

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 163rd Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 14TH AUGUST, 1978

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (64)

Speaker

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (47)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P., Prime Minister

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development

Senior Ministers (7)

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

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Minister of Works and Transport

* Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour (Absent)

* Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

* Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance

* Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture

* Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice

Ministers (6)

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

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

* Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent)

* Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

* Non elected Minister

Ministers of State (10)

- 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
- 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. Choudhury, 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. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/
West Coast Berbice)
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of
Agriculture
- * Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi)

Parliamentary Secretaries (5)

- 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. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Education, Social Development and Culture
- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade
and Consumer Protection
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry
of Economic Development and Co-operatives

Other Members (17)

- 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. 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. (Absent - on leave)
- 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. L.E. Willems, 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 (Absent - on leave)

* Non elected Minister

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. (Absent)
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, 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. (~~Absent~~) *DA*
Cde. Dindayal, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. P. Sukhai, M.P. (Absent)

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

OATH - Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A.

The Oath of Office was made and subscribed by Cde. Joseph Adolphus Tyndall, A.A., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Changes in the National Assembly

The Speaker stated that he was informed of the following changes:-

- (a) Cde. G.A. King had resigned as Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection, with effect from 5th August, 1978. As Cde. King was not an elected Member of the National Assembly, he had ceased to be a Member of the Assembly.
- (b) Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., had been appointed a Minister and had been designated Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection, with effect from 8th August, 1978. Although Cde. Tyndall was not an elected Member of the National Assembly, he had, by virtue of being appointed a Minister, become a Member of the Assembly.
- (c) Cde. A. Salim had vacated the Office of Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice) with effect from 8th August, 1978. As Cde. Salim was not an elected Member of the National Assembly, he had ceased to be a Member of the Assembly.
- (d) Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael who was Minister of State - Regional (North West) had been designated Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi), with effect from 8th August, 1978.

- (e) Cde. S. Prashad who was a Parliamentary Secretary, had been appointed Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice), with effect from 8th August, 1978.
- (f) Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman had been appointed Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, with effect from 8th August, 1978.
- (g) Cde. E.M. Bynoe had been appointed Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection, with effect from 8th August, 1978.
- (h) Cde. C.E. Wrights had been appointed Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives, with effect from 8th August, 1978.

(ii) Acting Leader of the Opposition

The Speaker stated that he was informed by the Leader of the Opposition that he would be out of Guyana for 10 days from 9th August, 1978, and that during his absence, Cde. Ram Karran would be acting as Leader of the Opposition.

(iii) Congratulations to Members

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to Members on their new assignments and welcomed Cde. Tyndall to the Assembly.

(iv) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cde. Ramsahoye from 15th to 31st August, 1978, and
- (b) Cde. C. Jagan for 10 days from 9th August, 1978.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

Guyana Stand-By Arrangement.
(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Agriculture:

Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Liquor Corporation for the year 1977.
(A: 5/12) (Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

DEPENDANTS' PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - BILL NO. 17/1978
published 11.8.78

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 WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION ACT TO EXTEND THE CATEGORIES OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NEW WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND (INCLUDING FEMALES, IN PARTICULAR), TO ALLOW FOR CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK TO BENEFIT FROM THE FUND, TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 73 THEREOF, AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - DEATH OF DR. R.S. HANOMAN-SINGH

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Dr. Robert Stanley Hanoman-Singh and pays tribute to the distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow and children.

Cde. J. Jagan and Mr. Abraham spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried with Members standing.

ITEM 2 - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 46(2) AND (3)

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order No. 46 be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its Sitting on Monday, 14th August, 1978, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the DEPENDANTS' PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 (Bill No. 17/1978).

The Acting Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 - DEPENDANTS' PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 17/1978 published 11.8.78

Second Reading

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION ACT TO EXTEND THE CATEGORIES OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NEW WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND (INCLUDING FEMALES, IN PARTICULAR), TO ALLOW FOR CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK TO BENEFIT FROM THE FUND, TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 73 THEREOF, AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

Cde. N. Persaud spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Finance 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 4 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 5 to 31 were passed as printed.

Clause 32 - The Minister of Finance moved the following amendments to paragraph (a) of the new section 51A:

- (i) deletion of the words "and his dependants on his death" and the words "and her dependants on her death", and
- (ii) insertion of the words "in relation" immediately after the word "modifications".

The amendments were put and carried.

Clause 32 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 33 and 34 were passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

Third Reading

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended, on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Abraham
 Cde. Zaheeruddeen
 Cde. Willems
 Cde. Taylor
 Cde. Sukul
 Cde. Sukhu
 Cde. Stoby
 Cde. Rayman
Cde. Ramsahoye
 Cde. Nissar
 Cde. Kasim
 Cde. Jonas
 Cde. Hussain
 Cde. Gill
 Cde. Fowler
 Cde. Durant
 Cde. Carrington
 Cde. Wrights
 Cde. Bynoe
 Cde. Corrica
 Cde. Ambrose
 Cde. Ackman
 Cde. Van Sluytman
 Cde. Prashad
 Cde. ~~Corbin~~
 Cde. Thomas
 Cde. Chowritmootoo
 Cde. Bancroft
 Cde. Nascimento
 Cde. Duncan
 Cde. Clarke
 Cde. Ramsaroop
 Cde. Field-Ridley
 Cde. Naraine
 Cde. Hoyte
 Cde. Reid
 Cde. Burnham

AGAINST

Cde. Belgrave
 Cde. N. Persaud
 Cde. R.D. Persaud

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.17 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
 15/8/78
 S. NARAIN
 Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
 Public Buildings,
 Georgetown.
 15th August, 1978