

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION

1954

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

THURSDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER, 1954.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C.

Ex Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, O.B.E. (Ag.)

The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. F.W. Holder, Q.C.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. W.O. Fraser, O.B.E.

Nominated Members of Executive Council

The Honourable Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.
(Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines).

The Honourable P.A. Cummings
(Member for Labour, Health and Housing).

The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall
(Member for Communications and Works).

The Honourable G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E.
(Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and
Co-operative Development).

The Honourable R.B. Gajraj

The Honourable R.C. Tello

Deputy Speaker

Mr. W.J. Raatgever, C.B.E.

Nominated Officials

Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.

Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. W.A. Phang

Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.

Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.

Mr. C.A. Carter

Mr. E.F. Correia

Rev. D.C.J. Bobb

Mr. H. Rahaman

Miss Gertie H. Collins

Mrs. Esther E. Dey

Dr. H.A. Fraser

Lt. Col. E.J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D.

Mr. R.B. Jailal

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree (Ag.)

Absent

The Honourable G.H. Smellie - on leave.

Mr. T. Lee

Mr. Sugrim Singh - on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 19th of November, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker announced that Mr. Sugrim Singh had been granted leave from the 24th to the 30th of November, 1954.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

BILL

The Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS TO THE TOWN COUNCILS OF GEORGETOWN AND NEW AMSTERDAM AND FOR PURPOSES CONNE TED THEREWITH.

(Bill No. 52/1954 published 20.11.54).

ORDER OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

The Chief Secretary laid the following reply to the question tabled by Mr. Lee on the 10th of September, 1954:-

Question: Can the Government state why Engineering Scholarships were not awarded for 1953 and 1954?

Answer: No Engineering Scholarships were offered by Government in 1953.

The last of six "Victory" engineering scholarships provided in 1948 was awarded in 1952. In 1953 priority was given to awarding scholarships for meeting important staff requirements in other departments of Government. It was intended to award two engineering scholarships in 1954, but these scholarships could not be made available in time for university places to be secured for candidate during that year.

It is proposed, subject to the availability of funds and suitable candidates, to award six engineering scholarships (i.e. three for Public Works and three for Drainage and Irrigation) during 1955.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS - First Reading.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1953)(NO. 2) BILL, 1954 -
Bill No. 49/1954.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW AND CONFIRM CERTAIN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE YEAR ENDED THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1953, was read a first time.

FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954 - Bill No. 51/1954.

On a motion by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines on behalf of the Member for Labour, Health and Housing, seconded by the Chief Secretary, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE FACTORIES ORDINANCE, 1947, was read a first time.

NEW AMSTERDAM TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954 -
Bill No. 50/1954.

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by Mr. R.B. Gajraj, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE NEW AMSTERDAM TOWN COUNCIL ORDINANCE, 1949, was read a first time.

MOTIONS

CONFIRMING ORDER IN COUNCIL No. 55 OF 1954.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by Mr. Gajraj Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Council in terms of Section 9 of the Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1952 (No. 69) confirms Order in Council No. 55 of 1954 which was made on the 3rd of October, 1954, and published in the Gazette of the 6th of November, 1954.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1954.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates for August and September, 1954, which have been laid on the table.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1954.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Council approves of the Supplementary Development Estimates for August and September, 1954, which have been laid on the table.

APPROVING RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN PROFESSOR RICHARDSON'S REPORT ON SOCIAL SECURITY IN BRITISH GUIANA.

The Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Honourable Council accepts in principle the recommendations contained in Professor Richardson's Report on Social Security in British Guiana and approves of the proposals of the Governor in Council on those recommendations as set out in paragraph 34 of Sessional Paper No 10 of 1954.

At this stage the Speaker informed Council that he proposed to suspend the sitting for a short period in order to receive His Excellency the Governor who was coming to the Council Chamber to have some documentary photographs taken by the Colonial Office Photographer.

The sitting was suspended at 2.25 p.m. and at 2.30 p.m. His Excellency, accompanied by the Speaker, entered the Chamber.

After the photographs had been taken His Excellency withdrew from the Chamber.

At 2.40 p.m. Council resumed and proceeded with the motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development.

Mr. Gajraj seconded the motion.

Thereafter, the following members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Cummings	Lt. Col. Haywood
Mr. Macnie	Mr. Carter
Mr. Tello	Rev. Bobb
Mr. Ramphal	Mr. Jailal
Mrs. Dey.	

In the course of the debate Mr. Ramphal moved the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Carter:

Substitution of a semi-colon for the full stop at the end of the motion and the addition of the following words:-

"and that this Council records its grateful thanks to Professor Richardson for his valuable Report."

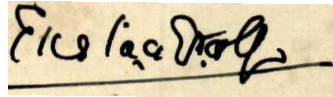
The hour of adjournment having been reached, further consideration of the motion was deferred.

/ADJOURNMENT ..

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. the following day, Friday, 26th November, 1954.

confirmed,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a small rectangular piece of paper. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to be "E. C. ...".

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

26th November, 1954.