

**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

OFFICIAL REPORT

[Volume 5]

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

13th Sitting

2 p.m.

Tuesday, 29th June, 1971

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. SaseNarain, J.P.

Members of the Government

People's National Congress

Elected Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, S.C.,
Prime Minister

(Absent)

The Honourable P.A. Reid,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture

The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A.,
Minister of Communications

The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C.,
Minister of Finance

The Honourable W.G. Carrington,
Minister of Labour and Social Security

(Absent)

The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley,
Minister of Education

The Honourable B. Ramsaroop
Minister of Trade (Leader of the House)

The Honourable D.A. Singh,
Minister of Housing and Reconstruction

The Honourable O.E. Clarke,
Minister of Home Affairs

The Honourable C.V. Mingo,
Minister of Local Government

Appointed Ministers

The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C.,
Attorney-General and Minister of State **(Absent)**

The Honourable H. Green,
Minister of Works and Hydraulics and Supply **(Absent)**

The Honourable H.O. Jack,
Minister of Mines and Forest **(Absent)**

Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot,
Minister of Health **(Absent)**

Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Mr. P. Duncan, J.P.
Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. W. Haynes,
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister.

Mr. A. Salim,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. J.R. Thomas,
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply

Other Members

Mr. J.N. Aaron
Miss. M.M. Ackman, (*Government Whip*)
Mr. K. Bancroft
Mr. N.J. Bissember
Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.
Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue
Mr. E.F. Correia
Mr. M. Corrica
Mr. E.H.A. Fowler (Absent)
Mr. R.J. Jordon
Mr. S.M. Saffee
Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.
Mr. L.W. Willems

Members of the Opposition

People's Progressive Party

Dr. C.B. Jagan, (Leader of the Opposition) (Absent)
Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. R. Chandisingh
Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C. (Absent)
Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., (Deputy Speaker)
Mr. E.M.G. Wilson
Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P., (Opposition Whip)
Mr. G.H. Lall
Mr. M.Y. Ally
Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.
Mr. E.M. Stoby (Absent – on leave)
Mr. R. Ally
Mr. E. L. Ambrose
Mr. L.M. Branco
Mr. Balchand Persaud
Mr. Bhola Persaud
Mr. I. R. Remington, J.P.
Mrs. R.P. Sahoye (Absent)
Mr. V. Teekah (Absent – on leave)

United Force

Mrs. E. DaSilva (Absent)
Mr. M.F. Singh
Mr. J. A. Sutton

Independent

Mr. R. E. Cheeks (Absent)

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly - Mr. F.A. Narain
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly - Mr. M.B. Henry

The National Assembly met at 2.00 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker *in the Chair*]

Prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**Leave to Members**

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, leave has been granted to the hon. Member Mr. Stoby for two weeks from today; to the hon. Member Mrs. Sahoye for three months from the 1st July and to the hon. Member Mr. Teekah for three weeks from today.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS**Construction of Parika Police Station**

Mr. Ram Karran: I beg to ask the hon. Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply Question No. 1 standing in my name: Will the Minister say whether tenders for the construction of the Parika Police Station were called for and if not, why not? Will the Minister also say, what is the estimated cost of construction of the Station?

The Minister of Trade (Leader of the House) (Mr. Ramsaroop): On behalf of the Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply, may I say that tenders were not invited for the construction of the Parika Police Station, The plumbing, sanitary and electrical works were, however, given out on contract. Details are as follows:

In 1967, a sum of \$60,000 was provided in the Estimate for the construction of a rural type Police Station at Parika. Drawings, Bills of Quantities and Specifications were ready for this building and in April, 1967, the Secretary, Central Tender Board, was requested to advertise for tenders. However, before this could be accomplished the Commissioner of Police requested certain alterations to the proposed building and this was followed by a series of other modifications which necessitated changes to the drawings. In September, 1969, it was decided that the use of direct labour under the supervision of the District Engineer was the best means of achieving an early start on the new station and work commenced on 10th September, 1969, by direct labour.

The cost of the construction of the Parika Police Station is \$64,020.

Mr. Ram Karran: As a supplementary question, will the hon. Minister give an idea whether other buildings were also given out on this basis?

Mr. Ramsaroop: That is a separate question which should form the subject of a separate question.

Mr. Speaker: I think that is too wide for a supplementary question.

