

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1969

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 34th Sitting of the National Assembly under the Constitution of Guyana, held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 1969

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj, C.B.E., J.P.

(a) Members of the Government

(1) Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C., Prime Minister  
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Finance  
The Honourable R.J. Jordan, Minister of Agriculture  
and Natural Resources  
The Honourable M. Kasim, Minister of Communications  
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, Minister of Home Affairs  
The Honourable N.J. Bissember, Minister of Trade and  
Parliamentary Affairs  
The Honourable C.M.L. John, Minister of Local Government  
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and  
Social Security  
Mrs. the Honourable S.M. Patterson, Minister of Education  
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Housing and  
Reconstruction  
The Honourable M.W. Carter, Minister of Information

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. P. Duncan, Parliamentary Secretary,  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Mr. J.G. Joaquin, O.B.E., J.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance  
Mr. W. Haynes, Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Works and Hydraulics  
Mr. A. Salim, Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary,  
Office of the Prime Minister

NOTE:

In a letter dated 26th July, 1969, Mr. R.E. Cheeks, M.P., informed His Honour the Speaker that with effect from that day, he was no longer a Member of the United Force, and that he proposed to retain his seat in the National Assembly without affiliation to any political party.

(Vide (15a) in File PARL: 17/5 III)

(iii) Other Members

Mr. J.N. Aaron  
 Mr. K. Bancorft  
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.  
 Mr. O.E. Clarke, Deputy Speaker  
 Mr. E.F. Correia  
 Mr. M. Corrica  
 Mr. E.H.A. Fowler  
 Mrs. P.A. Limerick  
 Mr. S.M. Saffee  
 Mr. D.A. Singh  
 Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman  
 Mr. C.E. Wrights  
 Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.

(b) Members of the Opposition

Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition  
 Mr. Ram Karran  
 Mr. R. Chandisingh  
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye  
 Mr. D.C. Jagan  
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson  
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P.  
 Mr. G.H. Lall  
 Mr. M.Y. Ally  
 Mr. E.M. Stoby  
 Mr. R. Ally  
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose  
 Mrs. L.M. Branco  
 Mr. Balchand Persaud  
 Mr. Bhola Persaud  
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye  
 Mr. V. Teekah  
 Mr. M.F. Singh  
 Mrs. E. DaSilva  
 Mr. J.A. Sutton  
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks

Clerk of the National Assembly (Ag.) - Mr. M.B. Henry  
 Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (Ag.) - Mr. R.H. Fraser

Absent

The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, C.M.G., Q.C.,  
 Attorney-General and Minister of State  
 The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works  
 and Hydraulics  
 The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister without  
 Portfolio  
 Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister  
 of Health  
 Miss M.M. Ackman - on leave  
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue  
 Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.  
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.



ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Miss Ackman for the period 28th July to 27th August, 1969.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(i) By the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Report of the Guyana School of Agriculture Corporation for the years 1964, 1965 and 1966.

(AGR: 2/43/1/6)(Circulated)

(ii) By the Minister of Local Government:

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Local Government for the year 1966.

(LG: 30/1 XVII)(Circulated).

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQUESTION NO. 2

Mr. Wilson asked the Minister of Labour and Social Security the following question:

Question: Will the Minister say -

- (i) what date the National Aid Board was established and the date of its first meeting?
- (ii) whether meetings were held weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly?
- (iii) what is the number of meetings held by the Board since its establishment and the number that fell through for the want of a quorum?

The Minister of Labour and Social Security gave the following reply:

- Answer:
- (i) 28th September, 1966; 12th October 1966.
  - (ii) Meetings were first held weekly up to May 1967; then on the second and fourth Wednesdays up to April 1968. Since then, meetings are held, up to the present time, on the second and fourth Tuesdays.
  - (iii) 49 meetings were held; 18 "fell through".

A supplementary question was asked by Mr. Wilson.

QUESTION NO. 3

Mr. Wilson to ask the Minister of Labour and Social Security the following question:

Question: Will the Minister say -

- (i) what is the number of applications received by the National Aid Board?
- (ii) what is the number investigated to date?
- (iii) what is the number of applicants granted assistance and what percentage does this represent of the number of applications?

The Minister of Labour and Social Security gave the following reply:

- Answer:
- (i) 2,625 applications have been received by the National Aid Board.
  - (ii) 1,055 applications have been investigated to date.
  - (iii) 789 granted assistance representing approximately 30%.

