

**THE  
PARLIAMENT DEBATES**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**[VOLUME 7]**

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE  
CONSTITUTION OF GUYANA**

---

**194<sup>th</sup> Sitting**

**2 p.m.**

**Monday, 27th August, 1979**

---

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (63)**

**Speaker**

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., Speaker

**Members of the Government – People’s National Congress (46)**

**Prime Minister (1)**

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C.,  
Prime Minister

**(Absent)**

**Deputy Prime Minister (1)**

Cde. P.A. Reid,  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of  
National Development

**(Absent)**

**Senior Ministers (12)**

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C.,  
Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A.,  
Minister of Works and Transport

**(Absent)**

Cde. B. Ramsaroop,  
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs  
and Leader of the House

Cde. C.V Mingo,  
Minister of Home Affairs

\* Cde. H. Green,  
Minister of Health, Housing and Labour **(Absent)**

\* Cde. H.O. Jack,  
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

\* Cde. F.E. Hope,  
Minister of Finance **(Absent)**

\* Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H.,  
Minister of Agriculture

\* Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C.,  
Attorney General and  
Minister of Justice

\* Cde. V.R. Teekah,  
Minister of Education, Social  
Development and Culture

\* Cde. R.E Jackson,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs **(Absent – on leave)**

\* Cde J.A. Tyndall, A.A.,  
Minister of Trade and  
Consumer Protection **(Absent)**

## **Ministers (2)**

Cde. O.E. Clarke,  
Minister – Regional  
(East Berbice/Corentyne)

Cde. C.A Nascimento,  
Minister, Office of the Prime Minister

## **\*Non – elected Ministers**

## **Ministers of State (10)**

Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael  
Minister of State – Regional (Rupununi)

Cde. P. Duncan, J.P.,  
Minister of State, Ministry of  
Economic Development and Co-operatives

Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P.,  
Minister of State – Regional  
(Mazaruni/Potaro)

Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P.,  
Minister of State – Regional  
(Essequibo Coast/West Demerara) **(Absent)**

Cde. J.R. Thomas,  
Minister of State, Office of the  
Prime Minister

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin  
Minister of State, Ministry of  
National Development for Youth and Sport

Cde. S. Prashad,  
Minister of State – Regional  
(East Demerara/West Coast Berbice) **(Absent)**

Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman,  
Minister of State,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Cde. L.A. Durant,  
Minister of State – Regional  
(North West)

\*Cde. F.U.A. Campbell,  
Minister of State for Information,  
Ministry of National Development **(Absent)**

**\*Non – elected Ministers**

## **Parliamentary Secretaries (5)**

- Cde. M.M Ackman, C.C.H.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the  
Prime Minister and Government Chief Whip (Absent – on leave)
- Cde. E.L. Ambrose,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (Absent – on leave)
- Cde. M. Corrica,  
Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Education, Social Development  
and Culture
- Cde. E.M. Bynoe,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade  
and Consumer Protection
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic  
Development and Co-operatives

## **Other Members (15)**

- Cde. W.G. Carrington, C.C.H.  
Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley  
Cde. E.H.A Fowler  
Cde. J. Gill  
Cde. W. Hussain (Absent)  
Cde. K.M.E. Jonas  
Cde. J.G. Ramson (Absent)  
Cde. P.A. Rayman  
Cde. A. Salim  
Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P. (Absent)  
Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S.  
Cde. C.A. Sukul, J.P.  
Cde. H.A. Taylor (Absent)  
Cde. L.E. Willems (Absent)  
Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen (Absent)

## **Members of the Opposition (16)**

### **(i) People's Progressive Party (14)**

**Leader of the Opposition (1)**

Cde. C. Jagan,  
Leader of the Opposition

**Deputy Speaker (1)**

Cde. Ram Karran,  
Deputy Speaker

**Other Members (12)**

Cde. J. Jagan  
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., Opposition Chief Whip  
Cde. Narbara Persaud  
Cde. C. Collymore  
Cde. S.F. Mohamed  
Cde. I. Basir (Absent)  
Cde. C.C. Belgrave  
Cde. R. Ally  
Cde. Dalchand, J.P.  
Cde. Dindayal  
Cde. H. Nokta  
Cde. P. Sukhai (Absent)

**(ii) Liberator Party (2)**

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P. (Absent- on-leave)  
Mr. M. A. Abraham (Absent)

**OFFICERS**

Clerk of the National Assembly – F.A. Narain, A.A.

Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – A. Knight

27.8.29  
2.05 p.m.

National Assembly

2.05 – 2.15 p.m.

## PRAYERS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

#### Leave to Members

**The Speaker:** Leave has been granted to Cde. Jackson for two weeks from today, Cde. Ambrose for today and the hon. Member, Mr. Singh for today.

### PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following Papers were laid:

- (1) Loan Agreement between the State of Guyana and Nederlandsche Middenstands- bank M.V., with regard to the financing of two Damen Stan-Tenders 2000 to be supplied by Scheepswerf Damen B.V.
- (2) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Co-operative Insurance Service for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1978.
- (3) Report of the Directors of the New Widows and Orphans' Fund on the working of the Fund for the year 1972.

**[The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the Minister of Finance]**

### QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

**Question No. 31**

**Cde. Nokta:** Cde. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives Question No. 31 which is standing in my name.

“Is the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives aware that the Motor Vessel AREQUNA which used to render valuable service to the residents in the North West District, especially Amerindians, has been withdrawn from service for over four years, has as yet not been repaired, and that as a result the people suffer hardship?

Is the Minister further aware that the engine of the said vessel was extracted from it and sold to a private individual?

If the answers are in the affirmative, will the Minister answer the following further questions:-

- (a) Was a board of Survey held which condemned the vessel as unseaworthy or unserviceable? If so, when was this survey held?
- (b) If the vessel was condemned as unserviceable, was it, or the engine, advertised for sale in the usual way? If not, why not?
- (c) How much was the engine sold for and who bought it?
- (d) Is there any proposal for the replacement of the service with another vessel? If so, how soon?

**The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives (Cde. Hoyte):** Cde. Speaker, the launch AREQUNA was donated in 1968 to the community of Moruca, North West Region, by the Government of the United States of America through the United States Agency

for International Development. The vessel was given into the custody of the Committee of Management of the Moruca Producers' Co-operative Society Limited for and on behalf of the community. The vessel proved to be unsuitable for service in the Moruca River and the owners decided to operate it on the run from Kwebanna to Mabaruma on the Waini River. By 1972, both the engine and the hull of the vessel had deteriorated badly. The engine needed replacing and the hull needed extensive repairs.

In 1972, Government agreed to donate a new engine to the community on condition that the owners effected repairs to the hull of the vessel, and in pursuance of this promise Government acquired an engine at a cost of \$6,745 for this purpose. The engine was stored in a Bond at Kwebanna on the Waini River.

Two years after Government had acquired the engine; the owners of the vessel had not repaired the hull, apparently because they had decided that it was uneconomical to do so. In the circumstances, the Government decided to sell the engine.

The requirements that –

- (i) A Board of Survey should decide whether or not a vessel is unserviceable and should be sold applies to Government property. The vessel AREQUNA was not Government property;
- (ii) In the light of the answer given at (i) the member's question at (b) does not arise;
- (iii) The engine was sold to Comrade Eugene Stoby for \$6,000 who undertook to build a boat to provide the service in the Moruca River. This undertaking was a condition of the sale. Comrade Stoby did build a boat and did provide a service in the Moruca River and continues to provide the service;

(iv) The answer to the question at (d) is in the negative. As far as the Government is aware, private boats ply in the River. There has been no representation by the people of Moruca that the existing arrangements are unsatisfactory and, in the circumstances, Government has not contemplated providing a Government service.

**The Leader of the Opposition (Cde. C. Jagan):** Will the Minister say whether the engine which was sold to Mr. Stoby was on cash or credit terms?

**Cde. Hoyte:** As far as I have been instructed, the engine was sold for cash.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** Will the Minister say whether the decision to sell the engine was after it was advertised and tenders called for?