Supply of Electricity by Bartica Village Council to Government Compound

at Bartica

Mr. Ram Karran: On behalf of the hon. Leader of the Opposition I beg to ask the hon. Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply Question No. 2: Will the Minister say whether the Government, during the period 1963-1968, undertook to pay an amount, said to be \$5,000, to the Bartica Village Council for supplying electricity to the Government Compound at Bartica? Will the Minister say whether the Bartica Village Council was in fact paid such sum, or any sum of money, by the Government for such service?

Mr. Ramsaroop: On behalf of the Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply I wish to answer the question in the following way: The Bartica Village Council was never responsible for the supply of the electricity to Government.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

Public Accounts Committee

Mr. Ramsaroop: I wish to set the record clear on the question of summoning meetings for certain Select Committees of the National Assembly, particularly the Public Accounts Committee, which matter has recently been mis-stated, in a certain section of the Press.

With respect to summoning the first meeting of any Select Committee, and the Public Accounts Committee is a Select Committee, Standing Order No. 73 (6) is clear on this. Under this Standing Order there inheres in the Chairman of that Select Committee the right to summon that Committee. That right has not been exercised as yet by the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee

As presently constituted, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee is the hon. Member, Mr. Ram Karran.

It is clear, therefore, that the right to summon that Committee is with the Chairman, and Government has no control or power with respect to the summoning of the Committee.

**REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE DJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

Flooding of areas on the East Coast, East Bank and West Bank Demerara

Mr. R.D. Persaud: Mr. Speaker, I wish to novo the adjournment of the Assembly under Standing Order 11 to discuss a matter which I consider to be grave and of national importance since I think that it affects not only people who are directly involved but the country as a whole.

I am referring to the serious flooding that is affecting several areas in the country, Mahaicony, Mahaica, Cane Grove, Nos. 1 and 2 Canals Polder and, I have been informed, the Garden of Eden to a very small extent. Further, I have boon told that there is flooding at the No.2 landing at Abary on the West Coast, Berbice. In certain areas like Joe Grass and Grass Hook in the Mahaica districts families are ...

Mr. Speaker: I do not wish to have a speech on this.

Mr. R.D. Persaud: I just wish to point out the seriousness of the situation. As I said, it is a matter which is of national importance and I would urge you very strongly, sir, to give consideration to this and grant this request for the adjournment so that the matter may be discussed in Parliament today.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I am proposing that the matter is definite, urgent and of public importance. That being so, will the Assembly give its leave?

Question put, and negatived.

2.20 p.m.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE OR LOAN TO PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT

CORPORATION

"Whereas it has been decided that the Guyana Development Corporation, a Public Corporation established under the Guyana Industrial Development Corporation Order, 1963, would implement plans for the establishment of a company to catch, process and market marine food products;

And whereas in pursuance of such a policy the Guyana Development Corporation has negotiated with the shipyard of Ingenieria Y Maquinaria Especializada S.A. (called Imesa) of Mexico and with the shipyard of Astilleros Megdalena Limited (called

Astimag) of Columbia to construct and deliver ten trawlers - each shipyard to supply five trawlers to the Guyana Development Corporation;

And whereas the total cost of the trawlers is US\$1,114,515 i.e. US \$558,425 for the Mexican trawlers and \$556,090 for the Colombian;

And whereas in the financial arrangements in respect of the payment for these trawlers, on the guarantee of Government, to effectuate a letter of credit to be opened by the Guyana National Co-operative Bank for the account of the Guyana Development Corporation;

And whereas in accordance with section 20(1) of the Public Corporations Ordinance, 1962 (No. 23), with the approval of the National Assembly, the Cabinet may guarantee in such a manner and on such conditions as they may think fit, the payment of the principal and of interest on any authorised borrowings of a Corporation;

And whereas the Guyana Development Corporation being a Public Corporation as aforementioned has requested the Government to guarantee the letter of credit to be opened by the Guyana National Co-operative Bank with Bankers Trust Company of the United States of America:

Resolved, that thin National Assembly approve of the Government of Guyana's guaranteeing the repayment of any sums advanced or paid by Bankers Trust Company or the Guyana National Co-operative Bank to the amount not exceeding US \$1,114,515 in respect of the letters of credit relating to the payment for ten trawlers to be supplied by Ingenieria Y Maquinaria Especializada S.A. (US \$558,425) and Astilleros Magdalena Limited (US\$556,090)." [**The Minister of Finance.**]

