

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

SECOND SESSION

1970 - 1971

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 40th 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, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1971

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, S.C., Prime Minister
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Agriculture
The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of Communications
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Finance
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and
Social Security
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of
Education
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Trade (Leader
of the House)
The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Housing and
Reconstruction
The Honourable D.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of Local Government
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Attorney-General and
Minister of State
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works, Hydraulics
and Supply
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Mines and Forests

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Finance
Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. W. Haynes, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply

Min. of Agric

(iii) Other Members

Mr. J.N. Aaron
 Miss M.M. Ackman, Government Whip
 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
 Mr. R.J. Jordan
 Mr. S.M. Saffee
 Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
 Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.
 Mrs. L.E. Willems

(b) Members of the Opposition

Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition
 Mr. Ram Karran
 Mr. R. Chandisingh
 Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P., Opposition Whip
 Mr. G.H. Lall, J.P.
 Mr. M.Y. Ally
 Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. Bholu Persaud
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye
 Mr. V. Teekah
 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:

Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot,
 Minister of Health
 Mr. A. Salim, Parliamentary Secretary,
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Mr. M. Corrica - on leave
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C. - on leave
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
 Mr. Balchand Persaud - on leave

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Dr. Ramsahoye for two weeks from the 15th of February, 1971.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Minister of Communications:

- (a) Composite Report of the Guyana Airways Corporation for 1967 and 1968.

(C-30/3/9/1)(Circulated)

- (b) Parcel Post (Surface Mail and Air Rates) (Amendment) Order, 1971 (No. 12), made under section 16(2) of the Post and Telegraph Ordinance, Chapter 132, on the 11th of February, 1971, and published in the Gazette on the 20th of February, 1971.

(PO: 19/11)

(2) By the Minister of Local Government:

Naarstigheids/Union Local Government District (Constitution)(Amendment) Order, 1971 (No. 6), made under section 33 of the Municipal and District Councils Act, 1969 (No. 24), on the 11th of January, 1971, and published in the Gazette on the 16th of January, 1971.

(LG: 24/4)(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQuestion No. 6

At the request of Mrs. DaSilva, this question was withdrawn.

Questions Nos. 7 and 8

At the request of the Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), the answers to Questions Nos. 7 and 8 were deferred.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

- (1) RICE FARMERS (SECURITY OF TENURE)(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1971 - Bill No. 1/1971 published 30.1.71

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE RICE FARMERS (SECURITY OF TENURE) ORDINANCE, 1956.

(2) TRADE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1971 - Bill No. 2/1971

The Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Government presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE TRADE
ORDINANCE, 1958.

(3) MINERALS BILL, 1971 - Bill No. 3/1971

The Minister of Mines and Forests, on behalf of the Government presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE
ORDERLY EXTRACTION AND MARKETING OF MINERALS
AND THE ORDERLY PRODUCTION OF MARKETING OF ARTICLES
PREPARED OR MANUFACTURED THEREFROM.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1 - MOTION OF SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF MRS. JESSIE MORRIS
her BURNHAM

On a motion by the Leader of the Opposition, seconded by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, and supported by Mr. M.F. Singh and Mrs. DaSilva, the Assembly unanimously passed the following Resolution, with all standing in silence for one minute as a mark of respect:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of Mrs. Jessie Morris and its desire that its sympathies be conveyed to her relatives.

ITEM 2 - MOTION ON THE METRIC SYSTEM OF MEASUREMENT

Mr. Teekah moved and Mr. Sutton seconded the following motion:

WHEREAS, the international system of measurements is at present based on the metric system;

AND WHEREAS it is expected that, by 1980, the whole world will have adopted the metric system;

AND WHEREAS the United Kingdom will be converting fully to decimal currency on February 15, 1971 and, in consonance with other Commonwealth states, is also converting as rapidly as possible to the metric system;

AND WHEREAS in future all General Certificate of Education papers will be set in this system;

AND WHEREAS in Guyana's schools and colleges all text books do not teach the metric system:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That urgent steps be taken to ensure that emphasis be placed on the metric system in our schools and colleges:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That legislation be enacted to institute the metric system in commerce and industry as early as possible.

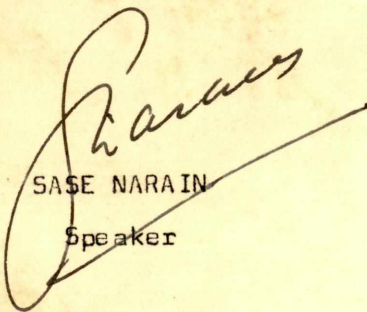
Mr. Wilson and the Minister of Finance spoke to the motion.

Thereafter Mr. Teekah replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.22 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 25th of February, 1971.



SASE NARAIN

Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

25th February, 1971.