

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

THIRD SESSION

1971

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 21st 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

TUESDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 1971

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

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 Housing and
Reconstruction (Leader of the House)
The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Trade
The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of Local Government
The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State for
Co-operatives and Community Development
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Attorney-General and
Minister of State
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Mines and Forests
The Honourable E.B. McDavid, Minister of Information and
Culture

(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. 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. 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. Reepu Daman 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
 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
 The Honourable H. Green, Minister of
 Works, Hydraulics and Supply
 Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition - on leave
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C. - on leave
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye - on leave
 Mrs. E. DaSilva - on leave
 Mr. M.F. Singh

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

The oath of office was made and subscribed by Mr. Elvin Bernard McDavid, Minister of Information and Culture.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(1) Ministerial Changes

His Honour the Speaker informed the Assembly that he was advised that, with effect from the 16th of August, 1971 -

- (i) the Honourable B. Ramsaroop, formerly Minister of Trade, had been designated Minister of Housing and Reconstruction;
- (ii) the Honourable D.A. Singh, formerly Minister of Housing and Reconstruction, had been designated Minister of Trade;
- (iii) the Honourable W. Haynes, formerly Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, had been appointed a Minister, and had been designated Minister of State for Co-operatives and Community Development; and
- (iv) the Honourable E.B. McDavid, who had been appointed a Minister, had been designated Minister of Information and Culture.

On behalf of all Members of the Assembly and on his own behalf, His Honour -

- (i) congratulated Mr. Haynes and Mr. McDavid on their appointments as Ministers;
- (ii) welcomed the new Minister, Mr. McDavid, to the Assembly; and
- (iii) extended best wishes to the four Ministers, Mr. Ramsaroop, Mr. Singh, Mr. Haynes and Mr. McDavid in their respective assignments.

(2) Leave

His Honour announced that leave had been granted to Mrs. DaSilva up to the end of that week.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

GUARANTEE OF LOANS (PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND COMPANIES)
BILL, 1971 - Bill No. 20/1971 published 14. 8. 71

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 PROVIDE FOR THE GUARANTEE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA OF LOANS TO PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND COMPANIES IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS A CONTROLLING INTEREST.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1 - MOTION TO AUTHORISE GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE REPAYMENT OF SUB-LOAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TWO AMERINDIAN TRIBAL RANCHES

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

WHEREAS this National Assembly, in pursuance of Section 3 of the Public Loan Ordinance, 1966, approved, by Resolution No. XX passed on 10th November, 1970, of the amendment of Guyana Development Programme for the period 1966 to 1972, by increasing the sum provided for the development of the Livestock Industry under Chapter XII, Section 11 by \$9 mn., to enable the first stage of a livestock development programme to be undertaken;

AND WHEREAS this National Assembly, in pursuance of Section 4 of the Public Loan Ordinance, 1966, approved, by Resolution No. XXI passed on 10th November, 1970, of the raising from the International Development Association of a loan (credit) in the sum of (United States) Two million two hundred thousand dollars (\$2,200,000) that is to say approximately (Guyana) Four million four hundred thousand dollars (\$4,400,000) for the purposes aforesaid;

AND WHEREAS Development Credit Agreement No. 221 GUA, between the Government of Guyana and the International Development Association, for the sum and purposes aforesaid was signed on 27th November, 1970;

AND WHEREAS paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 of the Development Credit Agreement provided for an amount of (United States) One million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) of the proceeds of the Credit to be allocated to provide for long-term loans for on-ranch investment;

AND WHEREAS Part A(ii) of Schedule II of the Agreement aforementioned provides for the development, through the extension by participating banks of long-term sub-loans, of approximately ten (a) private, co-operative or company ranches or (b) Amerindian tribal ranches, all in the Rupununi Savannahs; the long-term sub-loans being for twelve (12) years, including four (4) years of grace, at nine and one-half (9½) per centum per annum;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with Section 3.13 of the Agreement aforementioned, the Government of Guyana shall guarantee the repayment of capital and the payment of interest and other charges on sub-loans for the development of Amerindian tribal ranches;

AND WHEREAS two Amerindian tribal ranches are included in the Project and each will require a sub-loan to the extent of (Guyana) seventy-four thousand one hundred dollars (\$74,100):

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in pursuance of Section 3.13 of the Development Credit Agreement, authorise the Government of Guyana to guarantee the repayment of capital and the payment of interest and other charges on the sub-loans to the extent of (Guyana) one hundred and forty-eight thousand two hundred dollars (\$148,200) for the development of the two Amerindian Tribal Ranches.

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

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 2 - MOTION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AND RECOMMEND CHANGES IN THE LAW RELATING TO MATRIMONIAL CAUSES, ETC.

The Attorney-General and Minister of State moved the following motions:

WHEREAS it is desirable -

- (a) that the law relating to matrimonial causes should be reviewed in respect of both its substantive and procedural aspects so as to make its provisions more conformable to the needs of the society;
- (b) that the law relating to succession should likewise be reviewed in the interest of making just provision for the cases of illegitimate children and of reputed wives; and
- (c) that the law relating to the performance of abortions be reviewed in the light of contemporary ideas and practices;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that members of the public be afforded opportunity for participating in the formulation of policy on these matters:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (i) that a Special Select Committee be appointed to consider and recommend changes in the law relating to matrimonial causes, the law relating to succession of illegitimate children and reputed wives and the law relating to abortion; and
- (ii) that, in the exercise of its functions, the Special Select Committee provide opportunity for all interested members of the public, either individually or through organisations, to submit views to it on the matters under its consideration.

Mr. D.C. Jagan was speaking to the motion when the time agreed for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.57 p.m. the sitting was suspended for tea.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.32 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. D.C. Jagan concluded his speech.

Mr. Cheeks, Mr. Sutton and Mr. Chandisingh spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Attorney-General and Minister of State replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.37 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Housing and Reconstruction (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 18th of August, 1971.


S. NARAIN

Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

18th August, 1971.