The Minister of Finance (Mr.Hoyte): Your Honour, this Motion before this honourable House today, seeks to give reality to Government's policy of exploiting our natural resources for the benefit of the people of Guyana. For a long time now, the natural resources of the shores of Guyana, in particular shrimp, which are found in abundance, have been exploited by non-Guyanese interests and Government has taken a positive decision to enter into this profitable field. Indeed, based upon a Report compiled by UNDP/FAO, it is clear to Government that entry into this particular economic activity is profitable and any concern or organisation which Government may set up to exploit the resources of these shores will be a viable one.

As a result, the Guyana Development Corporation, which is the Corporation naturally identified for promoting such a project as this, was requested to prepare the necessary feasibility studies and set in train the necessary action for the exploitation of these resources by Government. In pursuance of a mandate given it by Government, the G.D.C. has ordered initially ten trawlers. Five of these trawlers are to be built in Mexico and five in Columbia. This Motion comes before this honourable House because of the necessity for providing the necessary finances for paying the two shipyards which will be constructing the 10 ships. The Mexican shipyard, Ingenieria Y Maquinaria Especializada S.A. will be supplying five trawlers at the cost of \$558,425 (US). The Columbian shipyard, Astilleros Magdalena Limited, will be supplying five trawlers at the cost of \$556,090 (US).

The G.D.C. has requested the Guyana National Co-operative Bank to open a line of credit in favour of these two shipyards to enable them to proceed with the job. The line of credit

is being established by the Guyana National Co-operative Bank with the Bankers Trust Company of the United States of America.

Perhaps, I should point out that work has already started on these trawlers and it is expected that the first trawler will be delivered in September of this year, and by March of next year the nucleus of the fleet, as I have said, of ten trawlers will all be delivered. We hope that this is just the beginning of Guyanese involvement in this very important sphere of activity, because at present, there is something like 171 trawlers which operate out of Guyana and of that number only 11 are Guyanese owned. The Government has to get in the field very actively to redress this imbalance. It is against this background, and for the reasons which I have advanced, that this Motion is before this honourable House for discussion and approval.

Question proposed.

Mr. Sutton: Mr. Speaker, the Government must be complimented on taking steps in order not only to solve the problem of adequate supplies of fish to the country, but on getting in on what appears to be the fishing and shrimping bonanza which is now based on the Northeast coast of South America. Those of us who have followed the investigations of the various F.A.O. reports and the experimental exercises which took place from time to time must express our pleasure in seeing the Government move in at this time in order to take advantage of what is clearly a very lucrative situation.

Now, sir, the object of my making a contribution on this question today is, first of all, because I have been following it very keenly to ask the Government a few questions so that all of us will be satisfied that the Government has really made the right move. I should like the hon. Minister to tell this House that all the necessary precautions have been taken, and that there will be no question of just bringing in boats. We must be satisfied that all the ancillary services are borne in mind because the boats alone will certainly not make the exercise a success, the services which go along with the boats itself are important. I will not spend much time on this, but perhaps the Minister in his final reply will do myself and the House the favour of answering the questions on those points. We want to be satisfied that no opportunity is being lost and that every single step will be taken to ensure that this venture will be the success which it should be.

It is a generally accepted fact that the sources from which these boats come, that is, Mexico and Colombia, are among the most experienced in this type of fishing in this area. One or two people have asked the question: why trawlers from Mexico and Colombia, why not trawlers from Holland and from England? The Minister will have absolutely no difficulty in meeting such objection because most of us, who have been following this situation, know that the Mexicans and the Colombians have been doing a terrific amount of work in this field and we must try and get trawlers and experienced people from countries which will have been operating in conditions which are similar to ours.

There is the question of suitability of the trawlers. I am reliably informed that the Government has done a very good job in securing the trawlers from those countries, bearing in mind the conditions in which they will be used. I hope the Minister will give us some assurance that the complementary facilities, the facilities for the docking of the boats, refrigeration, processing plant, and all that sort of thing, are properly taken care of, because I am not aware that any information has been forthcoming that Government has made definite steps in order to provide these facilities which are so very necessary.

