

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1969 - 1970

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 57th 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

MONDAY, 5TH JANUARY, 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 M.W. Carter, Minister of Information & Culture  
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

(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 and Hydraulics  
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  
 Miss M.M. Ackman  
 Mr. K. Bancroft  
 Mr. N.J. Bissember  
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.  
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue  
 Mr. E.F. Correia  
 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

Mr. Ram Karran  
 Mr. R. Chandisingh  
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye  
 Mr. D.C. Jagan  
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson  
 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  
 Mr. Balchand Persaud  
 Mr. Bholu Persaud  
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.  
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye  
 Mr. V. Teekah  
 Mrs. E. DaSilva  
 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 S.S. Ramphal, Kt., C.M.G., Q.C.,  
 Attorney-General and Minister of State G  
 Mr. M. Corrica *PPC* - on leave  
 Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition *Opp* - on leave  
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P. *PPP* - on leave  
 Mrs. L.M. Branco *OPP*  
 Mr. M.F. Singh *OPP* - on leave

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBER TO FILL VACANCY

His Honour the Speaker informed the Assembly that in reply to a call under article 70(1) of the Constitution, he had received from the representative of the People's National Congress list of candidates, the Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C., Prime Minister, a letter dated 4th January, 1970, informing him that he (the representative) had extracted from the list the name of Mr. Claude Vibert Mingo, to fill the vacancy in the Assembly created by the resignation of Mr. C.M.L. John.

His Honour said that he had also received a letter dated 5th January, 1970, from the Chief Election Officer stating that Mr. Mingo had accordingly been declared to be elected a Member of the National Assembly.

OATHS

The oath of allegiance and the oath of office were made and subscribed by Mr. Claude Vibert Mingo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERCongratulations to Members on New Year's Awards

His Honour the Speaker, on behalf of the Members and his own, extended congratulations to the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister of State and the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs on their awards of the Knighthood and Queen's Counsel, respectively. On account of his association with the Assembly, His Honour also extended congratulations to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, Mr. B.T.I. Pollard, on his award of Queen's Counsel.

His Honour the Speaker announced that -

Ministerial Changes

- (i) he had received a copy of a notice of assignment of responsibility to Ministers announcing that with effect from that day's sitting, Monday, 5th January, 1970 -
  - (a) the Honourable Miss Shirley Merle Field-Ridley, M.P., Minister of Education, had been assigned responsibility for matters relating to the business of the Government in Parliament;
  - (b) the Honourable Bishwaishwar Ramsaroop, M.P., had been designated the style and should be known as Minister of Trade;
  - (c) Mr. David Arthur Singh, M.P., had been appointed a Minister and had been designated the style and should be known as Minister of Housing and Reconstruction;
  - (d) the style designated the Minister of Information would now be Minister of Information and Culture.

Form of addressing Mr. Ramphal

- (ii) he had received from the Attorney-General and Minister of State, a letter dated 2nd January, 1970 (which he read), forwarding a copy of a Press Release in connection with the knighthood conferred on the Attorney-General in the New Year's Honours list for Guyana,

(His Honour read the Press Release which indicated Mr. Ramphal's desire to be addressed as "The Honourable").

Leave

- (iii) leave had been granted to

- (a) Mr. Corrica from the 1st of January to the 10th of February, 1970;
- (b) Mr. Hamid an extension to the 31st of January, 1970;
- (c) Mr. M.F. Singh from the 5th to the 9th of January, 1970.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Minister of Communications

Eighteenth General Report and Statements of Account of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board for the period 1st April, 1968 to 31st March, 1969.

(C-13/1/2)

- (2) By the Minister of Education (Leader of the House) on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Social Security:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security for the year 1968.

(34/8 ii X T.J. (6))(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

On a motion by the Minister of Education (Leader of the House) the Assembly agreed to proceed with the second reading of Bill No. 35/1969 (item 2 on the Order Paper) at 9.00 p.m.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONITEM 1 - MOTION TO APPROVE THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1970

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1970, totalling \$173,448,058 (excluding \$22,125,994 which is chargeable by law). (See motion at Appendix to Minutes for sitting of 22nd December, 1969).

Dr. Ramsahoye spoke to the motion.

The Minister without Portfolio 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 4.40 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Minister without Portfolio concluded his speech.

Mr. Lall and the Minister of Labour and Social Security spoke to the motion.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.05 p.m. the sitting was resumed with His Honour the Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

Mr. Bhola Persaud concluded his speech.

Mr. M.Y. Ally spoke to the motion.

At this stage debate on the motion was suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with item 2 on the Order Paper.

BILL - Second and Third ReadingsITEM 2 - NATIONAL CANE FARMING COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969 - Bill No. 35/1969 published 27.12.69

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL CANE FARMING COMMITTEE ORDINANCE, 1965.

Mr. R.D. Persaud, Mr. Lall, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Ram Karran spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

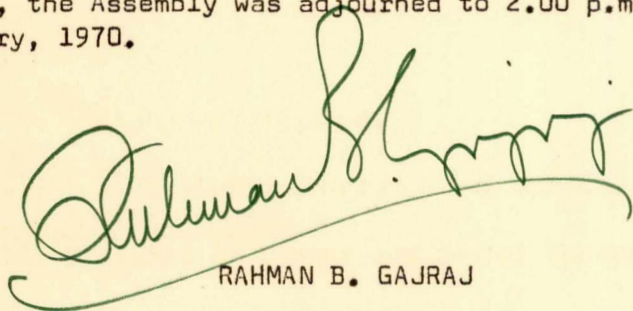
The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

Assembly resumed debate on the 1970 Estimates of Expenditure

Mr. R. Ally was speaking to the motion when the time for the adjournment was reached.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.00 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Education (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 6th January, 1970.



RAHMAN B. GAJRAJ

Speaker.

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

6th January, 1970.