

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the Fourth Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana at its Fourth Session, 1951-1952, held at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara, on

FRIDAY, 1ST AUGUST, 1952,

AT 2 P.M.

PRESENT:

The President, His Excellency the Governor Sir Charles Campbell Woolle, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.
The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
Mr. J. Gutch, C.M.G., O.B.E.
" " the Attorney General, Mr. F.W. Holder, Q.C.
" " the Financial Secretary and Treasurer,
Mr. E.F. McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.
" " Dr. J.A. Nicholson (Georgetown North)
" " V. Roth, O.B.E. (nominated)
" " J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central)
" " Dr. C. Jagan (Central Demerara)
" " W.O.R. Kendall (New Amsterdam)
" " A.T. Peters (Western Berbice)
" " G.H. Smellie (Nominated)
" " J. Carter (Georgetown South)
" " L.A. Luckhoo (Nominated)
" " F.E. Morrish (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 31st of July, 1952, 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 Director of Education for the year 1950-1951. (M. . 35/4 VIII).
- ✓ (b) The Report of the Essequibo Boys' School for the year 1951. (M.P. 89/4 IV).

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

- ✓ Minutes of the Meeting of Finance Committee of the Legislative Council held on the 24th of July, 1952.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Roth on behalf of Mr. Lee asked the Colonial Secretary the following questions:-

1. Will Government state whether the Local Government Board has its own Auditor to audit the Local Authorities' books?
2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government state whether it is possible to get the accounts of the Local Authorities audited by the Audit Department?
3. Will Government state how many Local and Village Authorities' accounts have been audited by the Audit Department, and if any adverse reports were made to the Local Government Board?
4. Name the Local and/or Village Authorities and lay the reports on the table, if any.

With Council's consent the following replies by the Colonial Secretary which were printed and laid were taken as read:-

1. The Local Government Board has no Auditor at the present time. Some years ago an additional post of Class I Officer was assigned to the Headquarters Staff of the Department of Local Government for the purpose of auditing the books and accounts of Local Authorities, but the pressure of work in the Department has made it impossible for an officer to remain allotted solely to those duties as intended. The current practice is for the books and accounts of the Local Authorities to be audited by the staffs of the District Commissioners in their respective districts.
2. There are ninety-one Local Authorities and the Audit Department is not in a position to take on the work of auditing their accounts without a considerable increase in staff and travelling expenses.
3. & 4. In view of the reply to Question 2, these questions do not arise.

(M.P. 31/37).

BILLS

✓ BRITISH GUIANA FILM SOCIETY (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 1952

At the request of the Attorney General the second reading of this Bill was deferred.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

On motions by the Attorney General seconded by Dr. Nicholson the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE was read the second time and thereafter was taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

* WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

On motions by the Attorney General seconded by Dr. Nicholson the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION ORDINANCE was read the second time and thereafter was taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

+ SPIRITS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

On motions by the Attorney General seconded by Dr. Nicholson the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE SPIRITS ORDINANCE was read the second time and thereafter was taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendment:-

The following new clause was inserted:-

"Commencement 4. This Ordinance shall come into operation on the first day of August, nineteen hundred and fifty-three."

x MOTION REGARDING TEACHERS' GRATUITIES

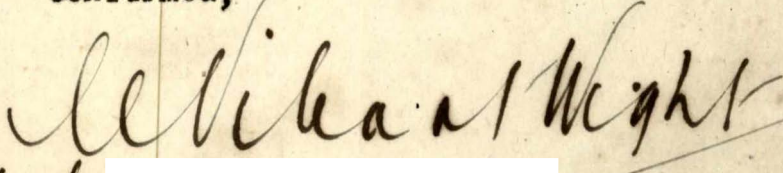
The Financial Secretary and Treasurer moved and the Colonial Secretary seconded the following motion which was unanimously adopted:-

That, this Council approves of the payment of gratuities to teachers who die whilst in the Service, on the basis and conditions set out in the Governor's Message No. 7 of the 10th of July, 1952, and undertakes to provide the necessary funds for this purpose; and further approves that this Resolution shall have effect from 1st January, 1951, in the case of the Certificated Teacher.

(M.P. 35/14/14 IV).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the President adjourned Council to 2 p.m. on Thursday, the 7th of August, 1952.

Confirmed,

Deputy President.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Public Buildings,
British Guiana.
7th August, 1952.