Perhaps the hon. Minister would like to assure this House that we would not find ourselves with ten boats properly equipped and no facilities with which to operate them satisfactorily, therefore nullifying the benefits to be obtained from them.

The second question that I hope the hon. Minister would give us some assurance on, is this question which has been exercising the minds of so many people during the last few weeks, that is, the extension of the marine territory off the shores of Brazil to 200 miles. They have been turning back shrimping and fishing boats which have been fishing in territory adjacent to Brazil. I think that the shrimping and fishing grounds, particularly the shrimping grounds, in which we are so vitally interested, extend to points in Brazil from a point immediately north of our Corentyne River.

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There seems to be no doubt that there is adequate ground for our trawlers, but apart from that, the Minister did say that 171 trawlers operate out of this country, and if the details of the operation of these trawlers are examined, we would find many American trawlers and other expatriate ones, 78 of these being Japanese. In view of the steps that Brazil has taken steps to protect its fishing resources, I think the time has come when we also should join in this effort to ensure that the resources, such as they are, are made available and kept for the benefit of Guyana and so avoid fishermen having to leave this country.

I am informed that Brazil is quite willing to enter into conversations with Surinam, French Guyana, and ourselves, as to the working out of a proper means for the protection of our shrimp and fishing resources, to ensure that they are used primarily for our own benefit rather than for the benefit of other people. I hope that the Government will do all it can to initiate, if no initiation has taken place yet, these conversations so as to ensure, now that Brazil has done something about it, that people who fish off Brazil do not find themselves forced to fish only off the Guyanas and so further deplete our resources.

I am informed that it is not a question of trawlers from this country going off the coast of Brazil to shrimp because the resources here cannot support them. Their standards and intensity of fishing have been recognised as safe in other parts of the world and those persons who can afford very expensive trawlers prefer to go off Brazil where the majority of trawlers do not go. In going off Brazil they can pick up their catch in "X" hours and return to port, whereas, other trawlers, not so well equipped, remain off the Guyana coast.

It has to be borne in mind that there are no regulations which confine any particular set of trawlers to any particular area. The result is that everybody sets off and tries to get the best ground. If the Government does not take steps to enter these conversations with Brazil, French Guiana, and Dutch Guiana, we will find that those people can no longer fish off Brazil and they would all be piling into our ground. Even though we have started with ten trawlers and there are the Guyanese private trawlers, we will still find that the greater proportion of the benefit will be going to persons other than Guyanese and to Governments other than the Guyana Government.

Finally, I hope that the Minister will give this House the assurance that all ancillary facilities that these trawlers require will be provided here. If they cannot be provided immediately, then can arrangements be made for them to be provided so that we do not lose a major portion of the benefit that we are setting out to derive.

Can we also have the assurance that the Government contemplates initiating talks with Brazil and our neighbours on the East, that is, French Guiana and Surinam, to ensure that we get the greatest benefit from our resources in this respect.

There is another fear. The Government will say that there is no need for it, but we would like an assurance that the persons who will control this organisation will be properly qualified and properly trained and that, irrespective of whether the political complexion is right or not, our resources will be used to the best advantage in this particular section of our economy without the dead wood of political appointees who are not qualified to do the job.

This thing can obviously be very beneficial to Guyana and we do not wish to wake up in a year or two and find it is a fiasco without proper detailed examinations having been done. These examinations should relate not only to intent, but also to execution of the scheme. If such examinations are not carried out then two or three years from now we will find a situation arising similar to Global-Agri. This House will only know when there is a change. Rather than that, it should be discussed at all levels to ensure that the maximum benefits are obtained for the country.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran.

Mr. Ram Karran: My hon. Friend virtually seconded the Motion, at least in the early part of his speech. There are a number of questions I should like to ask the hon. Minister. I am told by my friend who seems to know a great deal about this business that the best trawler builders are in Mexico and Colombia. I do not know about that. What I do know is that in Guyana we have a very big ship-building organisation. In fact, we have more than one such organisation and I should like to ask whether the Government has examined the question of building the trawlers here and utilising local labour.