**Cde. Hoyte:** That was so.

**The Speaker:** I am not allowing any supplementary question further than that.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS – FIRST READING**

The following Bill was introduced and read the First time:

Housing of Labour Workers on Sugar Estates (Amendment) Bill 1979 –  
Bill No. 10/1979. [**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader  
of the House on behalf of the Minister of Health, Housing and  
Labour**]

**PUBLIC BUSINESS****MOTION****EXTENSION OF PART II OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY  
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, CHAPTER 16:02**

Whereas it is provided by section 14 (1) of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Chapter 16:02 that no provisions of Part II of the said Act shall be in force after the expiration of a period of two years commencing with the date of the enactment of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Act 1977, provided that the period may, from time to time, be extended for a further period of two years by resolution of the National Assembly passed before the expiration of the previous of two years;

And whereas the provisions of the said Part II were enacted on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1977, and will expire on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1979:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the period during which Part II of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Chapter 16:02, shall be in force be extended for a further period of two years commencing on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1979. **[The Minister of Home Affairs]**

**The Minister of Home Affairs** (Cde. Mingo): Cde. Speaker, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name. The Motion seeks to have the provisions of Part II of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, Chapter 16:02, Part II of the Act was enacted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1977, and is due to expire on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1977. The Motion before the House seeks to have it continue to be in force for a further period of two years commencing 2<sup>nd</sup>

**27.8.29**

**National Assembly**

**2.05 – 2.15 p.m.**

September, 1979. The National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act was enacted in 1966 for the purpose of making provisions for a number of matters relating to national security.

When the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill was being debated in 1977, it was pointed out that Part II of the Act, which provides for the making of detention orders and restriction orders limiting the movement of persons suspected of perpetrating acts prejudicial to public safety, public order, or to the defence of the nation, was not a permanent part of the Act, that its continuance in operation was dependent on its duration being extended from time to time Resolution of the National Assembly. Such a Resolution has to be passed prior to the expiration of two years from the date of enactment of the extension thereof. Today, the House is being asked to pass a Motion so that this section, Part II of the Act, which is now in operation and which will expire on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1979, can be extended so that it can be enforced for a further period of two years, ending on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1981.

**2.15 p.m.**

Since the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act was enacted thirteen years ago, on three occasions Part II has been allowed to lapse, twice in 1973 and again in 1977. The relevant provisions have been re-enacted by separate Acts of Parliament. Since the last enactment in 1977, regrettably, the conditions which necessitated such enactment have not abated to an acceptable degree to warrant a lapse in its validity at this stage and we consider that it in the best interest of the public for the provisions of Part II of the Act to continue to be in force for a further period of two years from 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1979.

We have seen with sorrow the pronounced upsurge in vandalism within recent times on sugar estates as well as the callous and wanton destruction of Government buildings and property. These acts are acts directed against all the people of this country, acts which strike at the heart of the right of the people to determine freely the issues which affect their lives. Disdainful of the fact that the accession to office of this Government marked the end to violence

27.8.29

National Assembly

2.15 – 2.25 p.m.

and inter-communal strife, fear is being generated by subversive elements who have openly declared their intention to introduce violence again to thwart the democratic process.

Our position is that these threats to the well-being of the citizens of this land and open attempts to disrupt the security of the people by brazen encouragement to violate our laws cannot be ignored. The Government, as a responsible one, has a duty to protect all the citizens of this country and with this responsibility it will fulfil the mandate given it by the people.

In the present atmosphere, it is essential that adequate steps be taken to preserve the public calm which the Government is concerned about maintaining and I am sure that every right-minded citizen of Guyana is also so concerned.

In these circumstances, I am confident that this House will concur with the view which I feel constrained to take to the effect that it is my duty to move this Motion for the extension of Part II of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Act, 1977, for a further period of two years from the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1979. Cde. Speaker, I am certain that the House will see with me and accept the Motion which is before it.

*Question proposed.*

**The Speaker:** Cde. Collymore.

**Cde. Collymore:** Cde. Speaker, we listened very attentively to the Minister seeking to justify the extension of this Act. We on this side are calling on the Government to allow the Act to lapse, to scrap it and to proceed to win the people's confidence and goodwill.

This National Security (Miscellaneous Provision) Act is actually a state of emergency without an emergency declared. As the Minister said, it was enacted first in 1966 and at the time it was enacted the state of emergency was called off but some of the powers of the state have

been put into the Act so what we have in Guyana is a state of emergency without an emergency being declared. Why does this “People’s Government” have to run a country from 1966 to 1979, and for a further period of two years from today, under a state of emergency? I have nothing personal against the Minister because he is a very decent chap, but he represents this regime. He says, “Fear is being generated by subversive elements to thwart the democratic process.” I do not know what he is talking about. It is the Government which is generating fear and it is the Government which is thwarting the democratic process in this country and I will prove it and show why the Act should be allowed to lapse.

What is going on? If there is a National Security Act being invoked, the Government will have to support that there is a threat from somewhere. Who is the threat to national security? The People’s National Congress. The members of the P.N.C. are the threat to the welfare of this nation. They are also the threat to the cohesion of the people and they are also the threat to law and order. They are the threat to the rule of law in this country and we do not see the reason for them to extend the Act.

The United Nations in 1948 agreed on a declaration of basic human rights. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1948 it was adopted and countries which subscribed to the United Nations Charter are supposed to send it reports. This Government has not sent in a single report since it came to office and this year the United Nations listed Guyana, named it as one of the countries not sending in a report. Guyana is listed among the fascist regimes in the world. It is a shame! Is it something for them to crow about? Why has the Government not sent in a report to the United Nations? The Declaration has 30 articles and this Government has violated 25 of the 30. This is why it cannot send in any reports.

Article 5 – inhuman treatment. I do not know if beating people on the streets is human treatment. Article 6: equality before the law. That is a laughing stock. If you are a P.N.C. man, you get off scot free in front of the Court. If you go before the Court in a political case, the Court hands down a decision in favour of the Government.

**27.8.29**

**National Assembly**

**2.15 – 2.25 p.m.**

Article 7 deals with equality before law. Where is the Ombudsman? He does not even have staff. There is no Ombudsman and yet we see that this article is being violated. People have nowhere to complain and even when the Ombudsman was functioning, there was no staff to help him to make redress when complaints were made.

Article 9: Arbitrary detention and arrest. My good friend the Minister is now seeking to extend this law to do the same thing. Article 10: Fair Trials. We know there are no fair trials in this country. Article 12: Invasion of privacy, correspondence, etc. Article 16: The family unit is under attack. Article 18: Freedom of thought and conscience. Today if you hold a view contrary to the P.N.C.'s view, they say you are an enemy of the State, you are disloyal, and the full force of the law is imposed upon you.

Article 19: Freedom of expression. What about newsprint? I heard a man speaking in a broadcast last night. He was haranguing the people, talking. Let us not go into that. Freedom of expression. It is a shameful aberration of this United Nations Declaration.

Article 20: Freedom of assembly. Quite recently we have seen workers unable to assemble peacefully, unable to march peacefully. Article 21: Free elections. Everybody knows this. Elections are not free in Guyana. They are rigged.

Article 22: Social security, cultural rights. Article 23: Favourable conditions of work, joining trade unions, adequate wages, right to strike. These are being violated in Guyana.

**2.25 p.m.**

Article 24: Leisure, shortage of holidays with pay. Article 25: Adequate social services. Article 26: Free education. This is supposed to be unfettered by restrictions and other things. Article 27: Culture and arts, morality, etc. Article 28: Social Order. This Article says that the

people of a nation are supposed to have the social order they want. If you do not have elections, this social order will not be allowed to come into focus. It would be denied.

Article 29: Rule of law, public order and recognition of democratic institutions. There is no rule of law in Guyana and there is no public order. The Government is responsible for the rule of law being something of the past and the Government is standing by, in fact, it is having the police standing by while there is disarray on the streets of this country, thugs, criminals, hooligans, rounded up on the streets and the police are being instructed to do nothing. Innocent people are being beaten upon the streets, trade unionists are being arrested and now we come to extend this National Security Act.

Article 30 is an omnibus Article which says that the Government or any State power has no right whatsoever to abridge any of these other rights.

