

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1977

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 124th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

FRIDAY, 3RD JUNE, 1977

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (48)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P., Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (8)

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

- * Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour
- * Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
- * Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent)
- * Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Minister of Works and Transport (Absent - on leave)
- * Cde. G.A. King, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection
- * Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- * Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice

Ministers (4)

Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P., Minister of Information

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

- * Cde. C.V. Mingo, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs (Absent)
- * Cde. V.R. Teekah, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture

Ministers of State (9)

Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/ Corentyne) (Absent - on leave)

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

Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

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- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro) (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Health, Housing and Labour
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of National Development
- * Cde. A. Salim, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West) (Absent)

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
- Cde. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives (Absent)
- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture

Other Members (21)

- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P.
- Cde. W.G. Carrington, M.P.
- Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
- Cde. S. Jaiserrisingh, M.P.
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P.
- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. M. Nissar, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye, M.P.
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, M.P.

Members of the Opposition (16)

(i) People's Progressive Party (14)

Leader of the Opposition (1)

- Cde. C. Jagan, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Deputy Speaker (1)

- Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (12)

- Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.,
- Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip
- Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.
- Cde. C. Collymore, M.P.

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Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.
 Cde. L. Lalbahadur, M.P.
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Cde. R. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Dindayal, M.P.
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. E. Da Silva

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain)
 Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (A. Knight)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cdes. Burnham, Reid, Naraine, Clarke, Nascimento, Bancroft, Kasim and Mr. Singh for that sitting;
- (b) Cdes. Nissar and Sukul for the period 3rd to 16th June, 1977, and
- (c) Cde. Sukhu for the period 3rd to 9th June, 1977.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection, on behalf of the Prime Minister:

Guyana International Telecommunications Corporation Order 1977 (No. 37), made under the Public Corporations Act, Chapter 19:05, on the 21st of May, 1977, and published in the Gazette on the 24th of May, 1977.

(GSC: 1/308/16)(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives, on behalf of the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Statement of Guarantees given by the Minister of Finance under section 3 of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, Chapter 77:01, for the year ended 31st December, 1977.

(G; 692 III)(Circulated)

- (b) Statement of Guarantees given by the Minister of Finance under section 3 of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, Chapter 77:01, for the quarter ended 31st March, 1977.

(G: 692 III)(Circulated)

- (3) By the Minister of Agriculture:

Report and Accounts of the Guyana Sugar Corporation Limited for the period 26th May, 1976 to 31st December, 1976.

(A: 5/11)(Circulated)

- (4) By the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice:

Revision Pages of the Laws of Guyana as at 1st August, 1976.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES BILL 1977 - Bill No. 14/1977 published 4.6.77

The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - NATIONAL INSURANCE AND SOCIAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 - Bill No. 11/1977 published 19.5.77

The Minister of Health, Housing and Labour moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND
THE NATIONAL INSURANCE AND SOCIAL
SECURITY ACT.

Cde. N. Persaud, the Deputy Speaker, Mrs. Da Silva and the Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Health, Housing and Labour replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

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

ITEM 2 MARITIME BOUNDARIES BILL 1977 - Bill No. 10/1977 published 19.5.77

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE TERRITORIAL SEA, THE INTERNAL WATERS, THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AND THE FISHERY ZONE OF GUYANA.

The Leader of the Opposition and Mrs. Da Silva spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 10 were passed as printed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9(2)

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, Standing Order No. 9(2) was suspended to permit the sitting to continue without being suspended at 4.00 p.m.

Clauses 11 to 43 were passed as printed.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Insertion of the following clause as clause 44:

<p>"Repeal 41 & 42 Vict. c.73</p>	<p>44. The applied Act, entitled the Territorial Waters Jurisdiction Act 1878 of the United Kingdom, in so far as it forms part of the law of Guyana, shall cease to have effect."</p>
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Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.18 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.48 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

ITEM 3 CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 - Bill No. 12/1977 published 19.5.77

The Minister of Information moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE CINEMATOGRAPH ACT AND TO EFFECT A RELATED AMENDMENT TO THE ENTERTAINMENTS DUTY ACT.

Cde. Mohamed and Mrs. Da Silva spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Information replied.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following correction:

Clause 3 - The word "otherwise" was substituted for the word "other" in the new section 5(1) of the Entertainments Duty Act.

ITEM 4 - CARIBBEAN FOOD CORPORATION BILL 1977 - Bill No. 13/1977
published 24.5.77

The Minister of Agriculture moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO ENABLE
THE IMPLEMENTATION BY GUYANA OF
THE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF THE CARIBBEAN FOOD
CORPORATION.

The Leader of the Opposition was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.02 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Leader of the Opposition concluded his speech.

Cde. Lalbahadur spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Agriculture replied.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Cde. Zaheeruddeen	Cde. Nokta
Cde. Willems	Cde. Dindayal
Cde. Van Sluytman	Cde. Ally
Cde. Taylor	Cde. Belgrave
Cde. Stoby	Cde. Lalbahadur
Cde. Rayman	Cde. Mohamed
Cde. Ramsahoye	Cde. Collymore
Cde. Jonas	Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud
Cde. Jaiserrisingh	Cde. Ram Karran
Cde. Hussain	Cde. C. Jagan
Cde. Gill	
Cde. Fowler	
XXXXXXXXXX	
Cde. Carrington	

Carried

Forward: 14

10

	<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Brought Forward:	14	10
Cde. Bynoe		
Cde. Corrica		
Cde. Ackman		
Cde. Thomas		
Cde. Chowritmootoo		
Cde. Duncan		
Cde. Ramsaroop		
	<u>20</u>	<u>10</u>

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.35 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

S. Narain
S. NARAIN
Speaker

11/6/77

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
11th June, 1977