I recall that when the very complicated vessel, the "Makouria", was being built abroad arrangements were made for a naval architect to come down and assist in the building of a sister ship. I think the hon. Minister of Communications will know that our local craftsmen did a very good job. I cannot see that there is so much difference between a passenger vessel and a trawler and I should like to enquire whether the Government has examined the possibility of constructing these vessels here. Having regard to the fact that there are many unemployed persons, it might be to the country's advantage to build here even though the cost might be higher.

Having regard to the last question which was answered by my friend the hon. Minister of Trade, one would also like to know whether tenders were invited for construction of the vessels. As I said, my friend seems to know a great deal of that takes place. We do not know what is happening. The Government, as hon. Members will realise is very reluctant to come to this Chamber except when it wants to pass money or when it wants to pass Motions of this sort. The corporation, we are told, has been given a mandate to go ahead. One would have thought that feasibility studies and so forth would have been prepared and, if they could not be made public, at least they should have been made available to members of this House. I do not think any member of this House knows anything about the so-called "feasibility studies" that were carried out and whether the scheme, in fact, is going to benefit the country.

What we do know is that shrimping is a specialised business which was started by Americans for the American market and I assume that part of the catch will be available, if I may use the term, to the ruling class and the new elite in Guyana, but the greater part of it will be sent to the United States of America where the prevailing prices are good.

One would like to ask another question: What is being done by the Government with respect to the fishing industry as a whole? We have the contradiction of trawlers coming to the country and having to jettison part of their catch, so far as it relates to fish, as otherwise they would destroy the livelihood of the many small fishermen.

Is Government going to pursue the policy of catching fish and throwing it back into the sea or is it going to bring the fish in? What does the Government think about the livelihood and welfare of the countless number of fishermen some of whom, to this very day, use primitive methods? Has the Government thought of processing fish or making things like fish meal? The Minister of Agriculture has been talking a great deal about growing corn for poultry feed. Fish certainly could play a great part in this, particularly the inedible fish varieties.

A great quantity of fish will be brought in by the trawlers and one would like to know whether these specific questions can be answered. This is the appropriate time for Government to tell us something having regard to the fact that feasibility studies and the like have not been made available to us. If the Minister of Finance does not know the answers then his colleague the Minister of Agriculture may be able to say.

One would also like to take this opportunity to find out what Government has done with respect to Onverwagt and other fish farms. We were told in days gone by that it would be profitable to breed fish in these areas. We seem to have heard nothing more about all these things although we have a Division of Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture. Probably the Government will be in a position to tell us what has happened.

In the Motion itself, mention is made of processing. I do not know if by the word "processing" the Government is thinking of freezing the fish and exporting it. A very wide phrase is used here, namely, "to catch, process and market marine food products". Maybe the Government is thinking along the lines mentioned here. It could be appropriate for the hon. Minister to give us some idea of what will be the position.

I agree with my friend the hon. Member Mr. Sutton with respect to the areas of operation. Our coastline is not as expansive as the coastline in Brazil and Surinam put together but we should have some means by which we can discourage foreign fishermen from fishing in our waters. My friend does not seem to remember - perhaps he has a special reason for not doing so - that there is some difficulty involving Guyanese fishermen who fish in Brazilian waters. The

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decree made by the President of Venezuela concerning the control of our waters has not been answered. [**Mr. Hoyte:** "Our waters?"] The hon. Minister has asked about "Our waters?" The President of Venezuela has made a decree. [*Interruption*] My friend says that I do not know what a decree is. That might be true, but in answering he might tell us whether the alleged decree passed by the Venezuela Government is going to create any difficulty for our fishermen who fish in Guyanese waters.

2.50 p.m.

It is not as easy as making a guarantee for the amount of money assigned to be passed in this Motion. The Parliament should undoubtedly pass that amount - but there are other implications with which the Government ought to deal. As I said just now, this Parliament has been used in the recent past merely to finish off Government's business. I hope that the very long time available to us this afternoon will allow the Government - the Minister of Finance and also the Minister of Agriculture who does not seem to attend meetings of the House these days - to say exactly what the expansion programme for the development of fisheries is.

We would like to know what the Government has in mind with respect to the expansion programme so as to benefit not only the Guyanese corporation which will be set up here but the Guyanese public, the poor people particularly who mainly use fish.

