

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, 25TH JULY, 1952,

AT 2 P.M.

PRESENT:

The Deputy President, the Honourable C.V. Wight, C.B.E.
(in the Chair)

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,

Mr. J. Gutch, M.C., O.B.E.

The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. F.W. Holder, Q.C.
" " the Financial Secretary and Treasurer,

Mr. E.F. McDavid, M.C., C.B.E.

" " Dr. J.B. Singh, O.B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo)

" " Dr. J.A. Nicholson (Georgetown North)

" " V. Roth, O.B.E. (Nominated)

" " J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central)

" " Dr. G.M. Gonsalves (Eastern Berbice)

" " Dr. C. Jagan (Central Demerara)

" " 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)

" " L.A. Luckhoo (Nominated)

" " F.E. Morrish (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 18th
of July, 1952, as printed and circulated, were taken as
read and confirmed.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

(a) A BILL intitled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE
GAMBLING PREVENTION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 95, BY
EXEMPTING CERTAIN LOTTERIES FROM THE OPERATION
OF THE PROVISIONS THEREOF.

(M.P. 67 III).

(b) A BILL intitled AN ORDINANCE TO EXEMPT THE BRITISH
GUIANA FILM SOCIETY FROM THE PAYMENT OF ENTERTAIN-
MENT DUTY IN RESPECT OF THE EXHIBITION OF CINEMATO-
GRAPH FILMS, AND TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION WITH
RESPECT TO SUCH EXHIBITIONS.

(M.P. 166/16).

(c) A BILL intitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE WEIGHTS
AND MEASURES ORDINANCE.

(M.P. 389/2).

(d) A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND
THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION ORDINANCE.
(M.F. 134/4/II)

(e) A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND
THE SPIRITS ORDINANCE.
(M.F. C.27/22/2).

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

✓ Mr. Carter gave notice of the following motion:-

WHEREAS Cricket Clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their Budget and provide suitable amenities for their members because of financial difficulties;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council recommends that Ordinance No. 26 of 1944 be amended to give the District Commissioner power to grant twelve occasional licences in each year to any one Club.

+ ✓ Dr. Jagan gave notice of the following motion:-

WHEREAS in British Central Africa and British East Africa (Northern Rhodesia, Uganda, Tanganyika and Kenya) non-white persons are denied equal economic opportunity, effective political rights and proper social status;

AND WHEREAS these discriminatory practices are contrary to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council expresses its strong disapproval of these discriminatory practices;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Human Rights Commission for any action which may be considered appropriate with the view of inducing British Central and East African Governments to desist from their present discriminatory practices.

* ✓ Mr. Roth on behalf of Mr. Wight gave notice of the following motion:-

WHEREAS the majority of land in the Pomeroy is not held or occupied under title by transport;

AND WHEREAS the lack of such title creates difficulty in the obtaining of loans;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council recommends the appointment of a Committee to investigate and report on the legislation most appropriate for the acquiring of titles by transport in the cheapest and most expeditious manner.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

Dr. Jagan gave notice of the following questions:-

1. What is the estimated cost of the Office and House for the Resident Engineer of the Bonasika-Boerasirie Drainage and Irrigation Scheme? How far has the construction progressed and how much of the original estimate has been expended?
2. Is it true that Mr. Hutchinson, former Consulting Engineer, recommended for the Bonasika-Boerasirie Drainage and Irrigation Scheme the construction of a concrete Wall-Dam, 8 ft. x 8 ft., and backed by boulders? If so, will Government state whether this recommended type of construction is to be fully implemented or altered in any respects? If any alteration is to take place, will Government state the type of, and grounds for, the alteration?

PERSONAL EXPLANATION UNDER STANDING RULE AND ORDER NO. 8

Mr. Smellie in referring to the debate on the 18th of July on the motion concerning Primary Education when the Financial Secretary and Treasurer mentioned that there were only two members of the Council present at the celebration of Empire Day by school children of Georgetown, explained that several members of Council including himself were engaged at the same time at a meeting of the Legislative Council Advisory Committee for Communications and the Interior; and it was possible that there were other members similarly engaged who might have attended.

ORDER OF THE DAY

MOTION BY MR. LUCKHOO ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S APARTHEID POLICY.

* ✓ Mr. Luckhoo moved and Mr. Carter seconded the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this Council condemns the policy of racial segregation enforced by the South African Government and places on record its abhorrence of the attitude adopted to the various races in the pursuit of this policy which is likely to affect adversely the amicable relations existing amongst the peoples of this Colony and of other mixed communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council respectfully prays His Excellency the Governor to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and to the United Nations urging that steps be taken by the United Nations to persuade the South African Government to desist from such a disastrous course and to adopt a policy towards all races in South Africa in keeping with the Declaration of Human Rights.

Dr. Jagan moved the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Kendall:-

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council recommends to Government the immediate cessation of all trade with the Union of South Africa.

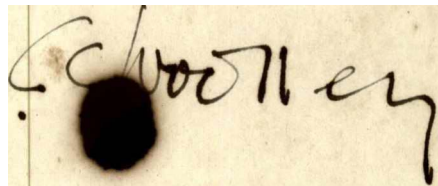
After discussion, the Deputy President put the original motion which was adopted on the following division:-

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Mr. Morrish	Dr. Jagan
Mr. Luckhoo	The Financial Secretary
Mr. Carter	The Attorney General
Mr. Smellie	The Colonial Secretary
Mr. Phang	
Mr. Peters	
Mr. Kendall	
Mr. Fernandes	
Dr. Singh	

ADJOURNMENT

The hour of adjournment having been reached, the Deputy President adjourned Council to 2 p.m. on Thursday, the 31st of July, 1952.

Confirmed,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a piece of aged paper. The signature appears to be 'C. Woolley' with a large, dark circular mark or smudge over the middle of the name.

President.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Public Buildings,
British Guiana.
31st July, 1952.