Twenty-five out of thirty rights have been violated. That is what our friends on the opposite sides are doing. Cde. Speaker, we say that this law should be allowed to lapse and the Government should proceed further to repeal the entire legislation. We have reasons why and we want to give you some reasons.

What are the reasons for the denial of all-round democracy, squashing of strikes, starving workers, seizing foodstuffs for strikers, etc., beating up people on the streets, terrorising citizens at night? The Minister is talking about fear but the Government has certain thugs going around, along with the police, shooting up people on the East Coast and the East Bank.

Persecuting the progressive forces. They say they are leftists but yet we see that they are persecuting and prosecuting left-wing forces. Systematically violating human rights. Specifically denying the freedom of association. We have in the Constitution of the Republic, which the Government wants to scrap, the right of freedom of association. That would be in Article 13 of the Constitution and this freedom is not being respected. It is also instructive to

note that the P.N.C. has a draft Constitution and this same freedom of association is in it. Article 147 of the P.N.C.'s draft says that you have freedom of association. Why then, you cannot belong to a trade union, you cannot march, you cannot have a public meeting? They are sending thugs to break up the meetings.

They are specifically denying the freedom of information; this is contrary to Article 12 of the present Constitution and contrary to the P.N.C. draft Constitution, Article 146. Right now the Government has put a squeeze on the Mirror, not giving the Mirror any newsprint whatsoever, and they are saying there is no newsprint in the country. Cde. Speaker, do you know what is the real situation; the Government took delivery of \$1,329 whole rolls of newsprint and 331 half rolls and these have been shifted away to the Guyana National Newspapers.

Rigged Elections. Local Government Elections have not been held since 1970 when he has proof that they were rigged. These are some of the reasons we are giving the Government to allow this law to lapse. Rigging the Constitution. If one looks at the P.N.C.'s draft, one will see what they are doing. They are cooking up the Constitution. In this Constitution, which will be imposed, the President will become an important rubber stamp under the President because the Parliament will have no power to impeach the President. I do not want to go into the Constituent Assembly. **[Interruption]**

**The Speaker:** If we do not get some order, this Motion will not be passed because I will suspend this Sitting.

**Cde. Collymore:** Victimisation of workers and strikers. They want this legislation to victimise workers, strikers and trade unionists. They took Gordon Todd to some unknown destination and terrorised him and they went further to victimise workers who were on strike, sending them letters. I have a copy of the circular letter from Guyana Stores and this is just to show you, Cde. Speaker, what our good friends on the opposite side do. This Guyana Stores Circular has the name of the person who was sacked and it was signed by the Manager

“Dear Comrade, please be informed that your service to the Company has been terminated with immediate effect. You will be paid one month’s wage in lieu of notice and such accrued annual leave as may be due will be paid to you after assessment by the Personnel Department. Your pension benefit will also be assessed and you will be given the option to decide either on deferred pension or immediate payment of your entitlement. Please be good enough to return immediately your medical I.D. and your staff discount card.”

If workers go on strike they have to go on strike for some reason and it is wicked for a Government to deem the strike political and then proceed to deal with the workers on a political basis, dismissing them.

Then we have the case of the Government hiring scabs and baptising them recruits and giving them national honours. It is a disgrace. As soon as there is any person who is suspected of having a view contrary to the Government’s view he is asked to vacate his post. Some of the Ministers have been guilty of going into Government Corporations and doing these things, telling Managers, “knock off this body” and “knock off that body.” Loyalty tests are also being applied. The Minister said fear is being generated by subversive elements to thwart the democratic process. Cde. Speaker, you know what has been happening? The Government has been hiring personnel, attaching them to the Police Force and deploying these persons at night in the rural areas to shoot at houses, commit robbery and murder. The overall intention is to whip up racial intolerance. They want a return to 1960 -- **[Interruption]**

**The Speaker:** Comrades, if you do not listen you will not be in a position to reply. After all, I also have to follow the proceedings and if I am hearing noises on this side and noises on that side, I will not be in a position to continue. So, Comrades, I would expect that in future we will not have such disruptions to the contribution being made Cde. Collymore. Please proceed, Cde. Collymore.

27.8.79

National Assembly

2.35 – 2.45 p.m.

2:35 p.m.

**Cde. Collymore:** Thank you, Cde. Speaker, for your good ruling. I know you can rule sometimes when you want to rule. They are responsible for the fear. I work with a newspaper and every day we receive telephone calls. The people are complaining about thugs in certain areas, discharging rounds of ammunition, shooting up people, entering houses, and robbing people. If we analyse the victims of these outrages we will see that they are predominantly Indians. These people are going into Indian areas and doing these things and I do not know if our friends on the other side do not know that this kind of thing will boomerang on them some day. Today, the people of Guyana are uniting in a very significant way, not under the People's National Congress but outside the People's National Congress. The P.N.C. is being destroyed. The people are uniting and the only way for our friends on the opposite side to win support for the battle is to generate racial tension. We will not allow them to do this.

I have here a letter from someone. I name the person John Public. He resides at Melanie Damishana and he was one of the team which went to Annandale foreshore. That team was guilty of murder. I am not calling his name but the team was commanded by an Inspector at Vigilance Police Station and he has been named. Some officers were there and police aides. They went there and saw some Indians on the foreshore at about 10 p.m. and told them it was time to go home. They shot and killed one of them who was in a boat and afterwards the Inspector was saying "Is so you got to kill them,"

**Cde. Hoyte rose –**

**The Speaker:** Cde. Collymore, let me hear Cde. Hoyte.

**Cde. Hoyte:** To a point of order. The speaker is going to quote from a document. I think it is well known and established under the Standing Orders that he has to identify the source of the document. He cannot quote from an unidentified document.

**The Speaker:** He has not quoted from a document as yet. He is about to.

**Cde. Collymore:** I have not quoted. The Inspector said, “Is so you got to deal with them. They are bringing in contraband.” Is that the way we are going to do it? There is no rule of law.

On August Monday, the Police shot a man in Wellington Street. They went up to the man and said, “Move on.” The man asked, “Why I got to move?” There was an argument. Pow! Wow! The Police shot him twice in the legs and that was it. I can name the police officer who did it. A week before August Monday, the police apprehended a person in Lacytown. The man had surrendered. The police went up and shot him at point blank range. He is dead. [**A Comrade:** “Lies!”] Oh! You know the story. There was another one. Alleyne – in the Le Repentir Cemetery. Another youth was shot.

**The Speaker:** I am not going to allow that. As far as I know, that is the subject of a charge.

**Cde. Collymore:** Thank you very much. I bow to your Ruling again. So we have here – and I can let the Minister have the necessary facts – a clear case of organised thuggery, vandalism, murders, robbery, going on, initiated by the People’s National Congress.

And then we have the military repression, threats, coercion. Listen to the P.N.C. speeches. The main address to the Congress. Listen to the address at the Rally. Threats. “Our steel is sharper: our shield is tougher than your steel.” So what do we have?

On top of that, we have two big thefts of arms from the Guyana Defence Force and no search is going on for these arms. Our friends on the other side admitted one theft only and they said they are investigating. But we know; we are a big party; we have people all over the place. They are not searching for the arms. It means that they organised the theft of the arms from the G.D.F. for ulterior purposes. Find the guns! If we had taken guns, they would have tumbled up

Freedom House inside out. Two thefts of arms from the Police Headquarters. If they can go into the Police Headquarters and remove guns and molest people, what will they do? No arrest has been made, none at all. We are of the view that the people know that these armed robberies were organised by the P.N.C. for political objectives.

Let me come to the Police Force. The Police Force is a necessary institution but what do we have? Political interference. Ever since my good friend over there at the extreme right, was Minister of Home Affairs, we have been complaining about interference with the police and they have been denying it. But we see today that the Police Force has become impotent. The members of the force were made to swear allegiance, not to the Constitution, or to the President of the Republic, but to the P.N.C. Congress. It is a violation of the Constitution. It is a breach of ethics of the rule of law to have a police establishment swearing allegiance to a political party. Nowhere in the world is it happening.

