

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THIRD SESSION

1956

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, 29TH NOVEMBER, 1956.

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, C.M.G., O.B.E.

The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. G.M. Farnum (Ag.)

The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. F.W. Essex.

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

The Honourable R.B. Gajraj

Nominated Officials

Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. T. Lee

Mr. W.A. Phang

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

Mr. E.F. Correia

Rev. D.C.J. Bobb

Mr. H. Rahaman

Miss Gertie H. Collins

Mrs. Esther E. Dey

Dr. H.A. Fraser

Mr. R.B. Jailal

Mr. Sugrim Singh

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

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

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. B.M. Viapree (Ag.)

Absent

The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall

(Member for Communications and Works) - on leave.

The Honourable R.C. Tello - on leave.

Mr. C.A. Carter.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 22nd of November, 1956, as printed and circulated, were amended as under and confirmed -

WELCOME TO HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

By the insertion of a comma and the words "and paid tribute to the valuable services rendered by him during his membership of the Council" at the end of the paragraph.

PAPERS LAID

By the Financial Secretary:

- (i) Order in Council No. 75 of 1956 made under Section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 21st day of November, 1956, and published in the Gazette on 24th November, 1956.  
(M.P.C.Ex. 12/1954).
- (ii) Order in Council No. 76 of 1956 made under Section 8(b) of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 16th day of November, 1956, and published in the Gazette on 24th November, 1956.  
(F.S.C. Ex. 62/53).
- (iii) Schedule of Supplementary Estimates for the month of October, 1956.  
(F.S.G. 4/56).
- (iv) Schedule of Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the month of October, 1956.  
(F.S.G. 4/56).

GOVERNMENT NOTICESMotions:

The Financial Secretary gave notice of the following motions:

- (i) BE IT RESOLVED:  
That this Council in terms of Section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 75 of 1956 which was made on the 21st day of November, 1956, and published in the Gazette on 24th November, 1956.
- (ii) BE IT RESOLVED:  
That this Council in terms of Section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 76 of 1956 which was made on the 16th day of November, 1956, and published in the Gazette on 24th November, 1956.

(iii) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates for the month of October, 1956, totalling \$1,419,463.81, which have been laid on the table.

(iv) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the month of October, 1956, totalling \$176,029.73, which have been laid on the table.

#### OTHER NOTICES

##### Motion

Mr. Luckhoo gave notice of the following motion:

WHEREAS under the Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Ordinance, 1956, tenant rice farmers commit an offence by keeping their oxen on the holding after cultivation, reaping and threshing;

AND WHEREAS these tenants in many cases have nowhere to keep their animals and have in the past kept their animals on the holding:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That section 56(3) of Ordinance No. 31 of 1956, Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Ordinance, 1956, be repealed.

#### PUBLIC BUSINESS

##### ORDER OF THE DAY

#### MOTIONS

Item 1 - MOTION RE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 1956.

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 the months of July, August and September, 1956, totalling \$1,069,339.02, which have been laid on the table.

Item 2 - MOTION RE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (DEVELOPMENT) FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 1956.

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

RESOLVED, ..//

RESOLVED, That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the months of July, August and September, 1956, totalling \$3,200,532.56, which have been laid on the table.

BILLS - Second Reading.

Item 3 -- WAGES COUNCILS BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 53/1956.

The Member for Labour, Health and Housing moved that the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WAGES COUNCILS be read a second time.

Mr. Correia moved, and Mr. Lee seconded, that consideration of the Bill be deferred for one week.

After discussion, the question was put and Council divided and voted thereon as follows -

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Mr. Jailal	Mr. Lord
Mr. Rahman	Mr. Singh
Mr. Correia	Dr. Fraser
Mr. Luckhoo	Mrs. Dey
Mr. Lee	Miss Collins
	Rev. Bobb
	Mr. Phang
	Mr. Ramphal
	Mr. Gajraj
	Mr. Farnum
	Mr. Cummings
	Sir Frank McDavid
	Financial Secretary
	Attorney General
	Chief Secretary

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Motion negatived.

Mr. Ramphal seconded the motion for the second reading and thereafter the Bill was read a second time and taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendment in Committee.

Amendment

Clause 18                      The word "six" was substituted for the word "three" in the penultimate line of the Clause.

Item 4 - GEORGETOWN TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT NO. 3) BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 52/1956.

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by Mr. Gajraj, the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE GEORGETOWN TOWN COUNCIL ORDINANCE was read a second time, and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Secretary moved the adjournment.

/ ...

Miss Collins took the opportunity to refer to a Press announcement to the effect that the Estate Authorities required their land in the South La Penitence area and had therefore served tenants with notices to remove their houses by the 30th November.

Mr. P.A. Cummings, Member for Labour, Health and Housing, stated that the Press announcement was inaccurate as the notice did not require tenants to remove their buildings by the 30th November but to communicate with the Housing Officer on or before that date in order to make arrangements for removal of their houses to alternative sites.

Mr. Cummings added that the Estate Authorities had given an assurance that the tenants would be granted reasonable time to remove their houses.

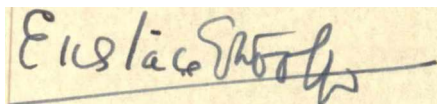
He assured Members that Government had been giving this matter urgent consideration for some time and in fact a survey of the housing needs of the persons to be rehoused had already been completed and a site of 10 acres in the Government Estate at La Penitence had been allocated for this purpose.

The next step would be to meet the Company as arranged to discuss further implementation of the proposals and at that meeting the question of compensation and details of the procedure for removal would be discussed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 3.55 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, the 30th of November, 1956.

Confirmed,



Speaker.

Public Buildings,  
British Guiana.

30th November, 1956.