

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1969 - 1970

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 73rd 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

WEDNESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1970

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, Q.C., Minister of Home Affairs  
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and  
Social Security  
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of  
Education (Leader of the House)  
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Trade  
The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Housing and  
Reconstruction  
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, Kt., C.M.G., Q.C.,  
Attorney-General and Minister of State  
Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister of Health

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

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

(iii) Other Members

Mr. O.E. Clarke, Deputy Speaker  
 Mr. J.N. Aaron  
 Mr. K. Bancroft  
 Mr. N.J. Bissember  
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.  
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue  
 Mr. E.F. Correia  
 Mr. M. Corrica  
 Mr. E.H.A. Fowler  
 Mrs. P.A. Limerick  
 Mr. S.M. Saffee  
 Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman  
 Mr. C.E. Wrights  
 Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.

(b) Members of the Opposition

Mrs. E. DaSilva  
 Mr. M.F. Singh  
 Mr. J.A. Sutton  
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks

Clerk of the National Assembly - Mr. F.A. Narain  
 Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly - Mr. M.B. Henry

Absent:

The Honourable M.W. Carter, Minister  
 of Information and Culture  
 The Honourable H. Green, Minister of  
 Works, Hydraulics and Supply  
 The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister  
 without Portfolio  
 Miss M.M. Ackman - on leave  
 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. 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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Miss Ackman from 10th to 20th February, 1970.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

See Appendix.

PUBLIC BUSINESSREMARKS BY SPEAKER ON A DECISION TAKEN AT THE PREVIOUS SITTING

Before the commencement of Public Business, His Honour the Speaker referred to a decision he made as Chairman of the Committee of the whole Assembly during consideration of clause 8 of the Republic Bill at the previous sitting. He informed the Assembly that notwithstanding the fact that Members were allowed to speak more than once in Committee, he had disallowed further discussion on the clause because he felt it had been fully discussed and, also, the two main proponents on the argument had spoken and an answer had been given by the Attorney-General.

BILL - Second and Third Readings

GUYANA NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK BILL, 1970 -  
Bill No. 8/1970 published 16.2.70

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, Standing Order No. 46(3) was suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with the above Bill.

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE  
 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL  
 CO-OPERATIVE BANK AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED  
 THEREWITH.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 8 were passed as printed.

Clause 9 - The following amendments by the Minister of Finance were put and carried:

- (i) Substitution of the word "Accountant" for the word "Account" in subsection (1).

- (ii) Substitution of the word "Bank" for the word "Board" wherever it appears in subsections (1) and (2).

Clause 9 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 10 to 41 were passed as printed.

The First and Second Schedules were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

#### PROCLAMATIONS PROROGUING AND SUMMONING SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT

His Honour the Speaker informed the Assembly that during the sitting he had received the following Proclamations signed by the Acting Governor-General:-

- (i) a Proclamation proroguing the Session of Parliament with effect from Saturday, the 21st of February, 1970; and
- (ii) a Proclamation summoning a new session of Parliament to meet at 10.00 o'clock on Monday, the 23rd of February, 1970.

#### EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION OF SPEAKER

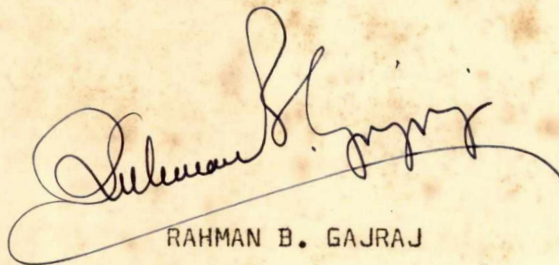
Before the adjournment was taken, the Minister of Education (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Members expressed to His Honour the Speaker the deep appreciation felt by Members of the Assembly of the way in which he presided over that part of the nation's business during the period of the life of that Parliament. In her remarks, the Minister said that they had looked upon him for guidance and that they were indeed grateful that they had a person of his calibre to take the strain of high office and to look over the destinies of their people and guide them in that field of activity. The Minister also thanked the staff of the Assembly who had worked with them for so long and so well and had been a constant guide and prop to them.

Mr. Cheeks, who also spoke, observed that he had regarded His Honour the Speaker's conduct of the affairs of the Assembly as being admirable, inspiring and quite fair to both sides.

His Honour thanked the Members for expressing their appreciation of the way in which he had carried on the business of the Assembly. He assured them that he had enjoyed sitting in the Chair even though there had been occasions when they had been tense and it had been very necessary to have a little more careful and <sup>a</sup>keener look at what had been taking place in order to maintain a proper atmosphere of balance and goodwill between both sides of the Assembly. He further assured the Members that under the new Republic status he would continue to maintain the impartiality of the Chair and try to apply the principles of parliamentary democracy within the limits and needs of the Guyanese nation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.55 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Education (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rahman B. Gajraj', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

RAHMAN B. GAJRAJ

Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

19th February, 1970.

APPENDIX

QUESTION NO. 14

QUESTION by Mr. Chandisingh and REPLY by the Minister of Health:

Question: Will the Minister state whether the Medical Consultation Clinic at the Georgetown Hospital is closed?

If so, for how long has it been closed, for what reasons, and when is it proposed to re-open this facility to the public?

Answer: The Medical Consultation Clinic at the Georgetown Hospital is open and functioning. It was closed for sometime during 1969 in order to permit of major renovations and extensions being carried out.

During this period, patients were treated at the Out-patients and Casualty Departments or admitted as In-patients in cases where it was thought necessary for them to see the specialist physicians.