What is the Police Force? The Police Force has as its motto “Service and Protection.” Whom is it serving? Whom is it protecting? The P.N.C. Force is not protecting the people. What do we have? We have also a dual command now in the Police Force. One, there is the legitimate policeman and police officer and two, there is the political goon squad. The Police Commissioner cannot exercise his commission. Cde. Speaker, you do not allow me to say it. He is not allowed to exercise his commission. One finds that these political goons, these chaps who been inducted into the Police Force are big ones and even the Superintendent cannot talk to them. We want an end to political interference. We want the goons and the thugs to be removed from the Police Force and for the Government to allow the police to function in the way they are supposed to function.

There are corrupting influences in the Force. In fact, the reputation of the Police Force is at its lowest ebb and our friends on the other side are responsible for this. The people do not respect them and have no confidence in them and there is a breakdown of law and order. Imagine the policeman standing by and seeing thugs running around, but doing nothing because

27.8.79

National Assembly

2.35 – 2.45 p.m.

they have orders to do nothing. Why is that political parties cannot have meetings? There is no law to say they must not have meetings. As long as the meetings are authorised and properly organised, and there is a police contingent to keep guard, the meetings must be allowed to take place. Our friends on the opposite side are afraid when they see large crowds, ten times bigger than the crowds they organise. They get afraid; they get scared. So we are saying that there is a studied misuse of police powers by the regime on the opposite side.

What do we want? We want the regime on the opposite side, the P.N.C. Ministers, the Cabinet, to stop breaking up peaceful meetings. We want them to stop beating up peaceful marchers. They have a right to march. Our friends on the other side marched to their hearts' in the '60s. We want the Government to stop organising murders and robberies and to stop terrorising the people. We want them to stop harassing the leftists and trade unionists. We want them to stop muzzling the independent mass media. They say that they believe in freedom of expression. The case of the Mirror is a concrete case that this is a lie.

2.45 p.m.

**The Speaker:** Two minutes more.

**Cde. Collymore:** We also want them to stop censoring the news in the State-owned media.

Finally, who are the victims of this muzzling of the mass media? There is the Mirror, there is Day Clean, there is T----- and there is the **Catholic Standard**, They are all victims of muzzlings. You can see that these newspapers cover a wide spectrum. And what do we have on the Government side? They are well armed, propaganda-speaking. We have Radio Demerara, G.B.S., **New Nation**, that lying rag, **Chronicle**, **Gymine News**, **This is Bidco**, **Corpsman** of the G.N.S., **Green Beret** for the Army, **The Copper** for the Police Force, **Sugar\_News** for Guysuco, **G.I.S. Bulletin**, **G.R.B. News**. These are only the major ones. The Government has

an arsenal of propaganda news sheets but yet it cannot allow the **Mirror** to publish. We feel that the **Mirror** has been doing a very good service, enlightening and informing the people about their rights and violations of these rights by the regime, so, we are calling for the Government to scrap the Act and allow it to lapse. As far as we are concerned, the National Security Act is nothing more than a straw being clutched by a drowning P.N.C regime.

**Cde. C. Jagan :** Cde. Speaker, this Act is being extended at a time when we should ask what is the objective situation that demands its extension. Is there a state of war when the country is in a state of siege? Are conditions such that the normal law-enforcing authorities cannot maintain law and order? Why do we have to have a law which empowers the Government of the day to destroy, to invade the rights of the people which are enshrined not only in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenant of Human Rights, Civil and Political Rights, but also the fundamental rights in our own Constitution? They have put in our Constitution those rights and now they seek to use the powers that they have to violate those rights. The Attorney General, our Minister of Justice, recently went to a conference in Zambia, the Commonwealth Conference, and was talking about the moral authority of the Government in Rhodesia, a Government which exercises powers under a rigged Constitution and under fraud. I would like to ask him today, a man supposedly of great integrity and intelligence, to say whether we have any different situation in Guyana, whether we do not have in Guyana a regime attempting to take away the rights of the people, a regime which has extended its life by a manoeuvre and a fraud, and a Government which now is proposing to rig the Constitution, as in Rhodesia, to continue in power. All this double talk does not come from honest people, but it comes from dishonest people who appropriate powers, seize powers from the people by fraud and dishonest means and they come and put on the appearance of men of integrity and go to the world and talk about principles. Why principles are right in the case of Rhodesia and not right here? Let the Minister of Justice talk about that. We would like to hear him.

The National Security Act is intended, they say, for the purpose of public safety and public order for the defence of Guyana. Guyana is not being threatened by anybody. So far as

public safety and public order are concerned, who is disturbing the public peace? They refused to pay the people the \$14 per day. These liars get in the streets and on the radio, including the Prime Minister and lie about not a cent more –

**The Speaker:** Cde. Jagan, I would not have you making that statement, calling the Prime Minister a liar.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** The Prime Minister is a liar and I will repeat it over and over in this House.

**The Speaker:** If you insist on that I shall not hear you anymore. The Rules say you must not use those words.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** He is not a liar. He is a prevaricator. The fact is that they prevaricate, they falsehoods in the streets, they use the radio to distort historical facts. The fact of the matter is – and I repeat again – the P.P.P. did not at any time make a promise to the workers and did not fulfil it. The P.P.P., so far as workers are concerned, improved on the recommendations of the Guillebaud Commission. That is on the record. But these so-called socialists, these so-called defenders of the workers, tell the workers “I will pay you \$14 a day.” They signed it and what have they done? Cde. Speaker, that is why there is a disturbance of the peace and order of this country today, because they are murdering the people. Not only the goon squads on the streets, but the cost of living. They refuse to pay the wage which was promised to them and then they defraud them, they add 100 per cent, 200 per cent and 300 per cent on the foods they import into the country. They have prostituted and distorted the whole concept of control of foreign trade to use it as a means to rob the workers of this country.

27.8.79

National Assembly

2.55 – 3 p.m.

2.55 p.m.

Let us look at this statement. They not only defrauded the workers. Let us take the mine workers, who, at one time, were their staunchest supporters. They not only refused to pay \$14 but the increments to which the people are entitled. Some were paid in January, and in May this year they cut it out, stopped it. And look at what they tell the people, look at what they tell themselves in secret, but it comes out in public. This is the strength of the P.P.P. and that is why we can get information like this. This is a letter signed on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1979, from P.Q. De Freitas to W.H. Parris, Personal. This is what it says so far as workers are concerned:

“No increased benefits should be granted to the G.M.W.U. or G.B.S.A. employees. The review currently in progress should be suspended, dragged out, filibustered for the rest of 1979. The idea is no payment must be made or accrued for 1979. The Workers Housing Plan should be suspended until we put in place the facilities for which we have provided funds. We now provide \$2.6 million per annum for these housing schemes and we have unspent \$4.6 million.”

This is why there is a disturbance of the peace in this country. People cannot live because of their policies, their wage freeze policies, taken from their masters in Wall Street and the I.M.F. and the State Department. The fact is that when they take the money from the people, they send it out to their masters and they refuse to pay the people the money. The Prime Minister said last night – I heard it over the radio – that the Soviets told him, the Russians told him personally that they do not provide foreign exchange. [Cde. Hoyte: “Ambassador.”] The Soviet Ambassador, if it suits you better. A sum of \$234 million of the \$401 million that they are collecting from the sweat and tears of the workers is going out to pay those who have robbed us, and those who have put them in power and continue to prop them in power: \$234 million is going to pay debts and compensation payments.

They will fool the gullible in the streets. That is why they want to close down the **Mirror**. That is why they do not want us to be heard in the streets. That is why when we have a

public meeting, for which Police permission is given, they use the thugs not only to throw missiles, bottles and bricks, but bottles filled with formalin. These people are moving to the stage of fascism in Germany under Hitler and Mussolini.

Let me come back to the financial question. Two things they are saying to the public today: they have not got the money to pay: it is going to cost \$85 million for them to pay \$14 a day. They have not got it, but they are paying their masters \$234 million. Let that be known by the public. If we were in Government and a crisis like this were on our shoulders, in whose benefit do you solve the crisis? The masters, the imperialists, or the working class? There would be no doubt at all where the P.P.P. would decide and it was for that reason that the imperialists decided with the C.I.A. and – what is his name there –

**The Speaker:** No! No!

**Cde. C. Jagan:** I withdraw that. He is now calling us counter-revolutionaries. **New Nation** has an article by him saying we are counter-revolutionaries. Even the former Minister in charge of the Police is laughing, because he knows that.

