

THIRD SESSION

1971

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 8th 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, 16TH JUNE, 1971

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

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 O.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of Local Government
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works, Hydraulics
and Supply
Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister of Health

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Finance
Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture
Mr. W. Haynes, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. A. Salim, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture
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

(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. M. Corrica
 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. 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. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. Balchand Persaud
 Mr. Bhola Persaud
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye
 Mrs. E. Da Silva

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

Absent:

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, S.C.,
 Prime Minister
 Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy
 Prime Minister and Minister of
 Agriculture - on leave
 The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C.,
 Attorney-General and Minister of
 State
 The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of
 Mines and Forests
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C.
 Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. V. Teekah - on leave
 Mr. M.F. Singh - on leave
 Mr. J.A. Sutton - on leave
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. M.F. Singh and Mr. Sutton for that day's sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1 - MOTION TO AUTHORISE THE WRITE OFF OF LOSSES OF CASH

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 authorise the write off of Losses of Cash totalling \$13,443 detailed in the Schedule of Losses of Cash and Stores which was laid in the National Assembly on 20th May, 1971.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 23(3)

On a motion by Mr. Ram Karran, seconded by Mr. Chandisingh, Standing Order No. 23(3) was suspended to enable Item 2 on the Order Paper to be proceeded upon at that sitting.

ITEM 2 - MOTION ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE DEFENCE LEVY

Mr. Ram Karran moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the 3% Defence Levy when imposed in 1969 was intended for one year only;

AND WHEREAS the Levy has continued to be in force and has undoubtedly increased the already high cost of living:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Defence Levy be withdrawn immediately.

Mr. Chandisingh seconded the motion but reserved the right to speak later.

Mrs. Da Silva, Mr. Balchand Persaud, Mr. Lall and the Minister of Finance spoke to the motion.

At 4.00 p.m., the Leader of the Opposition was speaking to the motion when the debate was interrupted to enable the Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 9(2).

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9(2)

On a motion by the Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), Standing Order No. 9(2) was suspended to enable the sitting to continue beyond 4.00 p.m.

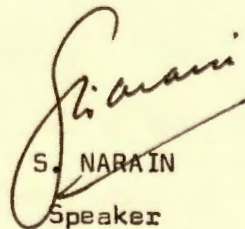
RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE DEFENCE LEVY

The Leader of the Opposition concluded his speech.

Thereafter, the motion was put and negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.06 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 17th of June, 1971.


S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
17th June, 1971.