

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1979

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 194th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown Demerara,

At 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY 27TH AUGUST, 1979

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (63)

Speaker:

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (46)

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)

Senior Ministers (12)

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 (Absent)

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. 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 (Absent)

* 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

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

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

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

Ministers (2)

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

Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister, Office of the Prime Minister

* Non elected Minister

Ministers of State (10)

- Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi)
Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives
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)(Absent)
Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister
Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sport, Ministry of National Development
Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)(Absent)
Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture
Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West)
* Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of State for Information, Ministry of National Development (Absent)

Parliamentary Secretaries (5)

- Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)
Cde. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
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 (15)

- Cde. W.G. Carrington, C.C.H., M.P.
Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P.
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
Cde. W. Hussain, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P.
Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
Cde. A. Salim, 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. (Absent)
Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, 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

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* 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.
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, 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.
 Cde. P. Sukhai, M.P. (Absent)

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

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

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain, A.A.)
 Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (M.B. Henry)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Cde. Jackson for two weeks from 27th August, 1979
- (ii) Cde. Ambrose and Mr. Singh for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House,
on behalf of the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Loan Agreement between the State of Guyana and
 Nederlandsche Middelenstandsbank M.V., with
 regard to the financing of two Daman Stan-
 Tenders 2000 to be supplied by Scheepswerf
 Damen B.V.

(ST: 35/44)

- (2) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana
 Co-operative Insurance Service for the
 year ended 31st December, 1978.

(ST: 49/46/1)(Circulated)

- (3) Report of the Directors of the New Widows and Orphans' Fund on the working of the Fund for the year 1972.

(ST: 41/7)(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Question No. 31

Cde. Nokta asked the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives the following question:

QUESTION: Is the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives aware that the Motor Vessel AREQUNA which used to render valuable service to the residents in the North West District, especially Amerindians, has been withdrawn from service for over four years, has as yet not been repaired, and that as a result the people suffer hardship?

Is the Minister further aware that the engine of the said vessel was extracted from it and sold to a private individual?

If the answers are in the affirmative, will the Minister answer the following further questions:-

- (a) Was a Board of Survey held which condemned the vessel as unseaworthy or unserviceable? If so, when was this survey held?
- (b) If the vessel was condemned as unserviceable, was it, or the engine, advertised for sale in the usual way? If not, why not?
- (c) How much was the engine sold for and who bought it?
- (d) Is there any proposal for the replacement of the service with another vessel? If so, how soon?

ANSWER: The launch "Arecuna" was donated in 1968 to the community of Moruca, North West Region, by the Government of the United States of America through the United States Agency for International Development. The vessel was given into the custody of the Committee of Management of the Moruca Producers' Co-operative Society Limited for and on behalf of the community. The vessel proved to be unsuitable for service in the Moruca River and the owners decided to operate it on the run from Kwebanna to Mabaruma on the Waini River. By 1972, both the engine and the hull of the vessel had deteriorated badly. The engine needed replacing and the hull needed extensive repairs.

5.

2. In 1972, Government agreed to donate a new engine to the community on condition that the owners effected repairs to the hull of the vessel, and in pursuance of this promise Government acquired an engine at a cost of six thousand seven hundred and forty five (\$6,745.00) dollars for this purpose. The engine was stored in a Bond at Kwebanna on the Waini River.
3. Two (2) years after Government had acquired the engine, the owners of the vessel had not repaired the hull, apparently because they had decided that it was uneconomical to do so. In the circumstances, the Government decided to sell the engine.
4. The requirements that -
 - (i) A Board of Survey should decide whether or not a vessel is unseaworthy and should be sold applies to Government property. The vessel "Arecuna" was not Government property;
 - (ii) In the light of the answer given at (i) above the question at (b) does not arise;
 - (iii) The engine was sold to Comrade Eugene Stoby for six thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars - who undertook to build a boat to provide the service in the Moruca River. This undertaking was a condition of the sale. Comrade Stoby did build a boat and did provide a service in the Moruca River and continues to provide the service;
 - (iv) The answer to the question at (d) is in the negative. As far as the Government is aware, private boats ply in the River. There has been no representation by the people of Moruca that the existing arrangements are unsatisfactory and, in the circumstances, Government has not contemplated providing a Government service.

Supplementary questions were asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

HOUSING OF LABOUR WORKERS ON SUGAR ESTATES AMENDMENT
BILL 1979 - Bill No. 10 1979 published 13.8.79

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
HOUSING OF LABOUR WORKERS ON SUGAR
ESTATES ACT.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONITEM 1 EXTENSION OF PART II OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, CHAPTER 16:02

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS it is provided by section 14 (1) of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Chapter 16:02, that no provisions of Part II of the said Act shall be in force after the expiration of a period of two years commencing with the date of the enactment of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions)(Amendment) Act 1977, provided that the period may, from time to time, be extended for a further period of two years by resolution of the National Assembly passed before the expiration of the previous period of two years;

AND WHEREAS the provisions of the said Part II were enacted on 2nd September, 1977, and will expire on 1st September, 1979:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the period during which Part II of the National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Chapter 16:02, shall be in force be extended for a further period of two years commencing on 2nd September, 1979.

Cde. Collymore and the Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried in the following division:

FOR	AGAINST
Cde. Willems	Cde. Nokta
Cde. Sukul	Cde. Dindayal
Cde. Sukhu	Cde. Dalchand
Cde. Salim	Cde. Ally
Cde. Rayman	Cde. Collymore
Cde. Jonas	Cde. N. Persaud
Cde. Gill	Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud
Cde. Fowler	Cde. Ram Karran
Cde. Field-Ridley	Cde. C. Jagan .
Cde. Carrington	
Cde. Wrights	
Cde. Bynoe	
Cde. Corrica	
Cde. Durant	
Cde. Van Slutyman	
Cde. Corbin	
Cde. Thomas	
Cde. Bancroft	
Cde. Duncan	
Cde. Carmichael	
Cde. Clarke	
Cde. Mingo	
Cde. Ramnaroop	
Cde. Hoyto	
Cde. Reid	

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 2 - NATIONAL CANE FARMING COMMITTEE AMENDMENT BILL 1979.
Bill No. 9 1979 published 9.7.79

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

A. BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
 NATIONAL CANE FARMING COMMITTEE ACT.

Cde. Dalchand and the Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Agriculture was replying when the proceedings were interrupted to permit a motion for the suspension of Standing Order No. 9(2) to be moved.

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.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture concluded his reply.

The motion for the second reading of the Bill was then put and carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.05 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
 Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE
 Public Buildings,
 Georgetown,
 13th September, 1979