

FIRST SESSION

1973 to 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 136th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY 23RD JANUARY, 1978

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)

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 (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 (Absent)
- * 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 (Absent)

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 - on leave)
- * Cde. V.R. Teekah, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture (Absent)

Ministers of State (3)

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

* Non elected Minister

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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)(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 (Absent)
- 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)(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
- 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.,
- Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
- Cde. S. Jaiserrisingh, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P.
- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., M.P.
- 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.
- 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. Zahooruddeen, M.P. (Absent)

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.(Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

* Non elected Minister

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Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.
 Cde. Rcopu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip
 Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P.
 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 from that Sitting had been granted to Cdes. Reid, Mingo, Bancroft and Durant.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Prime Minister:

Report on the Audited Accounts of the Guyana Rice Board for the year ended 30th September, 1974.

(GSC: 6/404/2)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Health, Housing and Labour:

Minimum Wages (Employees at Petrol Filling Stations) Order 1977 (No. 95), made under section 8 of the Labour Act, Chapter 98:01, on the 17th of October, 1977, and published in the Gazette on the 26th of October, 1977.

(60/335/3⁽²⁾)(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance:

Interim Financing Agreement (Corn/Soya Bean Regional Project - Guyana) between Caribbean Development Bank and Guyana - Dated 31st August, 1977. Loan No. 2/SFR-GU

(F. 53/5^B)(Circulated)

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(4) By the Minister of Works and Transport:

- (a) Telex and Telephone (Overseas Fees) Regulations 1977 (No. 18), made under section 97 of the Post and Telegraph Act, Chapter 47:01, on the 30th of December, 1977, and published in the Gazette on the 31st of December, 1977.

(SC: 13/6/4)(Circulated)

- (b) Report of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year ended 31st December, 1975.

(C-12/4/7^{IV})(Circulated)INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

- (1) CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 1/1978
published 7.1.78

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 CUSTOMS ACT.

- (2) INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 2/1978
published 7.1.78

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 INCOME TAX ACT.

- (3) STATE PLANNING COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1978 -
Bill No. 3 1978

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Prime Minister, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
STATE PLANNING COMMISSION ACT 1977.

- (4) PRODUCE PROTECTION BILL 1978 - Bill No. 4/1978

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE BETTER
PROVISION FOR THE PREVENTION OF PRAEDIAL
LARCENY AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS
INCIDENTAL THERETO.

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PUBLIC BUSINESS.MOTIONITEM 1 - REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON 1966 ACCOUNTS.

Cde. N. Persaud, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly on the Public Accounts for the year 1966 and on the Report of the Director of Audit thereon, be referred to the Government for its consideration.

The motion was seconded By Cde. Ramson and was thereafter put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.42 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 Friday, 27th January, 1978.

Persaud
20.1.78
S. WARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
24th January, 1978.