

THIRD SESSION

1956 - 1957

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
FRIDAY, 5th APRIL, 1957

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. A.M.I. Austin.
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 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.

Nominated Official

Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.
Mr. C.A. Carter
Mr. E.F. Correia
Mr. H. Rahaman
Miss Gertie H. Collins
Mrs. Esther E. Dey
Dr. H.A. Fraser
Mr. R.B. Jailal
Mr. Sugrim Singh.

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

Absent

Mr. T. Lee - on leave.
Mr. W.A. Phang - on leave.
Rev. D.C.J. Bobb - on leave.
Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 4th of April, 1957, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

The Speaker announced that Mr. W.A. Phang was unable to attend that day's meeting, due to illness.

PAPERS LAID

By the Financial Secretary:

Report of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board for the period 1st October, 1955 to 30th September, 1956.

(IC. 5/1/19).

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Re Mr. Luckhoo's Motion concernin lands on the Railwa Line at Kitty.

The Member for Communications and Works referred to Mr. Luckhoo's motion on the Order Paper recommending the sale of the lands on either side of the Railway Line at Kitty to the present tenants, and stated that as the lands were no longer required for use as a marshalling yard, it had been decided that the Ministry of Labour, Health and Housing should arrange for a survey of the area to determine whether any portions of the land should be reserved for public purposes. Thereafter, it was proposed to offer for sale any land not required for public purposes and the tenants now occupying the land would be given first option of purchase.

The Member for Labour, Health and Housing stated that the tenants concerned had been advised by him of the Government's policy as explained by his colleague, and that the tenants had expressed their satisfaction. The Member then read a copy of a letter dated the 30th of October, 1956, from the Governor's Secretary to Mr. Luckhoo, advising him of the Government's policy with respect to those lands. The Member added that the Government's policy had been declared before Mr. Luckhoo had tabled his motion.

Mr. Luckhoo remarked that his motion sought more than the decision referred to by the Members, and that he proposed to proceed with the motion.

RAISING OF A MATTER OF PRIVILEGEInaccurate Press Report.

The Member for Labour, Health and Housing drew attention to what he considered was an inaccurate report made in the "Guiana Graphic" of his statement at the previous meeting in support of the motion for the approval of the Hospital Fees (Amendment) Regulations, 1957, and requested the Speaker

.. / to invite

to invite the attention of the newspaper concerned to the matter as it was in the public interest that reports of the proceedings of the Council should be fair and accurate.

The Speaker intimated that he would see what could be done in the matter.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILL - Second Reading.

Item 1 - ACQUISITION OF LAND

SETTLEMENT) BILL, 1957
Bill No. 3/1957.

The Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines moved that the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND RE-ENACT THE ACQUISITION OF LAND (LAND SETTLEMENT) ORDINANCE be read a second time. The Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded the motion and intimated his intention of speaking at a later stage.

With the consent of Council, the debate on the motion was deferred to the next meeting.

At this stage, items 3 and 4 on the Order Paper were taken.

BILL - Third Reading.

Item 3 - DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 9/1957.

On a motion by the Member for Labour, Health and Housing seconded by the Financial Secretary the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE was read a third time and passed as printed.

BILL - Second Reading.

Item 4 - Moneylenders Bill, 1956 - Bill No. 11/1956.

With the consent of Council, consideration of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

BILL - Third Reading.

Item 2 - LABOUR CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN WORKERS BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 5 1957.

On a suggestion by the Speaker, consideration of this item was deferred to enable the Member for Labour, Health and Housing to consider ~~the advisability of defining the expression "Charwoman" in the Schedule to the Bill.~~ whether the expression "Charwomen" is an appropriate one to use in connection with the services rendered by women in restaurants.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.35 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 10th of April, 1957.

Confirmed,

Fred Mac Donnell
Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.
10th April, 1957.