

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

1973

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 18th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1973

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (50)

Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister (2)

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister (Absent)
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture

Senior Ministers (7)

- The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Works and Communications
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (Absent)
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation
The Honourable H.D. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance
Dr. the Honourable K.F.S. King, Minister of Economic Development
The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Housing

Ministers (6)

- The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information and Culture
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House
The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education
Dr. the Honourable O.M.R. Harper, Minister of Health
The Honourable G.A. King, Minister of Trade (Absent)

Ministers of State (9)

- The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture
The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne)
The Honourable P. Duncan, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi)
The Honourable C.A. Nascimento, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister

- # Non elected Minister

- The Honourable M. Zaheeruddin, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- # The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of State for Home Affairs
- # The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro) (Absent)
- # The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice) (Absent)
- # The Honourable F.U.A. Carmichael, Minister of State - Regional (North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (8)

- Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing
- Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Communications
- Miss M.M. Ackman, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
- Mr. E.L. Ambrose, Parliamentary Secretary (Agriculture), Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
- Mr. K.B. Bancroft, Parliamentary Secretary (Hinterland), Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
- Mr. S. Prashad, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation
- Mr. J.P. Chowritmootoo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education
- Mr. R.H.D. Corbin, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation

Other Members (18)

- Mr. J.N. Aaron
- Mrs. L.M. Branco
- Mr. M. Corrica
- Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
- Miss J. Gill
- Mr. W. Hussain (Absent - on leave) ✓
- Miss S. Jaiserrisingh
- Mr. K.M.E. Jones
- Mr. M. Nissar
- Dr. L.E. Ramsahoye (Absent - on leave)
- Mr. J.G. Ramson
- Mrs. P.A. Rayman
- Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Mr. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P.
- Mr. C. Sukul, J.P.
- Mr. H.A. Taylor
- Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
- Mrs. L.E. Willems

Members of the Opposition - Liberator Party (2)

- Mr. M.F. Singh, Deputy Speaker
- Mrs. E. DeSilva

OFFICERS

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Mr. Hoyte, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Wrights and Mr. Bancroft from 11th to 14th December, 1973, and
- (b) Mr. Stoby for 10th and 11th December, 1973.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Minister of Works and Communications:

Commonwealth Telecommunications Council - Fifth General Report and Statement of Accounts - 1st April, 1972 to 31st March, 1973.

(CC-12/5/5 III)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

(a) Estimates of Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 1974.

(Circulated)

(b) Purchase Tax (Motor Cars)(Amendment)(No. 3) Order 1973 (No. 151), made under section 5A of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Ordinance, Chapter 280, on the 10th of December, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 10th of December, 1973.

(Circulated)

(c) Consumption Tax (Amendment)(No. 3) Order 1973 (No. 152), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act 1969 (No. 13), on the 10th of December, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 10th of December, 1973.

(Circulated)

(d) Customs (Export Duties) Order 1973 (No. 153), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 10th of December, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 10th of December, 1973.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

TAX (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1973 - Bill No. 27/1973
published 10.12.73

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE.

Before the commencement of Public Business, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House informed the Assembly that it was agreed, in consultation with the Opposition, to proceed first with Item 2 (Motion to approve the ~~Estimates of Expenditure~~ for financial year 1974) on the Order Paper.

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1974

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified that Cabinet had recommended that the Assembly should proceed upon the motion for the approval of the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1974, totalling \$337,303,150, net of appropriation-in-aid and excluding \$57,887,933, which is chargeable by law. (See Appendix).

The Minister of Finance then moved the motion and read the Budget Speech. .

The motion was then proposed.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance named Thursday, 13th December, 1973, as the day for the resumption of the debate on the motion.

Copies of the Estimates, the motion, and the Budget Speech, were then circulated to Members.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider Financial Paper No. 6/1973.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 6/1973 - Statement of amounts withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund under article 112(3) of the Constitution totalling \$23,110,708, for the period ending 17th October, 1973.

After consideration of the Schedule to the Financial Paper the motion was put and carried:

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 6/1973 - Statement of amounts withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund under article 112(3) of the Constitution totalling \$23,110,708, for the period ending 17th October, 1973."

ITEM 3 - CONFIRMATION OF CUSTOMS (EXEMPTION FROM DUTIES) ORDER 1973 (NO. 136)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirm the Customs (Exemption from Duties) Order 1973 (No. 136), which was made on the 11th of November, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 17th of November, 1973.

Mrs. DaSilva spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and ~~carried~~.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.17 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 13th of December, 1973.

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
12th December, 1973.

MOTION BY MINISTER OF FINANCE

WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that estimates of the revenues and expenditure of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly not later than sixty days after the commencement of that year;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution also provides that when the estimates of expenditure have been approved by the Assembly an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in the Assembly providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure;

AND WHEREAS estimates of revenues and expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 1974 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 10th December, 1973.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1974, of a total sum of Three Hundred and Thirty Seven Million, Three Hundred and Three Thousand, One Hundred and Five Dollars, net of appropriation-in-aid, and excluding Fifty Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Three Dollars, which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in the undermentioned schedule, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance.

	1	Office of the President		90,098
1		President	-	-
	2	Supreme Court of Judicature		753,677
	3	Magistrates		1,041,004
11		Judiciary		*
	4	Parliament Office		163,380
111		Parliament		-
	5	Audit		601,568
	6	Ombudsman		29,064
	7	Public and Police Service Commissions		559,988
	8	Public Prosecutions		166,378
IV		Other Services not under Ministerial Control	-	
		Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet		513,314
	10	Prime Minister - Guyana Defence Force		13,598,366
V		Prime Minister	3,120,000	
	11	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs		20,082
VI		Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	-	
	12	Ministry of Public Corporations		17,530
VII		Ministry of Public Corporations -		
	13	Public Service Ministry		519,684
VIII		Public Service Ministry	1,143,000	
	14	Ministry of Foreign Affairs		6,212,938
IX		Ministry of Foreign Affairs	500,000	-
	15	Attorney General		382,597
	16	Attorney General - Official Receiver		118,227
	17	Attorney General - Deeds Registry		173,918
X			-	-

		B/Fwd.	4,763,000	24,961,813
	18	Ministry of Information and Culture		1,898,503
XI		Ministry of Information and Culture	1,850,000	
	19	Ministry of Home Affairs		691,394
	20	Ministry of Home Affairs - Police		14,366,518
	21	Ministry of Home Affairs - Prisons		1,689,407
	22	Ministry of Home Affairs - Fire Protection Services		1,346,560
	23	Ministry of Home Affairs - Registration and Elections		645,822
	24	Ministry of Home Affairs - Probation and Welfare Service		544,910
	25	Ministry of Home Affairs - Registration, Immigration, Births etc.		149,624
XII		Ministry of Home Affairs	3,663,200	
	26	Ministry of National Development and Agriculture		1,223,767
	27	Ministry of National Development and Agriculture - Agriculture		3,849,071
	28	Ministry of National Development and Agriculture - Lands		936,620
	29	Ministry of National Development and Agriculture - Interior Development		606,810
		Ministry of National Development and Agriculture - Land Development		1,356,453
XIII		Ministry of National Development and Agriculture	29,914,000	
XIV		Ministry of National Development and Agriculture - IBRD/IDA Projects	1,565,000	
XV		Ministry of National Development and Agriculture - IBRD/IDA Sea Defence Project		
XVI		Ministry of National Development and Agriculture - IBRD/IDA Projects	4,000,000	
		Forward	45,755,200	54,267,272