So, Cde. Speaker, it is \$85 million for the workers. They have it. All they have to do is to stop what they are sending out. Stop it. [**Cde. Ram Karran:** “They cannot stop it.] They cannot, because I asked them: “Do you want P.P.P. support? Ninety per cent of the people on the streets today – whom you do not have – will support you.”

Let us deal with foreign exchange now. The bulk of this \$234 is going out in foreign exchange, in foreign dollars. According to the I.M.F terms, this year the Bank of Guyana must increase our reserves overseas by \$200 million. It has nothing to do with the Soviet Ambassador giving us foreign exchange. That is trying to fool the public. You have the power in your hands. Let Vincent Teekah, who has become an economist, give those figures. Analyse them. Those are the facts. They not only have the money right here to pay the workers but they have the

27.8.79

National Assembly

2.55 – 3 p.m.

money right here which is going out to pay the sharks in foreign exchange which we need to buy all the things we need in Guyana today. That is why they do not want the people to hear in the streets; that is why they do not want the people to hear in the streets; that is why they do not want the **Mirror** to be published and they go about monopolising the Press and the Radio and the streets to fool the workers.

Look at the corruption and the rackets which are going on today part from the fact that they do not pay the people the money and do not try to control the cost of living. Let us look at one named Mustapha Ally, for example. They paid him nearly \$300,000. They admitted it. The Minister has not been able to obtain from Mustapha Ally any detailed accounts of cost, etc and he finds it impossible to present any logical figures for ant settlement of the service by Mustapha Ally. And they give him, for a Sports Complex, the sum of \$300,000. They refuse to debate it. When they try to filibuster with the workers, the mine workers filibuster them, talk them out. At the same time, we have a statement here of Mr. Parris gets US\$200 per day for 14 days and his wife, too, has to go along and gets US\$100 per day. **[Interruption]**

3.05 p.m.

**The Speaker:** Comrades, please let us have some order. Don't let us degenerate further in this debate than we have already.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** Desmond says I am a kept man. Look at this statement when he went abroad last year. Cde. Hoyte, thirty-one days at \$440 per day. Tell us how much freeness you had over there, how much you paid out of this while you were abroad. **[Interruption]**  
Look at the Auditor General's last Report. The Auditor General's last Report is 1970. Listen to this:

“In relation to Tender Board the Auditor General drew attention in his 1968 Annual Report in which he has referred to instances where contracts relating to the

Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply were awarded to parties other than those to whom the awards were made or recommended to be made by the appropriate Tender Board.

**The Speaker:** Where are you quoting from?

**Cde. C. Jagan:** The Mirror of Thursday, June 28, 1979. This is not manufactured evidence; this is a quotation directly from the Auditor General's Report of 1970. So that is why we have to worry. That is why I am asking a little while ago about Mr. Stoby getting a boat engine. We want to know. Anyhow, let us come back to the meat of the question.

The proposition is this. This Government is taking this country around in a vicious circle. It started out with the National Security Act after it detained the people and after it came to power with the help of the C.I.A. That is well known. After it removed the emergency, it brought in the National Security Act and it has so run the country that the country is today in a grave economic and social crisis. And how is the Government reacting to that crisis? This is the point. We have said over and over that the course it is taking cannot solve the problems. Let it take the course which will help the people of this country and which will help the country to develop.

Cde. Speaker, these people are political infants, they do not understand. Do they think that the little army and the police they have and the National Security Act will save them? The Shah of Iran had the fifth biggest army in the world. He had the Savak, the secret police, with thugs operating all over the world, and it did not save him. They are starting on that course.

I want to speak now to some people. Do they go along with this, Cde. Jack, Cde. Kennard? Cde. Kennard used to serve the Government before as a technocrat. They moved the man from a good position and made him a Minister and a P.N.C. man and the man cannot do his work as he used to before. The same thing they did with Shahabuddeen. The same thing they

did with Steve Naraine. Steve Naraine put up a recommendation to the P.P.P. Government to start the M.M.A. Scheme since 1965. Up to now they have not done it. How many times Kennard has been told by the rice farmers, shown evidence, everything? He himself, we understand, has put up reports to the Cabinet, “treat farmers better.” His mouth is shut now; he cannot come out because he has become a party hack, unfortunately. We have other people who, one would have thought, had more sense, who have logic, who have understanding. But clearly, they must see the course we are going is not going to get this country anywhere. The Prime Minister now says we must have dialogue with the official Opposition. Shoot the other one, shoot them down.

**The Speaker:** Five minutes more, Cde. Jagan.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** As regards dialogue, the P.P.P. since 1976, in June, at Enmore Martyrs Day, the first time we had the chance to get on the radio, read seventeen points and we told them: Do it. If we do not do it, the economy will become undermined; you will have problems from economic crisis to social crisis to goon squads to fascism. That is the order. Therefore, it is not a question of dialogue. The P.P.P. is always talking, everywhere, here, in the streets. We had talks with them too. But the talks broke up because they betrayed this country when Kennard offered \$1 and Sukhdeo offered \$1 when they went to Bookers. But when they settled under pressure at \$102 million at 6 per cent interest, twenty years to pay this, the country was caught in a trap, a debt trap. When they sold Democracy! They are now talking nonsense, getting on the radio and making it appear that the P.P.P. is talking ethnic, race. What we were talking about was to implement the provisions of the Constitution; that the Opposition must have a voice in the Public Service Commission and in places where people are employed and promoted because of their practice of racial and political discrimination. That is what they are distorting. Let me just not read out all of this, but just to summarise it.

**The Speaker:** Well, I do not know, you have 3 minutes more, Dr. Jagan, unless you get an extension of time.

27.8.79

National Assembly

3.05 – 3.15 p.m.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** If they don't want to extend, what can we do? They control the Parliament as they control all the goon squads and everything else.

**Cde. Ram Karran:** I beg to move that the Cde. Leader of the Opposition be permitted an extension of 15 minutes to conclude his speech.

**Cde. N. Persaud:** seconded.

*Question put, and negative.*

**The Speaker:** Cde. Jagan, 3 minutes more.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** Cde. Speaker, we do not have the democracy at the Government level, central and local -- **[Interruption]**

**The Speaker:** Comrades, kindly allow him, he has only two minutes more.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** They don't have democracy at the social level with the mass organisations that the people want. They don't have it at the industrial level, at the factory level so that we could have democratic management and workers' control. If we continue with corruption, if we continue with racial and political discrimination, we cannot see any end to this crisis we have here today. I want to warn these people. History and judgement will say that they are the perpetrators of violence and they are using now fascist methods which Hitler and his hordes tried to use to kill the working class but they did not succeed and these will not succeed also in this country. **[Applause]**

3.15 p.m.

**The Speaker:** Cde. Minister, do you wish to reply?

**Cde. Mingo** (replying): Cde. Speaker, actually there is not very much to say in reply. It appears as if the comrades who spoke on the other side have entirely misinterpreted the intention of the Bill. At one stage I wondered whether they were speaking on the Bill now before the House. Anyhow, Cde. Collymore appeared as if he had just arrived from Mars because he read out a whole book of rights which he said are denied in Guyana and I think anybody who has lived in Guyana for two years would have known that all the rights he mentioned are rights which are respected in Guyana by the Government and the people of Guyana.

Then he took the opportunity – and I appreciate the deep interest he has in thefts and related crimes – to malign the Police. I noticed that he mentioned quite many incidents but there is one which he did not mention which I wish to refer to. He did not mention the incident in which Bagh Singh was murdered at Mon Repos on the night—

**Cde. Ram Karran** (The Deputy Speaker): To a point of order. The Minister is adverting to a matter that is obviously sub judice. As a matter of fact, that was dealt with by the House of Israel on the radio.

**The Speaker:** Cde. Ram Karran is right. You cannot mention this matter, Minister Mingo. [Cde. Ram Karran: “Is that the way you run the Government?”]

