADCAST

Mr. Debidin asked that arrangements be made for the debate on Federation, commencing the following day, to be broadcast over Station ZP7.

His Excellency expressed regret that the suggestion was made so late and pointed out that it raised the general question whether the proceedings of the Council could be broadcast and there might be also technical difficulties involved. His Excellency added that he would consider the suggestion but could not give an undertaking that it would be possible.

✓ DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING SHIPPING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE EXPORT OF LOCAL PRODUCE TO UNITED KINGDOM AND WEST INDIAN MARKETS

Mr. Fernandes stated that exporters were experiencing difficulty in getting their local produce, particularly forest products, shipped to the United Kingdom and also to the West Indian markets where a subsidized steamship service was operating and asked that the question of relieving the situation should be investigated.

His Excellency stated that the matter was under consideration.

ORDER OF THE DAY

BUDGET 1952

At this stage the relevant Standing Rule and Order was suspended to enable the Financial Secretary and Treasurer to proceed with the following motion standing in his name:-

That, this Council approves of the Estimates of Expenditure for the service of the Civil Government of the Colony for the year ending 31st December, 1952 to be defrayed from the annual revenue of the year and other resources of the Colony and from loan funds.

With Council's consent, the Financial Secretary and Treasurer read his Budget Statement (Sessional Paper No. 7 of 1951) and formally moved the motion which was seconded by **Dr. Singh**.

Arising out of the budget proposals, the Financial Secretary and Treasurer laid on the table the following documents, giving notice of his intention to have the Bills read the first time and with Council's consent to take the Sugar Duty (Continuance) Bill, 1951, through all stages:-

- (a) A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO CONTINUE IN OPERATION FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF ONE YEAR THE SUGAR DUTY ORDINANCE, 1942.
- (b) A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE, 1939.
- (c) A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS DUTIES ORDINANCE, 1935.

SUGAR DUTY (CONTINUANCE) BILL, 1951

With Council's consent and on motions by the Financial Secretary and Treasurer seconded by the Colonial Secretary a BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO CONTINUE IN OPERATION FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF ONE YEAR THE SUGAR DUTY ORDINANCE, 1942, was taken through all stages and passed as printed.

TAX (AMENDMENT No. 3) BILL, 1951 - First Reading.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary and Treasurer seconded by the Colonial Secretary the following Bill was read the first time:-

- . BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE, 1939.

CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT No. 4) BILL, 1951 - First Reading

On a motion by the Financial Secretary and Treasurer seconded by the Colonial Secretary the following Bill was read the first time:-

- A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS DUTIES ORDINANCE, 1935.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1952

It was agreed that the Estimates of Expenditure for 1952 should be referred to Finance Committee for consideration.

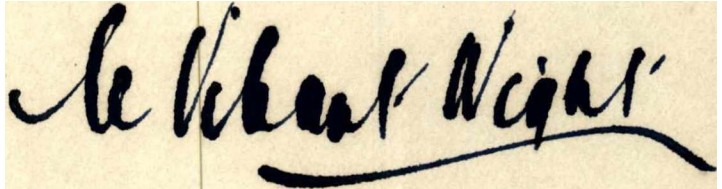
LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1951 -
First Reading

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by Mr. Wight the 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 ENABLING THE REGISTRAR TO EXTEND THE TIME WITHIN WHICH RETURNS MAY BE FILED BY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES was read the first time.

ADJOURNMENT

The President adjourned Council to the following day at 2 p.m.

Con firmed,

A rectangular photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on aged, yellowish paper. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Leikant Wright".

Deputy President.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Public Buildings,
British Guiana.
29th November, 1951.