QUESTION NO. 4

Mr. Wilson asked the Minister of Labour and Social Security the following question:

Question: Will the Minister say -

- (i) what is the number of investigators employed by the National Aid Board?
- (ii) whether the Board has requested the appointment of more investigators? If so, have the additional appointments been made?
- (iii) whether he considers the rate of investigations satisfactory?
- (iv) whether he has fixed a date for completing investigations? If so, what is the date?
- (v) whether he considers that there is need for expediting the work of the Board? If so, what does he propose to do?

The Minister of Labour and Social Security gave the following reply:

- Answer:
- (i) There are 2 investigators employed.
  - (ii) No.
  - (iii) Yes.
  - (iv) No.
  - (v) There is no need to expedite the work at present.



STATEMENTS BY MINISTERSStatement by the Prime Minister on the unauthorised construction of an airstrip and military camp by Surinamers on Guyana territory

The Prime Minister made a statement on the taking over by a detachment of the Guyana Defence Force on the 19th of August, of an airstrip and military camp which had been unauthorisedly constructed and occupied by Surinamers on Guyana territory in the New River Triangle.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

- (i) FIRE PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969.  
(Bill No. 16/1969 published 16.8.69)
- (ii) MUSIC AND DANCING LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969.  
(Bill No. 17/1969 published 16. 8. 69)

The Minister of Home Affairs on behalf of the Government, presented the following bills which were read the first time:

- (i) A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE FIRE PREVENTION ORDINANCE, 1954.
- (ii) A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE MUSIC AND DANCING LICENCES ORDINANCE.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969.  
(Bill No. 18/1969 published 16. 8. 69)

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 ORDINANCE.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTION

MOTION TO WRITE-OFF \$3,173,672.67 REPRESENTING BAD DEBTS WRITTEN-OFF BY THE CREDIT CORPORATION ON 30TH JUNE, 1966

In accordance with article 80( 2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified the Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the write-off against the outstanding loans made by the Government to the Guyana Credit Corporation totalling fourteen million, seven hundred and fifty-eight thousand, nine hundred and eighty-seven dollars and sixty-two cents (\$14,758,937.62), of the sum of three million, one hundred and seventy-three thousand, six hundred and seventy-two dollars and sixty-seven cents (\$3,173,672.67) representing bad debts written-off by the Corporation on 30th June, 1966, as summarised in the undermentioned schedule, together with the interest that has accrued thereon to date.

SCHEDULE

1. <u>Rice Milling</u>	
(i) Johanna Mibikuri Co-operative Society Ltd. (Black Bush).	₡ 775,560.24
(ii) Johanna Yakusari Rice Mill Co-operative Society Ltd. (Black Bush).	₡ 750,837.43
(iii) Lesbikuri Rice Mill Co-operative Society Ltd. (Black Bush).	₡ 942,666.06
(iv) Cane Grove Rice Mill Co-operative Society Ltd.	₡ 248,672.67
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Sub-total	₡2,717,736.40
2. <u>Co-operatives</u>	₡ 103,144.21
3. <u>Food Production Loans</u>	₡ 60,487.84
4. <u>General Loans</u>	₡ 292,304.22
	<hr/>
Total	<u>₡3,173,672.67</u>

Mr. Ram Karran, Dr. Ramsahoye, Mr. R. Ally and Mr. Wilson spoke to the motion.

Mr. Ambrose was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for tea.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.35 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Ambrose concluded his speech.

Mr. Sutton, the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Mr. Balchand Persaud spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Finance then replied.

Thereafter the question was put and carried.

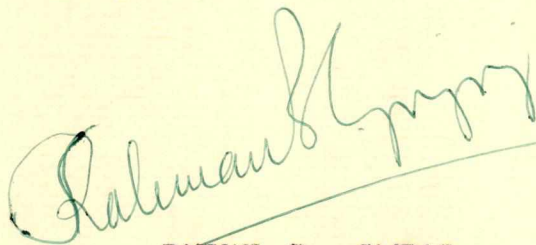
BUSINESS FOR NEXT SITTING

Before the adjournment was taken the Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs announced that at the next sitting the Assembly would proceed with the consideration of the Fire Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 1969, the Music and Dancing Licences (Amendment) Bill, 1969, the Widows and Orphans Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1969, and the motion on Guyana becoming a Republic.



ADJOURNMENT

At 6.03 p.m. on a motion by the Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 28th of August, 1969.



RAHMAN B. GAJRAJ

Speaker.

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

26th August, 1969.