

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1977

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 126th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 14TH JULY, 1977

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLYSpeaker

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 (Absent - on leave)

- * 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
- * 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)
- * 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 (Absent - on leave)

Ministers of State (9)

Cde. D.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

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

* Non elected Minister

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- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro) (Absent)
- 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) (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 (Absent - on leave)
- 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 (Absent)

Other Members (21)

- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P.
- Cde. W.G. Carrington, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- 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.
- 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. (Absent)
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- 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. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.
 Cde. L. Lalbahadur, M.P.
 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.

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 SPEAKERLeave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cde. Burnham, Reid, Hoyte, Teekah, Nascimento, N. Persaud and Collymore for that sitting;
- (b) Cde. Carrington from 30th June to 31st July, 1977; and
- (c) Cde. Kasim for one month from 4th July to 3rd August, 1977.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives:

- (a) Report of the Co-operatives Division of the Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation for the years 1972 and 1973.
(CNM: 5/1/3)(Circulated)
- (b) Report of the Co-operatives Division of the Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation for the years 1974 and 1975.
(CNM: 5/1/3)(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Energy and and Natural Resources:

Annual Report of the Geological Surveys and
Mines Department for the year 1975.

(ENR: 4/8 11 TJ(1))(Circulated)

- (3) By the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Financial Paper No. 1/1977 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund in 1976) for the period ended 31st December, 1976, totalling \$1,253,397.

(2/5 XII)(Circulated)

- (b) Financial Paper No. 2/1977 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates for the period ending 15th July, 1977, totalling \$25,156,549.

(2/5 XII)(Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 68, the Minister of Finance named Thursday, 21st July, 1977, as the day for the consideration of the Financial Papers.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

GUARANTEE OF LOANS (PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND COMPANIES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 - Bill No. 15/1977 published 29.6.77

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
GUARANTEE OF LOANS (PUBLIC CORPORATIONS
AND COMPANIES) ACT.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - GUARANTEE OF LOANS TO GUYANA STORES LIMITED

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Guyana Stores Limited, a Company wholly owned by the State of Guyana needs approximately fifty million Guyana dollars (G\$50,000,000) for working capital for the carrying out of its operations;

AND WHEREAS the Royal Bank of Canada and the Guyana National Co-operative Bank, lending agencies within the meaning of the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974, are willing to provide the said sum of money on a guarantee given by the Government of Guyana:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly do hereby authorise the Minister of Finance, or such other person duly authorised by him, acting on behalf of the Government of Guyana, to enter into agreements as guarantor for the Company with the above-mentioned lending agencies (including the authority to sign any promissory notes or other related documents in pursuance of the said agreements) for the purpose of guaranteeing the **said** sum of fifty million Guyana dollars (G\$50,000,000) in accordance with the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974.

The Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Singh spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Finance replied.

The Motion was **then put and carried.**

ITEM 2 - GUARANTEE OF LOANS TO GUYANA SUGAR CORPORATION LIMITED

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Guyana Sugar Corporation Limited, a Company wholly owned by the State of Guyana, needs approximately fifty million Guyana dollars (G\$50,000,000) for working capital;

AND WHEREAS Royal Bank of Canada, Barclays Bank International Limited, and the Guyana National Co-operative Bank, lending agencies within the meaning of the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974, are willing to provide the said sum of money on a guarantee given by the Government of Guyana:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly do hereby authorise the Minister of Finance, or such other person duly authorised by him, acting on behalf of the Government of Guyana, to enter into agreements as guarantor for the Company with the above-mentioned lending agencies (including the authority to sign any promissory notes or other related documents in pursuance of the said agreements) for the purpose of guaranteeing the said sum of approximately fifty million Guyana dollars (G\$50,000,000) in accordance with the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974.

Cde. Lalbahadur was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

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.**

Cde. Lalbahadur concluded his speech.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.34 p.m., on a ~~motion~~ by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to Thursday, 21st July, 1977.

Shanahan
18/7/77
S. MARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

18th July, 1977