**Cde. Mingo:** Sir, I will apologise. I am afraid that he might have mentioned some matters that are sub judice.

**The Speaker:** If you had drawn my attention to it --- I am not aware of all the matters that are before the Courts. Had you drawn my attention to it, I would have certainly not have permitted him to speak.

**Cde. Mingo:** I wish to refer to untruths and allegations levelled against the Police. As Minister responsible for Police in Guyana, I wish to say that we have implicit confidence in the

performance of the Police. [Applause (Government)] Not only I, but the Government of Guyana has implicit confidence in the performance of the Police and I wish to assure this House that we have no reason to disregard the performance of the Police Force in Guyana.

The Leader of the Opposition seems very anxious to find a platform to express his views. He spoke about the objective situation that has caused the need to introduce this measure this afternoon and he admitted that public safety and order have been disturbed which means that he certainly is a supporter of the Motion. He certainly admitted that there is need for such a measure in Guyana. [Applause (Government).]

*Question put.*

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House** (Cde. Ramsaroop):  
Division!

**Assembly divided: Ayes 25, Noes 9, as follows:**

AYES	NOES
Cde. Willems	Cde. Nokta
Cde. Sukul	Cde. Dindayal
Cde. Sukhu	Cde. Dalchand
Cde. Salim	Cde. Ally
Cde. Rayman	Cde. Collymore
Cde. Jonas	Cde. N. Persaud
Cde. Gill	Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud
Cde. Fowler	Cde. Ram Karran
Cde. Field-Ridley	Cde. C. Jagan
Cde. Carrington	
Cde. Wrights	

27.8.79

National Assembly

3.15 – 3.25 p.m.

Cde. Bynoe  
Cde. Corrica  
Cde. Durant  
Cde. Van Sluytman  
Cde. Corbin  
Cde. Thomas  
Cde. Bancroft  
Cde. Duncan  
Cde. Carmichael  
Cde. Clarke  
Cde. Mingo  
Cde. Ramsaroop  
Cde. Hoyte  
Cde. Reid - 25

*Motion carried.*

**BILL – SECONG READING**  
**NATIONAL CANE FARMING COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT)**  
**BILL 1979**

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to amend the National Farming Committee Act.”

**[The Minister of Agriculture]**

**The Minister of Agriculture** (Cde. Kennard: I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill intituled “An Act to amend the National Cane Farming Committee Act.”

This is a very simple amendment. It seeks to amend the Act in a number of respects. First of all, we are seeking to re-define the word “Association” which formerly was described as meaning the company known as the “Guyana Sugar Producers’ Association.” The amendment now seeks to define “Association” as meaning “any company or other organisation for the time being designated in writing by the Minister as being representative of persons who carry on business of the manufacture of sugar.” The real purpose is to substitute the “Guyana Sugar Corporation” for the “Guyana Sugar Producers’ Association” which is now defunct.

Secondly, we seek to re-define “Development Corporation which formerly meant the Cane Farming Development Corporation Ltd., which has gone into liquidation. “Development Corporation” is now being defined as “any company or other organisation for the time being designated in writing by the Minister as being concerned with undertaking, facilitating or promoting the development of the cane farming industry in Guyana.” For the time being it is my intention to designate the Guyana Agricultural and Industrial Co-operative Development Bank which is engaged in the business of lending funds for the development of the cane farming industry, replacing the Cane Farming Development Corporation which has previously performed that function.

### 3.25 p.m.

Finally, section 3(5) of the Principal Act is being amended by the deletion of all the words following the words “members of the Committee.” Formerly, section 3(5) read as follows:

“The Minister shall appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee from among the members of the Committee of whom the Chairman shall be an official and the Vice-Chairman shall be one of the members nominated by the Development Corporation or the Association.”

We are deleting all those words “of whom the Chairman” etc., to “Association.” So that the intention is that henceforth we may appoint any member to be Chairman and any member to be Vice Chairman of the National Cane Farming Committee. These amendments, we believe, reflect the changes which have taken place in terms of the organisations that service the cane farming industry and will also reflect the continuing progress of the democratic progress whereby it is our intention to select non-officials to the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Committee.

I trust, therefore, that the amendment will meet with full acquiescence of Members here present.

*Question proposed.*

**Cde. Dalchand:** Cde. Speaker, this Bill is another attempt by the Minister to window-dress the P.N.C.’s claim to democracy. I must state, and we know for a fact, that at no level the P.N.C. allows democracy to prevail. This Bill has to deal with the livelihood of over 4,000 families, cane farmers, including eight co-operative societies which produce about 12 to 15 per cent of the total sugar production and these people are not being allowed to elect their representative on this Committee. Provision was made in the Act for the Minister to divide the country into seven districts, thereby allowing the farmers in the various districts to elect their representatives who will sit on this body and make recommendations to the Minister on all matters relating to cane farming and in the interest of cane farmers. Instead, the Minister refuses to even consult with these farmers or their organisation. For example, the Guyana Cane Farmers’ Association, which represents over 3,500 farmers, is not being listened to. Instead, the Government appointed what is called the Confederation of Cane Farmers and it allowed this body to speak to farmers. Only two weeks ago I had to speak to the Minister about problems affecting cane farmers on the West Bank at Belle Vue where Guysuco now is doing even worse than Bookers did in the past.

This is a very important body as far as cane farming is concerned. Many of the farmers today are abandoning their cultivations because they cannot get redress from the National Cane Farming Committee or even the Government. The situation in Guyana is becoming worse. Farmers are being called upon to produce more. How can the farmers produce more when the farmers are being cheated? Let us look, for example, at the prices being paid to cane farmers. This is an important part of the business of the National Cane Farming Committee. The National Cane Farming Committee is supposed to settle the question of the final price for cane farmers' sugar. This supposed to be done before the 31<sup>st</sup> March every year. On to now only an interim payment has been made. There has been no final price determined for farers' cane since last year January. This is over twenty months and nothing has been done because the Committee that is responsible fell dead since the 31<sup>st</sup> January and a new body has not yet been appointed.

The Government continues to harp in the newspaper and over the radio about the poor price of sugar on the world market. I would like to quote from the report and I would like to say that not one ounce of our sugar has been sold for last year on the world market. This is what the report has to say in relation to the selling of our sugar on the guaranteed market. It states:

“This quota is vital to Guyana without an assured outlet at a remunerative price for our major proportion of its export the sugar industry, efficient though it is, would have been hardly viable.”

What it says here is that the Government has been receiving a remunerative price for sugar and the market is being closed, and this is a fact. They have been selling sugar at good prices. Instead of the farmers receiving good prices for last year, so far in some estates farmers have received lower prices for their sugar.

Let us look at the question of molasses. The price of molasses last year rose from 32 cents to 50 cents per gallon. This is what Guysuco is paying cane farmers and yet when cane

farmers go to the Estates to buy the molasses for their livestock, they are being charged 83 cents per gallon. They are buying the farmers' molasses at 50 cents per gallon and charging them 83 cents for it. These are some of the irregularities. This is the way the farmers are robbed. I want to ask the Minister to have a look at this situation. We should have a democratic organisation, the National Cane Farming Committee, and allow the process of the Ordinance to be acted upon, where the farmers can elect their representatives. It is because of this type of behaviour of this Government that the rice industry is today being ruined. There is no democracy in that industry. In 1964, when the Rice Marketing Board was established –

**The Speaker:** Let us keep to sugar.

**Cde. Dalchand:** I am trying to show you what democracy in one industry can do. When the Rice Marketing Board was set up, we had eight R.P.A. representatives –

**The Speaker:** Apparently you did not hear what I said. We are dealing with the National Cane Farming Committee.

**Cde. Dalchand:** I am just giving you a rough idea.

**The Speaker:** This is a small amendment dealing with the changing of definitions –

**Cde. Dalchand:** It is saying that the Chairman will now be elected –

**The Speaker:** All members. It is specifically saying, from the official members and now giving it an opportunity of taking all members into consideration.

**Cde. Dalchand:** I want to show you what is happening. The Government is careful. It does not want to hold elections in the district. It has handpicked a few people, what they call liaison committees, in the various sugar estates. What is the purpose of the liaison committees?

