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FIRST SESSION
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1973 - 1977
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MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 125th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

WEDNESDAY, 15TH 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

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

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 (Absent - on leave)

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

Ministers of State (9)

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

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

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- Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)
- 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 (Absent - on leave)
- 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) (Absent)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West)

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
- 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. (Absent - on leave)
- 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.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P. (Absent)
- 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

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Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip
 Cde. N. Persaud, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P.
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.
 Cde. L. Lalabadur, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
 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.
 Mrs. E. Da Silva, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cdes. Burnham, Kennard, Thomas, Gill, Kasim and Mrs. Da Silva for that sitting; and
- (b) Cdes. Wills and Ramsaroop for four weeks from 5th June to 2nd July, 1977.

(ii) Sympathy to Members

On behalf of Members and himself, the Speaker extended sympathy to Mr. Singh on the death of his father, and to Cdes. Green and Field-Ridley, on the death of their mother and mother-in-law, respectively.

Mr. Singh expressed his thanks and Cde. Field-Ridley expressed thanks on behalf of Cde. Green and herself.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development on behalf of the Prime Minister:

- (a) Annual Reports on the work of the Public Service Commission and of the Police Service Commission for the period June 1975 - May 1976.

(265/13/3 T.J. (1))(Circulated)

(b) Pensions (Designated Service) Order 1977 (No. 41), made under section 23(2) of the Pensions Act, Chapter 27:02, on the 25th of May, 1977, and published in the Gazette on the 4th of June, 1977.

(PS: 24/0/11 T.J. (14))(Circulated)

(c) Review of the Operations of the Sugar Industry Welfare Fund for the year 1976.

(PM: 20/2/3)(Circulated)

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reports of near starvation in the Rupununi

At the request of the Leader of the Opposition, permission was granted to him to move the adjournment of the Assembly at the appropriate time for the purpose of discussing reports from the Rupununi that the Amerindian population was facing near starvation.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second and Third Readings

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

The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives moved second reading of the following Bill:

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

Cde. Dalchand, the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Singh spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives 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

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2 - The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Substitution of the following definition of the expression "Minister":

' "Minister" means such Minister as the Prime Minister may by notice in the Gazette designate as charged with the responsibility for an authority and in the absence of such designation the Minister assigned responsibility for regional development;'

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 3 to 11 were passed as printed.

Clause 12 - The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Insertion immediately after subsection (3) of the following as subsection (4):

" (4) It shall be deemed a term of every contract of service entered into between an authority and a person employed by it that such person is liable to be seconded or transferred by the authority to service in any department, agency or institution of the State or to any body corporate in which the controlling interest is vested in the State."

Clause 12 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 13 to 16 were passed as printed.

Clause 17 was passed with the following amendment:

Substitution in subsection (6) of the words "if he thinks fit and with the approval of the Minister" for the words "on the request of the Minister".

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9(2)

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

Clause 18 was passed as printed.

Clause 19 - The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Insertion immediately after subsection (2) of the following as subsections (3) and (4):

" (3) Where an employee of an authority is seconded or transferred from service in an office in respect of which a pension is payable to service in a like office of another authority, in computing the period of pensionable service in the last mentioned office there shall be reckoned the period of service in that office from which the employee was seconded or transferred.

- (4) The pension payable in respect of the aggregated service mentioned in subsection (3) shall be discharged by each authority in such an amount as shall bear the same proportion to the amount of pension for which the employee would have been eligible had his service been wholly with the authority as the aggregate amounts of his pensionable emoluments during his service with that authority shall bear to the total amount made up of such aggregate amount together with the aggregate amount of his pensionable emoluments from any other authority."

Clause 19 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 20 to 22 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS A DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reports of near starvation in the Rupununi

In accordance with permission granted earlier, the Leader of the Opposition moved the adjournment of the Assembly and spoke on reports of near starvation affecting the Amerindian population in the Rupununi.

The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives also spoke on the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.39 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Information, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

S. Narain
5-7-77
S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

28th June, 1977