

Thursday, 5th June, 1924

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(Official Report)

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(27th May 1924 to 9th June 1924)

FOURTH SESSION
OF THE
COUNCIL OF STATE, 1924.



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Council of State.

The President :

THE HONOURABLE SIR MONTAGU BUTLER, KT., C.B., C.I.E., C.V.O., C.B.E.

Panel of Chairmen :

THE HONOURABLE SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY, KT., C.I.E.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN, KT., C.S.I.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR FROOM, KT.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI, P.C.

Secretary :

MR. G. H. SPENCE, I.C.S.

Assistants of the Secretary :

MR. W. T. M. WRIGHT, C.I.E., I.C.S.

MR. S. C. GUPTA, BAR-AT-LAW.

Committee on Petitions :

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIBOZE C. SETHNA, *Chairman.*

THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJA BAHADUR KESHAVA PRASAD SINGH,
C.B.E., OF DUMRAON.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN, K.C.I.E.,
C.B.E., M.V.O.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ANNAMALAI CHETTIYAR, KT.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA.

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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Thursday, 5th June 1924.

The Council met in the Council Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE REGARDING THE
STEEL INDUSTRY (PROTECTION) BILL.

THE HONOURABLE DR. MIAN SIR MUHAMMAD SHAFI (Law Member) :
Sir, I greatly regret the inconvenience caused to Honourable Members and to yourself, Sir, by this infructuous meeting, and I suggest for your consideration that the best means of avoiding a repetition of a contingency of this nature will be found in an adjournment of the House to a date and hour to be announced hereafter. It is hoped that the Steel Industry (Protection) Bill will be passed by the Assembly either to-day or to-morrow, and that it will prove possible to hold a meeting of this Council for the purpose of laying the Bill on the day next following that on which the Bill is so passed. Should the Assembly make amendments in the Bill it would be necessary to reprint the Bill as amended for the purpose of circulating to Honourable Members, and convenience might therefore be served if the next meeting of the Council were called at a somewhat later hour than usual. This again, Sir, is, of course, merely a suggestion for your consideration.

THE HONOURABLE DR. DWARKANATH MITTER (West Bengal : Non Muhammadan) : Might I, Sir, inquire whether, if the Bill is passed in the Legislative Assembly to-day, it would be possible to lay it on the table to-morrow. I move you, Sir, that in that case the rules of business might be suspended and we might proceed with the consideration of the Bill at once.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY (West Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I strongly object to the proposal to suspend the rules of business in a matter of this description where questions of principle are involved and the Council of State ought to have full time for the proper consideration of the whole measure. There is absolutely no reason why, if time elsewhere has been taken to the extent that it has been, this Council should be expected to come ready with its mind made up the moment the Bill is laid on the table.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : I also object to the proposal of the Honourable Dr. Dwarkanath Mitter. The Bill is of great importance and sufficient time should be given to the Honourable Members of this House for the consideration of amendments that may be moved.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I do not think that the Council will be well advised to consider at the present moment what it is going to do with the Bill if it is passed. It has first to be ascertained whether the Bill is passed. Therefore, I do not propose now to take the sense of the Council on the question what we shall do if the Bill is passed. I realise that this uncertainty may cause inconvenience to some Honourable Members, but I do not think it is possible to take any other course. The only question before me at this moment is, whether we should adjourn until 11 A.M. to-morrow morning or, as the Honourable the Leader of the House has suggested, to a time and a date to be fixed hereafter. If any Honourable Member desires to give his views on that point, I shall be glad to hear him.

THE HONOURABLE DR. SIR DEVA PRASAD SARVADHIKARY : If I may venture to submit, Sir, it would be wrong—I do not want to use the word undignified—to have to come here again on the off-chance of the Assembly sending up the Bill sometime and to be told that it is not yet ready and that we had better go back and come some other day. I consider therefore that the course suggested by the Honourable the Leader of the House is the one that under the circumstances is suitable.

As regards personal inconvenience, we know what it means to us who have to leave other work behind and attend the sessions of the Council. At the same time, the interests of public affairs, as well as the dignity of this House, require that the matter should be proceeded with regularly.

THE HONOURABLE COLONEL NAWAB SIR UMAR HAYAT KHAN (West Punjab : Muhammadan) : I am also of the same opinion.

THE HONOURABLE DR. DWARKANATH MITTER : Sir, I cannot see eye to eye with my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary. We are here for the purpose of attending the meetings of the Council of State. If it is possible, as I understand it is likely, that the Bill might be passed in the Legislative Assembly to-day, there is no point in losing a day. If, therefore, Sir, you will fix to-morrow 11 A.M. as the time when the Bill should be taken into consideration in the hope that it will be passed by the Legislative Assembly to-day, I would not mind the inconvenience of coming here.

THE HONOURABLE LALA SUKHBIR SINHA : I agree with the Honourable Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhikary that, if the Bill is not passed by the Assembly to-day, we should not meet to-morrow and thus avoid so much inconvenience. I think the suggestion made by the Leader of the House is very good, that is, as soon as the Bill is passed by the Assembly, some day should be fixed for this House and then we shall consider the matter as to how to proceed with the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. PHIROZE C. SETHNA (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Do I take it, Sir, that, if the Bill is passed to-night in the Legislative Assembly, we will be able to receive intimation to that effect to-morrow morning ?

. THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I do not like to make any categorical reply to that question, because the Bill though passed, might be so amended as to have to be reprinted. But if it is passed to-night, and if it is possible to get out the notices in time, certainly I will summon the Council for to-morrow morning. I think the general sense of the House is that we should now adjourn to some date and hour to be fixed* hereafter. I therefore declare that the Council is adjourned accordingly.

*The next meeting of the Council was held on Friday, the 6th June, 1924.