**27.8.79**

**National Assembly**

**3.25 – 3.35 p.m.**

Let us see what are their duties, their aims and objectives: A forum of information to improve on the methods of communication and co-operation between management and cane farmers; efficiency and productivity, for example, improvement in the record-keeping of equipment and materials used to eliminate waste, effective use of man-power and other productive resource foster and improve relationships, to exchange views, to identify training.

**3.35 p.m.**

This committee is impotent. It does not have any right to discuss the question of prices. This Committee does not have the right to discuss the most burning question today, that is, the ton cane: ton sugar ratio. The estates are now taking up last year's. Diamond Estate took 24 tons of cane to make one ton of sugar. This Committee does not have the right to speak and it is from this so-called "Committee" the members of the National Cane Farming Committee will be selected. This is where it is wrong.

The Minister is asking that the Chairman of this Committee be elected by the Committee. The Chairman of the Liaison Committee, which is a lower committee, is not being allowed to be elected by even that Committee. The Chairman of the Liaison Committee is a cane-farming licensing officer of GUYSUCO. Even this Committee that is handpicked is not being allowed to elect a Chairman. The Chairman must be the Cane-Farmers Liaison Committee Officer. One, you can see that the Government is not interested in democracy. If it continues in this direction, the whole system is going to break down and there is going to be further deterioration.

Democracy again. Large areas are given over to cane farming within the Local Government areas. For example, one of the largest cane farming areas in Guyana is the Canals Polder District. Today the councillors in those districts are not being democratically elected. They are being hand-picked and because of this, there is suffocation and deterioration of the services that cane farmers should enjoy in order to improve production. Dams are in a

deplorable condition. Drainage and irrigation: the works are not being cleaned. These are all supposed to be local government services but because the people who are there are selected by the Government, they do not have any responsibility to the farmers and so they are not listening to the problems of farmers. This is what is creating most of the problem.

I want to ask the Minister to see that these bodies, not only the National Cane Farming body but local government bodies which are responsible for production, are given the right of democratic elections to choose their leader, which will bring about improvements. The price being paid to cane farmers for sugar is not being increased. The estate costs are escalating. Farmers used to pay \$2 as punt charges. Today it is \$32. The estate is unilaterally increasing these charges, imposing them on cane farmers and there are many officers who have no sympathy. This includes a comrade who is sitting at the back there and who is supposed to advise the Minister. He has no sympathy for cane farmers. This is why cane farmers have abandoned their cultivations. This is why production is dropping. The local selling price of sugar was increased last year. Who benefited? The farmers did not get one cent, nor the workers. The Government benefited.

From 1947 until last year, when this Government increased it, the price of sugar remained in the same position. The farmers and workers did not get any benefit. All was taken by the Government. There were good sugar prices in 1974, 1976. The Prime Minister is always harping on the fact that \$3,200 was received for sugar. What did the cane farmers get? They got \$380 up to 1976. That is what they received. The farmers enjoyed no benefit. This is because the Committee is hand-picked; the Committee cannot function in the interest of farmers and this is why advantage is being taken even by the officers. Today, there are a lot of unilateral changes. GUYSSUCO has been asked by the Government to make profits and GUYSSUCO wants to make profits at the cost of the farmer and by sacrificing the farmers and workers.

I want to ask the Minister this afternoon to allow the cane farmers in various districts, as stated in the Ordinance, to elect democratically the representatives who will administer and

advise the Minister on questions of cane farming in Guyana. This afternoon I also want to ask the Minister to allow the cane farmers to elect their cane-scale supervisors. This is not being done. Up to now, the Minister of Labour still appoints the people who are to look at the weight of cane-farmers' cane. Cane farmers are not being allowed and these people have no interest in cane farming. They are not there to check the weight of the cane. They go in and out and copy in their books what is written. Cane farmers have no representation. I want to appeal to the Minister this afternoon to set the train in motion so that cane farmers will have more say in the industry.

**Cde. C Jagan:** Cde. Speaker, we just moved from one extreme where the coercive apparatus of the State is now being used with a vengeance against the masses to a vital area of production of the things which this country will have to produce more and more of – to use the present slogan: “Produce or Perish” – and yet certain fundamental things are not being done.

When I read the statement from the man in the bauxite industry, Mr. De Freitas, showing how he said to filibuster the workers, talk them out, I did not mention the first paragraph where he said that since 1976 our production has been atrocious and this pattern of performance continued in the first half of 1979. He goes on: “Consolidated net earnings for the period was approximately \$19.4 million, about 18 per cent less than the forecast of \$24.4 million.” Eighteen per cent less in the first half of the year.

I mention that because getting out at the street corners and saying “The P.P.P. cannot go to Linden,” “W.P.A. man cannot go to –

**The Speaker:** How is that relevant to cane farming? That is bauxite.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** That is relevant to democracy.

**The Speaker:** We are not dealing with democracy. We are dealing with the National Cane Farming Committee (Amendment) Bill. I allowed Cde. Dalchand to wander and talk a lot because he is not as seasoned a campaigner as you are. But we are dealing with an amendment to two definitions.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** You have studied law and you understand logic and logic means if I am to present a logical case to this House, I must be able to put all the relevant factors.

**The Speaker:** Relevant factors.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** In this case we want cane farmers' production to go up and we want rice production to go up; we want bauxite production to go up and other production. I say it is because of lack of democracy at all levels of the society, including cane farming, that we are in this mess and if the Government does not deal with this point then we are only dealing with forms, mechanisms, but not dealing with content. My comrade wanted to refer to the Rice Marketing Board and you stopped him. I do not think you can. If the comrade is speaking outside of his time you can stop him when the time comes and use the guillotine.

**The Speaker:** The Rule says that speakers must be relevant and I determine what is relevant.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** I am not going to challenge you about what is relevant, but I want to say now that this Government is calling itself socialist and calling the Opposition counter-revolutionary. The Cane Farmers' Association, P.P.P., Rice Producers, G.A.W.U. – everybody is counter-revolutionary at the moment. The fact of the matter is this: if they were real socialists -- Let me quote what is fundamental to socialism.

**The Speaker:** Cde. Jagan, if you will listen to me. Is socialism dealing with this Amendment?

**Cde. Jagan**, if you will listen to me. Is socialism dealing with this Amendment?

**Cde. C. Jagan:** Socialism has to do with production because if you do not have production you cannot improve. Socialism has to do with improving the life of the people, material, spiritual, moral, to make a new man and a new society, and without the material basis of society – this is Marxism, which they claim they know – being developed, you cannot talk about spiritual and moral development. That is what we are talking about.

**3.45 p.m.**

**The Speaker:** That is not what we are talking about; we are talking about, an amendment.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** Cde. Speaker, we are talking about cane farming. We are not dealing with the commas and the dots. We are not dealing with the Committee Stage at the present moment. We are dealing with the Second Reading, with the principle.

**The Speaker:** What we are dealing with, not the principle of the whole Bill, we are dealing with the principle of the amendment.

**Cde. C Jagan.:** I am dealing with the fact that the basic structure at the moment in this cane farming superstructure that they have is not democratic, and that is what I am trying to show. The statement which I wanted to read was a very small one and it is from the Central Committee Report. I will send it to these people to teach them a little bit about Marxism, but that is another point. Let me just read from page 18 of the Central Committee Report to the twentieth congress, quoting Lenin. It states:

“Whoever wants to reach socialism by any other path than that of political democracy will inevitably arrive at conclusions that are absurd and reactionary both in the economic and political sense.”

We are talking about economics now; we are talking about producing cane through the cane farmers. Produce or perish. The fact of the matter is that we do not have production in all fairness today because we have bureaucratic methods of administration, bureaucratic methods of control rather than democratic methods. My comrade was raising the point. I was only putting cane farming in the global perspective of Guyana. But in the case of cane farming, there is not going to be production unless we adopt the procedure starting from the very bottom, that is that the farmers' organisation must be respected by the Government. This is the part of democracy which is referred to as social democracy.