A very large section of our population does not eat beef or pork, but fish and poultry are very important means by which they get their protein. Poultry, sir, as you know, is one of the most expensive meats. In other countries it is quite a different situation, but in Guyana poultry is a very expensive meat. Fish also is very expensive and the Government ought to do something to reduce the cost of poultry and fish so that that large section of the Guyanese population will be able to benefit from this.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Hoyte (0: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran has not disappointed us today, that with his usual aplomb, he speaks on something for which he has not prepared himself and of which he has the slightest knowledge. The UNDP/FAO Report on the potential and the feasibility for this type of entity in a public document published by the United Nations. It is not that the Government is proposing or preparing any document and hiding it away. If the hon. Member would take a little time to widen his interests by reading, I think he would not come to this honourable House so often to disclose to us how little he knows of those things and of which he ought to acquaint himself. But the hon. Member Mr. Sutton raised a number of important points which ought to be answered.

The two ship-building companies which are building these trawlers are companies selected after careful processing of many ship-building organisations throughout the world. There is no question about the competence and reputation of the companies which have been selected. What is more important is the fact that the vessels which are being built in Colombia will be built to Lloyd's specifications and will be issued with a Lloyd's certificate of seaworthiness when they are completed. The contract ensures that standards of the very highest will be observed in the building of these ships.

The ships which are being built in Mexico will be built according to specifications of the American Bureau of shipping and will be issued with certificates of proper construction and seaworthiness both by the American Bureau of Shipping and the Secretary of the Navy for Mexico. There is no question as to the quality of vessels which we are purchasing. I do not think the hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran is serious when he said that vessels of this type can be built in Guyana. This is impossible at the moment.

I should like to assure hon. Members that the Government is proceeding with this particular enterprise along business-like lines. A company to be called the Guyana Marine Foods Limited, will be established by the Guyana Development Corporation to take charge of operations and it is expected that this company will proceed along business-like lines. It will not be a company which will be looking to Government for a subsidy. The company will be on its

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2.50 – 3 p.m.

own and will observe business practices which prevail. I said that the ten ships really form the nucleus. It is proposed that over the next five years the company will expand its activities and will have at the end of the first five year period a fleet of 100 trawlers. The financing will of course have to come out of the money which the initial company generates out of its activities. Shrimping is only part of an integrated complex in which the company will be involved. There will be fishing and shrimping, freezing and packing and the production of by-products, for example, fish meal. It was considered desirable that the company should start on a relatively small scale and expand. It is conceivable that the G.D.C. could have gone and ordered 100 trawlers initially, but that was not considered the best thing to do because if you start in a modest way you will permit the people who will be involved in the company to acquire the necessary technical and managerial skills, and the confidence to enable them eventually to expand successfully.

This was considered to be the better course, and the course which the Guyana Development Corporation would be pursuing in this particular activity.

3.00 p.m.

I wish to assure hon. Members that the facilities which would be necessary at the beginning have been secured. The company intends eventually to build its own freezing plant and ancillary facilities and has already identified sites which will be acquired when it eventually becomes operative. This will be done, out of the money generated by its activities. Once there are people of the necessary calibre, there is no reason at all why this company should not expand and develop and become a really large integrated complex out of the money which it makes. At present, there will be the rental of freezing facilities; but all of this has virtually been tied up with Guyana Industrial Holdings Ltd.

The hon. Member, Mr. Sutton, was also perturbed over the problem of sea limits. Hon. Members will know this is a very vexed question, which is at present being considered by the United Nations. It is nothing that is confined to Brazil or to this part of the world. The question

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of establishing an international regime of peace on the seas is one of very high priority at the United Nations and, indeed, among the various countries of the world which have an ocean seaboard. The Government is satisfied that there will be no problems as far as fishing by Guyanese is concerned. These matters have all been pursued and are being pursued at a diplomatic level in order to preserve and protect our position and interests.

Of necessity, a business like this has to compete, and for that reason alone Government expects that it will be run by people who have got business perspectives. That is why I said at the outset that the organisation should be viable and should prove itself, and I will give the assurance to hon. Members of Government's intention. There is no question of political appointments because this is not a matter of politics, but a matter of business. I think I have attempted to answer the questions which have been raised by the hon. Member Mr. Sutton and I commend the Motion to this honourable House.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, "That this Assembly do now adjourn until Thursday, 1st July, 1971, at 2 p.m. [Mr. Ramsaroop]

Adjourned accordingly at 3.06 p.m.
