

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1969

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 36th 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

FRIDAY, 29TH AUGUST, 1969

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Government

(i) 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 S.S. Ramphal, C.M.G., Q.C., Attorney-  
General and Minister of State  
The Honourable M.W. Carter, Minister of Information  
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works and Hydraulics  
Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister of Health

(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

(iii) Other Members

Mr. J.N. Aaron  
 Miss M.M. Ackman  
 Mr. K. Bancroft  
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.  
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue  
 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 Karan  
 Mr. R. Chandisingh  
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye  
 Mr. D.C. Jagan  
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P.  
 Mr. G.H. Lall  
 Mr. M.Y. Ally  
 Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.  
 Mr. E.M. Stoby  
 Mr. R. Ally  
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose  
 Mrs. L.M. Branco  
 Mr. Balchand Persaud  
 Mr. Bholu Persaud  
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.  
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye  
 Mr. V. Teekah  
 Mr. M.F. Singh  
 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 H.O. Jack, Minister without  
 Portfolio  
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson  
 Mrs. E. DaSilva - on leave

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mrs. DaSilva for that day's sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONMOTION ON GUYANA BECOMING A REPUBLIC

Assembly resumed the debate on the following motion:

WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana makes provision in paragraph (5) of article 73 thereof whereby Guyana may become a Republic and accordingly cease to be part of Her Majesty's dominions pursuant to alterations to the Constitution set out in the Second Schedule thereto;

AND WHEREAS such provision requires a resolution of the National Assembly, upon a motion introduced by the Prime Minister, that Guyana shall become a Republic and that the said alterations to the Constitution shall have effect on such day after the passing of the resolution as may be specified therein;

AND WHEREAS by virtue of such provision notice of such a motion may be given on or after 1st January, 1969, but not less than three months before the National Assembly proceeds upon the motion;

AND WHEREAS in fulfilment of the processes of National Independence it is fitting that Guyana should become a Republic pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the twenty-third day of February, in each year commemorates the revolt of enslaved peoples on that day in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three in the then Colony of Berbice - being the first significant blow struck for freedom in the territory now comprised in the State of Guyana:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this National Assembly in pursuance of paragraph (5) of article 73 of the Constitution of Guyana that on the twenty-third day of February in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventy Guyana shall become a Republic and accordingly cease to be part of Her Majesty's dominions and that for that purpose the alterations to the Constitution of Guyana set out in the Second Schedule to the said Constitution shall have effect.

Mr. Stoby, the Minister of Education, Mr. M.F. Singh and Mrs. Branco spoke to the motion.

Mr. Teekah 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 4.37 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Teekah concluded his speech.

Mr. Sutton and Mr. Balchand Persaud spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister replied.

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

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Sutton
Mr. Teekah	Mr. M.F. Singh
Mrs. Sahoye	
Mr. Remington	
Mr. Bhola Persaud	
Mr. Balchand Persaud	
Mrs. Branco	
Mr. Ambrose	
Mr. R.D. Persaud	
Mr. Y. Ally	
Mr. Lall	
Mr. Jagan	
Dr. Ramsahoye	
Mr. Chandisingh	
Mr. Ram Karran	
Dr. Jagan	
Mr. Zaheeruddeen	
Mr. Wrights	
Mr. Van Sluytman	
Mr. D.A. Singh	
Mr. Saffee	
Mrs. Limerick	
Mr. Fowler	
Mr. Corrica	
Mr. Correia	
Mr. Clarke	
Mr. Chan-A-Sue	
Mr. Budhoo	
Mr. Bancroft	
Miss Ackman	
Mr. Aaron	
Mr. Thomas	
Mr. Salim	
Mr. Haynes	
Mr. Joaquin	
Mr. Duncan	
Mr. Ramsaroop	
Mrs. Patterson	
Mr. Carrington	
Mr. John	
Mr. Bissember	
Mr. Hoyte	
Mr. Kasim	
Mr. Jordan	
Dr. Reid	
Mr. Burnham	

REMARKS BY HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER

His Honour the Speaker remarked that he was very happy to be associated with the Assembly on the historic occasion when the decision had been taken by the Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Guyana.

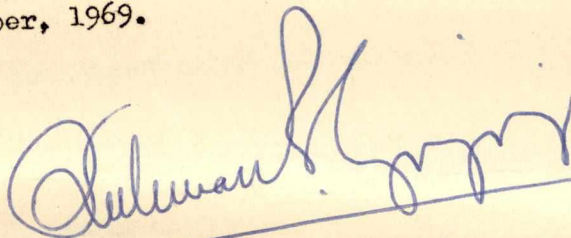
FIRST COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS, OTTAWA, CANADA

His Honour the Speaker informed the Assembly that he would be attending, on behalf of Guyana, the First Commonwealth Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers which would take place in Ottawa, Canada, early in September.

The Honourable Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly extended to him wishes for a very pleasant trip to Canada and a successful holiday after the Conference.

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, 4th September, 1969.



RAHMAN B. GAJRAJ  
Speaker.

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

30th August, 1969.