

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1975

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 58th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

WEDNESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1975

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

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 (Absent)

Senior Ministers (8)

- The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Economic Development (Absent - on leave)
- # 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 (Absent)
 - # The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
 - # The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance
 - # The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Works and Housing (Absent)
 - # The Honourable G.A. King, Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection
 - # The Honourable G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., Minister of Agriculture (Absent)

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. Ramsarouf, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House
- # The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education and Social Development (Absent)
 - # Dr. the Honourable O.M.R. Harper, Minister of Health (Absent)
 - # The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of Home Affairs (Absent)

Ministers of State (9)

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

Non-elected Minister

The Honourable M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., Minister of State - Regional
(Essequibo Coast/West Demerara) (Absent)

The Honourable K.B. Bancroft, Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/
Potaro)

The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State for Consumer Protection
(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)(Absent)

Parliamentary Secretaries (7)

Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and
Housing

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

Miss M.M. Ackman, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime
Minister, and Government Chief Whip

Mr. E.L. Ambrose, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. S. Prashad, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives
and National Mobilisation

Mr. J.P. Chowrimootoo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Education and Social Development

Mr. R.H.O. Corbin, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime
Minister

Deputy Speaker (1)

Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman, Deputy Speaker

Other Members (17)

Mr. J.N. Aaron

Mrs. L.M. Branco

Mr. M. Corrica

Mr. E.H.A. Fowler

Miss J. Gill

Mr. W. Hussain

Miss S. Jaiserrisingh (Absent)

Mr. K.M.E. Jonas

Mr. M. Nissar

Dr. L.E. Ramsahoye

Mr. J.G. Ramson

Mrs. P.A. Rayman

Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.

Mr. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P.,

Mr. C. Sukul, J.P.

Mr. H.A. Taylor

Mrs. L.E. Willems

Members of the Opposition - Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, Leader of the Opposition

Mrs. E. DaSilva

OFFICERS

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

Mr. M.B. Henry, AMBIM, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

Non elected Minister

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Hoyte and Mr. Duncan for that day's sitting.

(ii) Congratulations to Recipients of National Awards

His Honour the Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, placed on record and offered congratulations to four former Parliamentarians and to the Hansard Editor on the following awards made to them on the occasion of the Fifth Anniversary of Guyana's becoming a Republic:

(i) The Cacique Crown of Honour to -

- (a) Jane Phillips-Gay - For service of an exceptionally high quality beyond the normal call of duty in the trade union and political fields,
- (b) Rahman B. Gajraj - For service of an exceptionally high quality beyond the normal call of duty in the public, legislative and diplomatic areas,
- (c) Claude A. Merriman - For service of an exceptionally high quality beyond the normal call of duty in the field of local government and for political services.

(ii) The Arrow of Achievement to Dr. H.A. Fraser - For long and dedicated service of a consistently high standard in the field of agriculture.

(iii) The Medal of Service to Miss Eileen R. Cox - For service with exceptional dedication as a voluntary social worker.

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

Purchase Tax (Motor Vehicles)(Exemption) Order 1975 (No. 16), made under section 5A of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, on the 6th of February, 1975, and published in the Gazette on the 15th of February, 1975.

(1/2/3/2/1)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Labour:

Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1975 on International Labour Conventions on Basic Human Rights (February, 1975).

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

GENERAL LOCAL LOAN (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975 - Bill No. 9/1975

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 GENERAL LOCAL LOAN ACT.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 PEOPLES TEMPLE OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST CHURCH (INCORPORATION) BILL 1975 - Bill No. 3/1975 published 25.1.75, 1.2.75 and 8.2.75

Mr. Fowler moved and Mrs. Willems seconded the second reading of the following Private Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE PEOPLES TEMPLE OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST CHURCH IN GUYANA AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 MINERS ASSISTANCE BILL 1975 - Bill No. 5/1975 published 1.2.75

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINERS ASSISTANCE FUND TO AID MINERS IN THE ORDERLY AND EFFECTIVE EXTRACTION OF VALUABLE MINERALS.

Mrs. DaSilva spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 9 were passed as printed.

Clause 10 - The following amendment by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources was put and carried:

Substitution of the word "month" for the words "three months".

Clause 10 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 11 and 12 were passed as printed.

Clause 13 - The following amendment by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources was put and carried:

Renumbering of Clause 13 as Clause 13(1) and insertion of the following as subsection (2) -

"(2) The limit on the principal amount specified in subsection (1) does not apply in the case of a co-operative society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act."

c.88:01

Clause 13 was then passed as amended.

Clause 14 - The following amendment by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources was put and carried:

Addition of the words "except that the Minister may in his discretion extend the period of repayment" after the word "thereof".

Clause 14 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 15 to 20 were passed as printed.

Clause 21 - The following amendment by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources was put and carried:

Substitution of the words "Subject to negative resolution of the National Assembly, the" for the word "The".

Clause 21 was then passed as amended.

Clause 22 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

ITEM 3 PROPERTY TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975 - Bill No. 7/1975
published 15.2.75

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE PROPERTY
 TAX (AMENDMENT) ACT 1974.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

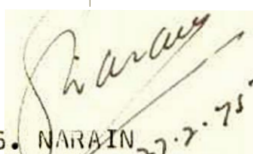
The Bill was then read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

BUSINESS FOR NEXT SITTING

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House informed the Assembly that the Order Paper for the next sitting to be held on Thursday, 27th February, 1975, had been circulated and that it had been agreed that only Item 1 - Motion for the Adoption of ILO Conventions - would be considered at that sitting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.20 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 27th of February, 1975.


 S. NARAIN
 Speaker 27.2.75

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
 Public Buildings,
 Georgetown.
 27th February, 1975