The people's organisations must be recognised. Why is the Minister afraid to establish a procedure to recognise the people's organisations? The Member Mr. Carrington – because he voted for National Security his name is gone from Comrade to Minister. **[Interruption]** He does not deserve to be called Comrade anymore. He allowed a poll in the sugar industry and that has brought some degree of stability and production in the sugar industry. But how is it that the Minister of Agriculture who is charge of this aspect is not taking a poll? Instead, during the floods a couple of years ago, they went and told the farmers, “If you join the federation” or whatever it is called “then you will get credits and help.” Is that the way we are going to produce? Surely, that is the formula to perish. Then, there is not only lack of democracy at the bottom in that they do not recognise the farmers' organisation, but it is how they deal with farmers. They make a howl every day at the street corner that the world price of sugar has gone down, whereas they are selling all the sugar they produce. They cannot produce enough. That is the problem, that is the crisis of Guyana. They are selling whatever they are producing in markets which are not in the world price market. That is a fact. But they go about fooling the gullible, talking about selling below the cost of production.

Why is it that the Minister of Agriculture does not pay the farmers, rice farmers, cane farmers – well Trinidad does not produce rice – the same price that Trinidad farmers are being paid, why? Trinidad has cheaper inputs, fertilizers, oil and everything else to mechanise agriculture today. Cheaper inputs, cost of production, yet Trinidad farmers are being paid more. The same way they robbed the sugar workers with the levy, they robbed the cane farmers and they do not pay the farmers an adequate price for the cane. That is why some farmers are now abandoning even cane. Go in the Canals and you will know that. I was there the other day and they told me they were abandoning cane because, like rice, it does not pay the farmers to produce. So the position is that the fundamental question has to be solved in this country. It is no use shouting on the house tops about the world price of sugar going down, the price of oil going up and all that we hear over and over. The basic fact in the country today is that we are not producing enough: rice, bauxite, cane farmers' sugar. Instead of socialism what we are having now is State Capitalism.

Long ago this same Minister, when he was not Minister, when he was Director of Agriculture, was complaining and agreeing with us that Bookers was really squeezing the hell out of the cane farmers at Belle Vue with all kinds of charges. What does he do now? He allows Guysuco to squeeze them even more than Bookers was squeezing them. That is why a lot of people are saying that it would have been better if the white man was here. They are discrediting socialism so badly that they are not telling the people what they are practising is not co-operative socialism, that they are practising co-operative capitalism and State capitalism. That is what is happening.

They use the state machinery not only to bludgeon the revolutionaries but to enrich themselves and their friends through a lot of shady deals like these contracts at the Tender Board which the Auditor General referred to. They do not want the light of day, that is why they do not want democratic management, that is why they do not want workers' control, that is why they do not want democratic trade unionism in Guyana. They do not want to stop the rackets. Rackets, corruption, extravagance will not solve the problems of production; every day it is going down.

27.8.79

National Assembly

3.45 – 3.55 p.m.

Are you going to use force? Is force going to solve that problem? Is force going to get production? You can put the goon squad. How many goons are you going to put? How many scabs you will employ? Victimise workers, dismiss them, and you say you are socialists. Socialism is not built that way. It is built by a workers' state and workers' control at levels of society. So we condemn the Government at this zero hour, at this period of crisis. What is the use of saying you want to have dialogue, dialogue now? Implement the things which the P.P.P. has been calling for a long time.

**The Speaker:** Cde. Jagan, if you are not going to be relevant on the Bill, I will proceed to ask somebody else to speak. I think you have not been relevant for a long time now on it.

**Cde. C. Jagan:** I say implement. In the case of this Bill, I will ask the Minister to immediately register the farmers and have a poll of all cane farmers to see which organisation they want. That is the first step. Number two, examine the question of the payment to farmers, not through this body controlled by the Government, the ruling party, but examine it through a democratic body, the recommendations they made and in keeping with the prices which are paid, for instance in the Caribbean, especially Trinidad and Barbados. Why is it we cannot?

3.55 p.m.

Cde. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister wanted me to be relevant. He wants to know how much they are paying for education. In Barbados they do not talk about socialism but they give the children free food, free transportation. Here they are naked now. If you want to go to socialism, let us start to treat the workers and the farmers properly, respect their organisation and give them decent wages and decent prices and then we will have a good order.

**The Speaker:** Cde. Minister.

**Cde. Kennard** (replying): I will deal with the Bill. Quite clearly Dr. Jagan has got more than 15 minutes which he requested with respect to the previous item. He got half an hour because what he had said – in fact, all that he has said – seems to be completely irrelevant from the Bill under consideration. He said nothing about “Association” in the new definition, nothing about the Amendment of section 3(5) of the Principal Act which is all that is in this little Bill this afternoon. In the interest therefore of sticking to the facts, we shall deal with the Bill.

Cde. Dalchand spoke of prices to farmers. We are not dealing with that, but I will mention that. There is a recognised formula for payment of prices for farmers’ cane. This is a recognised formula that has been adopted since the time of the P.P.P. and it continues today, a recognised cane- farming formula under which farmers are paid for cane. It was agreed by the previous Government and succeeding Governments. At the present time – since last year – we did appoint a Commissioner, a one-man Tribunal, to enquire into possible changes in this formula and farmers had the full opportunity to make their contributions which they might have cared to make to that Committee. We are awaiting the Commission’s report but farmers are paid in accordance with that agreed price formula.

With respect to the comparison of prices for farmers’ cane as between Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, let it be known that the price of sugar in Trinidad and in Barbados is much higher than the price of sugar in Guyana and since the price payable for cane takes into account the local selling price of sugar and external selling price of sugar, it is only natural, straight arithmetic, to expect, therefore, that the price payable in Guyana will be lower since the local price here is lower than it is in those two territories. That is the sole reason for this.

Now, with respect to representation on this Committee, there are 15 members, seven of whom are farmers and these farmers will be elected from liaison committees that have been established between individual estates and the farmers. The farmers themselves have elected

their liaison committees and, from these committees, members will be elected by the members for representation on this cane-farming committee. That will be the new arrangement.

Cde. Dalchand made a plea for his personal association, the Guyana Cane Farmers' Association, which seems to have only one member, namely, Cde. Dalchand. It is one of these paper organisations without any real root in the farming community. Here we are dealing with liaison committees appointed by the farmers themselves and they will now elect members to this committee and it is the intention that of the members to be elected to this National Cane Farming Committee, the Chairman will be a farmer. So much for the democracy which will be introduced in terms of this Amendment.

#### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9(2)**

**Cde. Ramsaroop:** Cde. Speaker, permit me to move the suspension of Standing Order 9(2) to enable this measure, the Second Reading and succeeding Stages, to be taken at this stage.

*Question put, and agreed to.*

*Standing Order 9(2) suspended.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF DEBATE**

#### **NATIONAL CANE FARMING COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT)**

#### **BILL 1979**

**Cde. Kennard:** This Committee will also administer funds to be given to the committee by the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation Fund Committee. Those funds will be used for rehabilitation of the industry.

**27.8.79**

**National Assembly**

**3.55 - 4.05 p.m.**

Cde. Dalchand mentioned the question of dams not being graded and in a bad state. Such funds will be used, among other things, for the improvement of that sort of infrastructure. This Committee, being fully representative of the farmers throughout the cane farming areas of Guyana, not only the Canals Polder but throughout Guyana, will administer those funds. This Committee will sit with the purchasing corporation, namely the Guyana Sugar Corporation, and discuss some of the minutiae which he attempted to deal with here today.

On the question of cane-scale operators, to be fair, I cannot see how one can appoint a cane-scale supervisor unilaterally, that is, the seller must appoint him. You cannot do that. It has to be an independent authority appointing an operator to represent both sides, to balance the scale of justice evenly. You cannot have a unilateral appointment representing only one interest and not the other interest. No sensible Government would adopt a wild suggestion such as that. The system of an objective and impartial appointment must continue in the interest of both parties.

I think that I have referred quite adequately to the more substantial points being raised on the other side and the substantive points which are clearly stated in the Amendment still remain. I would ask that these be committed to the Committee stage.

*Question put, and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time.*

*Assembly in Committee.*

*Bill considered and approved.*

*Assembly resumed.*

27.8.79

National Assembly

3.55 - 4.05 p.m.

*Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed as printed.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolved**, “That this Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed.”

**[The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House]**

**Adjourned accordingly at 4.05 p.m.**

\*\*\*\*\*