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THIRD SESSION
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1971
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MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 17th 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

THURSDAY, 22ND JULY, 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.O. Jack, Minister of Mines and Forests

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Finance
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

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.M. Stoby, J.P.
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. Balchand Persaud
 Mr. Bholu Persaud
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
 Mr. V. Teekah
 Mrs. E. Da Silva
 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 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. Green, Minister of Works,
 Hydraulics and Supply
Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition - on leave
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C. - on leave
 Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye - on leave
 Mr. M.F. Singh - on leave

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(1) Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Dr. Reid for that day's sitting;
- (ii) Mr. Zaheeruddeen up to the 24th of July, 1971;
- (iii) Dr. Jagan up to the 31st of August, 1971.
- (iv) Dr. Ramsahoye for four weeks from that day's sitting; and
- (v) Mr. M.F. Singh for that day's sitting.

(2) Acting Leader of the Opposition

His Honour informed the Assembly that he was advised by the Leader of the Opposition that during his absence Mr. Ram Karran would be acting as Leader of the Opposition.

(3) Tribute to the late H.M.E. Cholmondeley, C.C.H.

His Honour the Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly, paid tribute to the late H.M.E. Cholmondeley, C.C.H., who died on Monday, the 19th of July, 1971.

As a mark of respect Members stood in silence for one minute.

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

- (a) Consumption Tax (Petroleum) Order, 1971 (No. 38), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, 1969 (No. 13), on the 7th of July, 1971, and published in the Gazette on the 10th of July, 1971.

(G. 669 (1))(Circulated)

- (b) Loan Agreement (Second Sea Defence Project) between Guyana and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development dated June 24, 1971 (Loan Number 765 GUA).

(4/2/5/4)(Circulated }

- (c) Financial Paper No. 4 of 1971 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Capital Estimates for the period ending 31st of July, 1971, totalling \$1,500,000.00.

(G: 572 X)(Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister named Tuesday, the 3rd of August, 1971, as the day for consideration of the Financial Paper in Committee of Supply.

(2) By the Minister of Labour and Social Security:

Accounts of the National Insurance Board for the years 1969 and 1970, and the Reports of the Auditors thereon.

(68/22)(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQUESTION NO. 4

Mr. Ram Karran on behalf of Dr. Jagan asked the Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), the following question:

Question: Will the Minister say whether steps will be taken to ensure that forms and documents which are printed overseas for insurance companies and other businesses are printed in Guyana instead?

The Minister of Trade (Leader of the House) gave the following reply:

Answer:

- (i) Several forms and documents used by the business community are already printed locally. For example, customs entry forms are printed locally. Moreover, most of the forms and documents used by Government ministries and public corporations are also printed locally;
- (ii) the Ministry will restrict importation of all forms and documents used by insurance companies and other businesses which it is satisfied could be printed locally or in a Carifta country.

QUESTION NO. 5

Mr. R. Ally asked the Minister of Home Affairs the following question:

Question:

- (i) Will the Minister say what action has been taken against the person who assaulted Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Leader of the Opposition, at Burnham's Court, Independence Square, on 2nd September, 1969, when he was addressing a crowd on the question of the banning of a Guyanese, Dr. Clive Thomas, by the Jamaican Government?
- (ii) If no action was taken against this person, will the Minister say what action was taken to discipline the policemen who were on duty at the time of the assault but who made no effort to arrest the person who assaulted Dr. Jagan?

The Minister of Home Affairs gave the following reply:

- Answer:**
- (i) No report was made to the police at the time of the alleged assault, and subsequent efforts to identify the alleged perpetrators proved unsuccessful.
 - (ii) In the light of the reply to the first question no disciplinary action could be taken against any member of the Force.

URGENT QUESTIONS

Under Standing Order No. 16(1), Mr. Teekah sought leave of the Speaker to ask the Minister of Education the following questions:

- (a) Will the Minister state what were the reasons for the removal of Dr. Frank Williams from the Board of Governors of the University of Guyana?
- (b) Will the Minister say whether the funds voted for the University of Guyana will be adequate to permit the enrolment of all those students who have qualified for entry and who have passed the U.G. Entrance Examination?
- (c) If the answer to question (b) is in the negative, will the Minister say how many of those who have passed will be admitted?
- (d) Will the Minister say how many students who met the minimum qualification for entry have applied, and how many of those have passed the University Entrance Examination?

His Honour the Speaker granted him leave to ask the questions at (b) and (c) only.

QUESTION NO. 6

Mr. Teekah asked the Minister of Education the following question:

- Question:**
- (i) Will the Minister say whether the funds voted for the University of Guyana will be adequate to permit the enrolment of all those students who have qualified for entry and who have passed the U.G. Entrance Examination?
 - (ii) If the answer is in the negative, will the Minister say how many of those who have passed will be admitted?

The Minister of Education gave the following reply:

Answer: With regard to question (1) I am advised that the Entrance Examination is merely one of the criteria used for selecting students for admission to U.G. Depending on the performance of candidates for entry the University uses a variable cut-off point to decide those applicants who should be considered for places which must necessarily be limited by many factors only one of which is finance. There is therefore no question of passing or failing the Entrance Examination.

Having regard to the above and since I am further advised that the cut-off point for this year's Examination has not yet been determined by the University, the other question does not arise.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1971 - Bill No. 17/1971

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE CUSTOMS ORDINANCE.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - MOTION TO APPROVE OF GOVERNMENT'S GUARANTEE OF REPAYMENT OF LOAN TO THE GUYANA TRANSPORT SERVICES

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Guyana Transport Services Limited is a Company incorporated under the Companies Ordinance, Chapter 328, with limited liability in which Government of Guyana has a controlling interest;

AND WHEREAS the said Company is desirous of expanding its transport facilities to meet the demands of the Public;

AND WHEREAS in consequence of such expansion the said Company has been negotiating for the purchase of nineteen (19) buses;

AND WHEREAS in order to assist in the financing of the purchasing of such buses the Company needs a loan of five hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$525,000);

AND WHEREAS the Guyana National Co-operative Bank and the American Life Insurance Company are willing to provide, on the basis of a guarantee by the Government of Guyana, loans of two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000) and two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) respectively:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve that the Government of Guyana guarantees the repayment of the following loans to be made to the Guyana Transport Services Limited for the purposes of purchasing nineteen (19) additional buses:

- (i) the sum of two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000) to be made by the Guyana National Co-operative Bank to be repaid with interest over a period of thirty months, and
- (ii) the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to be made by the American Life Insurance Company to be repaid with interest over a period of five years.

Mr. Ram Karran, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Sutton spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 2 - MOTION TO CONFIRM CONSUMPTION TAX (PETROLEUM) ORDER 1971 (No. 38)

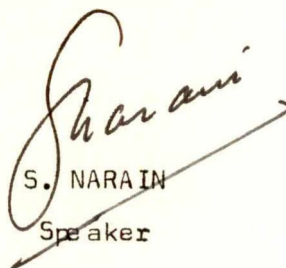
The Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 5(1) of the Consumption Tax Act, 1969, (No. 13), confirm the Consumption Tax Petroleum Order, 1971 (No. 38), which was made on the 7th of July, 1971, and published in the Gazette on the 10th of July, 1971.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 3.21 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 3rd of August, 1971.


S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

30th July, 1971