

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

THURSDAY, 23 D MAY, 1957.

PRESENT:

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

Ex-Officio Members.

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. M.S. Porcher (Ag.)  
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 P.A. Cummings  
(Member for Labour, Health and Housing).  
The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall  
(Member for Communications Works).  
The Honourable G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E.  
(Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and  
Co-operative Development).

Nominated Official.

Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials.

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

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

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree.

Absent.

The Honourable Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E. - on leave.  
The Honourable R.B. Gajraj - on leave  
The Honourable R.C. Tello - on leave  
Mr. T. Lee - on leave  
Mr. W.A. Phang - on leave.  
Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C. - on leave  
Rev. D.C.J. Bobb - on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 16th of May, 1957, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTSLeave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C., from that day's meeting.

PAPERS LAID(i) By the Financial Secretary:

- (a) Order in Council No. 22 of 1957 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 10th day of May, 1957, and published in the Gazette on the 18th of May, 1957.  
(F.S.C.Ex. 22/56)(Circulated).
- (b) Schedule of Supplementary Estimates for the month of April, 1957.  
(F.S.G. 4/57)(Circulated).
- (c) Schedule of Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the month of April, 1957.  
(F.S.G. 7B/1957)(Circulated).
- (d) Statement showing Supplementary Expenditure to be admitted as a charge to the Development Fund in the accounts of the year 1955, and the allocation thereof.  
(F.S.G. 7<sup>B</sup>/1955)(Circulated).
- (e) Annual Report of the Comptroller of Customs and Excise for the year 1956.  
(F.S.C.Ex. 8/56 II).

(ii) By the Member for Communications and Works:

- (a) The British Postal Order (Amendment) Regulations, 1957 (No. 10).  
(PT. 94/3/11).
- (b) The Official Inland Correspondence (Amendment) Regulations, 1957 (No. 11).  
(PT. 94/42/4).

GOVERNMENT NOTICESMotions

(i) The Financial Secretary gave notice of the following motions:

## (a) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 22 of 1957, which was made on the 10th day of May, 1957, and published in the Gazette on the 18th of May, 1957.

(b) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates for the month of April, 1957, totalling \$111,037.00, which have been laid on the table.

(c) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the month of April, 1957, totalling \$217,118.00, which have been laid on the table.

(d) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Statement of Supplementary Expenditure totalling \$21,098.68 which was incurred during the year 1955 and was not included in any previous schedule and is to be admitted as a charge to the Development Fund, and which has been laid on the table.

(ii) The Member for Communications and Works gave notice of the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That with reference to Sessional Paper No. 5/1957, this Council approves of the Government arranging to purchase the undertaking of the Demerara Electric Company, Limited, and all the Company's lands, buildings, works, materials and plant suitable to and used by the Company for the purposes of such undertaking, within the Colony, upon such terms relating to valuation and determination of the purchase price as would be applicable if such purchase were in pursuance of the provisions of section 4(d) of the Georgetown Electric Supply Ordinance, Chapter 238.

The Member also intimated that he had obtained His Excellency's approval, in terms of section 48(2) of the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, to move that the relevant Standing Orders be suspended to enable him to proceed with the motion at a later stage.

#### STATEMENT BY MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

##### Behaviour of Mounted Police at Public Meeting.

The Chief Secretary referred to the publication in the Guiana Graphic of Wednesday, 22nd May, of a letter addressed by Sir William Bustamante (Jamaica) to His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, alleging misbehaviour by the Mounted Police at a meeting held on Monday night, the 20th May, at the Bourda Green, Georgetown.

../ The Chief Secretary

The Chief Secretary stated that he wished to make it quite clear that he was in no way replying to the letter, as it was not his place to do so, but desired to call attention to the comment made in the letter concerning the Mounted Police. He said that when he read the complaint, he called for a report from the Commissioner of Police whose reply was that the Mounted Police had behaved properly. The Chief Secretary added that he was present at the meeting and was therefore able to assess the behaviour of the Mounted Police. One horse became a little excited but it was well managed by its rider who withdrew to the outskirts of the crowd.

In the circumstances, he considered it only fair to inform members that, in his opinion, the Mounted Police had not behaved improperly.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Chief Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY PROPERTY BILL, 1957.  
(Bill No. 18/1957 published 18.5.57).

The Financial Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

INDUSTRIES AID AND ENCOURAGEMENT (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 1957.  
(Bill No. 19/1957 published 25.5.57).

#### PUBLIC BUSINESS

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - First Reading.

Item 1 - (a) DISTRIBUTION OF ENEMY PROPERTY BILL, 1957 -  
Bill No. 18/1957.

The BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF GERMAN ENEMY PROPERTY IN THE PAYMENT OF DEBTS INCURRED BY GERMAN PERSONS TO BRITISH PERSONS IN THE COLONY was read a first time.

(b) INDUSTRIES AID AND ENCOURAGEMENT AMENDMENT  
BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 19 1957.

The BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE INDUSTRIES AID AND ENCOURAGEMENT ORDINANCE was read a first time.

BILL - Third Reading.

Item 2 - CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL, 1957 - Bill No. 13/1957.

On a motion by the Attorney General seconded by the Financial Secretary the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO ABOLISH PENAL SERVITUDE AND IMPRISONMENT WITH HARD LABOUR was read a third time and passed as amended in Committee.

MOTIONSItem 3 - MOTION TO CONFIRM ORDER IN COUNCIL NO. 19 OF 1957.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Attorney General, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 19 of 1957, which was made on the 17th day of April, 1957, and published in the Gazette on the 4th of May, 1957.

Item 4 - MOTION RE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR JANUARY AND MARCH, 1957.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Attorney General, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates for the months of January and March, 1957, totalling \$52,447.63 and \$223,790.00, respectively, which have been laid on the table.

Item 5 - MOTION RE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES DEVELOPMENT FOR JANUARY AND MARCH, 1957.

On a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by the Attorney General, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the months of January and March, 1957, totalling \$384,764.00 and \$371,526.00, respectively, which have been laid on the table.

MOTION RE PURCHASE OF THE DEMERARA ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

With Council's consent, the relevant Standing Orders were suspended, and on a motion by the Member for Communications and Works seconded by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development, Council unanimously adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That with reference to Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1957, this Council approves of the Government arranging to purchase the undertaking of the Demerara Electric Company, Limited, and all the Company's lands, buildings, works, materials and plant suitable to and used by the Company for the purposes of such undertaking, within the Colony, upon such terms relating to valuation and determination of the purchase price as would be applicable if such purchase were in pursuance of the provisions of section 4(d) of the Georgetown Electric Supply Ordinance, Chapter 238.

Item 6 - MOTION RE MEMORANDUM ON SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The Chief Secretary moved and the Attorney General seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That with reference to Sessional Paper No. 9 of 1957 on the Memorandum on Secondary Education, the Council approves of Government's proposals set out therein, and undertakes to provide the necessary financial provision to implement those proposals.

The following members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Sugrim Singh and Mr. Lord.

It being near the hour of adjournment, further consideration was deferred.

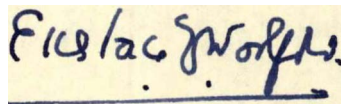
MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Secretary moved the adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.54 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 30th of May, 1957.

Confirmed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a yellow rectangular background. The signature appears to be 'F. C. G. Wolfers'.

Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
British Guiana.

30th May, 1957.