

BRITISH GUIANA

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION

1957 - 1958

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution)(Temporary Provisions) Orders in Council, 1953 and 1956, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

THURSDAY, 30TH OCTOBER, 1958.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

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, Q.C.

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

Ministers

The Honourable Dr. C.B. Jagan,
Minister of Trade and Industry.

The Honourable B.H. Benn,
Minister of Community Development and Education.

The Honourable E.B. Beharry,
Minister of Natural Resources.

The Honourable Janet Jagan,
Minister of Labour, Health and Housing.

The Honourable Ram Karran,
Minister of Communications and Works.

Elected Members, Majority Party

Mr. F. Bowman

Mr. B.S. Rai

Mr. Ajodha Singh

Other Elected Members

Mr. W.O.R. Kendall

Mr. L.F.S. Burnham

Mr. S. Campbell

Mr. A.L. Jackson

Mr. Jai Narine Singh

Nominated Members

Mr. R.C. Tello

Mr. R.E. Davis

Mr. A.M. Fredericks

Mr. H.J.M. Hubbard

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting hold on Wednesday, the 29th of October, 1958, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leave

The Speaker announced that Mr. Saffee had been granted permission to be absent from that meeting.

ORAL ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS

Question No. 25

Mr. Tasker asked the Minister of Communications and Works the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications and Works inform the Council of the position regarding the Demerara Electric Company's franchise and how it affects the acquisition of additional generating equipment?

The Minister of Communications and Works gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The Demerara Electric Company has offered to continue generating and supplying electricity for the Georgetown area, and as required in bulk for the Rural Electrification Scheme, under a new franchise. The Government feel however that the terms of the franchise as proposed by the Company are not such as can be accepted in the interests of the public as they stand. The Government are continuing negotiations with the Company with a view to reaching an agreement satisfactory to both sides.

In anticipation of taking over the Company's undertaking the Government ordered a diesel generator for the purpose of meeting the increasing demand for electricity until new steam generating plant can be installed, but the Company are not prepared to purchase the diesel plant. The Government consider, however, that the delivery date for new plant to be ordered by the Company need not be greatly delayed because of the negotiations over the new franchise.

The Attorney-General also pointed out that as the proper procedure was not followed by Mr. Davis, no further action could be taken, unless the matter was raised de novo.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

FRANK GUMMER (WIDOW'S PENSION) BILL, 1958.
(Bill No. 29/1958 to be published 1.11.58).

(ii) The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

SHOPS (CONSOLIDATION) BILL, 1958.
(Bill No. 30/1958 to be published 1.11.58).

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - First Reading.

Item 1 - (i) FRANK GUMMER WIDOW'S PENSION) BILL 1958 -
Bill No. 18.

The BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF A PENSION TO THE WIDOW OF FRANK GUMMER was read the first time.

(ii) SHOPS (CONSOLIDATION) BILL, 1958 - Bill No.
30/1958.

The BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW TO REGULATE THE OPENING AND CLOSING HOURS OF CERTAIN SHOPS AND THE HOURS OF WORK OF SHOP ASSISTANTS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE WELFARE OF SHOP ASSISTANTS; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH was read the first time.

MOTIONS

Item 2 - MR. TASKER'S MOTION RE ROAD ACCIDENTS.

Council resumed the debate on the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that urgent action be taken to reduce the mounting number of deaths and injuries resulting from road accidents.

Item 3 - MR. JACKSON'S MOTION RE ECONOMIC RELATIONS
WITH THE WEST INDIES.

On a motion by Mr. Jackson seconded by Mr. Kendall, Council adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That notwithstanding the decision of this Council not to enter immediately into negotiations with the West Indies Federation with a view to British Guiana joining the West Indies Federation, this Council recommends to Government that it approaches the West Indies Federation with a view to discussing economic relations between this Colony and the West Indies Federation, and to explore the possibility of British Guiana being invited to send a representative with the West Indies team to Canada.

Item 4 - MR. BOWMAN'S MOTION RE TRADE WITH BRAZIL AND
VENEZUELA.

Mr. Bowman moved and Mr. Ajodha Singh seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that a mission be sent immediately to Brazil to ascertain whether the Brazilian Government is interested in establishing an outlet through British Guiana, and to discuss the question of trade between the two countries;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the said mission be sent also to Venezuela to explore the possibility of trade with this Colony.

The following members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Jai Narine Singh
Mr. Beharry.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 p.m. Council was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 5th of November, 1958.

Confirmed,

Donald Jackson
Speaker.