

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 45TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1994) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA BELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 1994

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National
Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (43)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of
Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home Affairs
(Government Chief Whip)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry
of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

* The Hon. Asgar Ally, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance (Absent - on leave)

* The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of
Education and Cultural Development

* The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and
Minister of Legal Affairs

* The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour,
Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign
Affairs

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism
and Industry

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry
of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of
Labour, Human Services and Social Security

* The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public
Works, Communications and Regional Development

* The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office of
the President

* The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of
Finance

* Non-elected Member

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P.
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P., a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/
 West Demerara)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Miss Anna Ally, M.P.
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent)
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P., a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P. (Absent)
 Miss Gwenneth A. Brouet, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, C.C.H., M.P.

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave for that Sitting had been granted to:

- (i) The Hon. Asgar Ally,
- (ii) The Hon. Clinton Collymore,
- and
- (iii) Mr. Winston Murray.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House):

Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana
Sugar Corporation Limited for the year 1993.

(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Searching of Persons at Timehri International Airport

The Senior Minister of Home Affairs made a statement with respect to two separate incidents involving two female citizens of Guyana at Timehri International Airport on 27th and 29th November, 1994.

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**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

Incidents involving women at Timehri International Airport

A request by Dr. Clive Thomas for leave to move the Adjournment of the Assembly to discuss incidents involving women passengers at Timehri International Airport, was not allowed by the Speaker as the matter did not qualify.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -

Presentation and First Reading

**TRADE UNION RECOGNITION BILL 1994 - Bill No. 19/1994
published 26.11.94**

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the improvement and promotion of industrial relations by the establishment of procedures for the certifying of trade unions as recognised majority unions and for matters connected therewith.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - SYMPATBY ON DEATB OF MR. HUBERT JACK

The Minority Leader moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Mr. Hubert Jack died on Wednesday, July 27, 1994;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Hubert Jack has rendered long, dedicated and distinguished service to Guyana, serving in the capacities of a Minister of the Government and Member of Parliament and later as an Ambassador and High Commissioner of the Republic:

/...

5.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly record its deep regret at the death of Mr. Hubert Jack and pay tribute to the distinguished service which he has rendered to Guyana and the Parliament;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly direct that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing wife and family.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)

Dr. Clive Thomas

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 2 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF DR. OLIVER HARPER

Mr. Robert Corbin moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly record its deep regret at the death of Dr. Oliver Harper and pay tribute to the dedicated and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to the Parliament in his capacity as a Member of Parliament and as Minister of Health;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Assembly direct that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his bereaved family and other relatives.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Janet Jagan

Dr. Clive Thomas

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

The motion was then put and carried.

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ITEM 3 - SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF MR. GOWKARRAN SHARMA, A.A., J.P.

Dr. Patrick McKenzie moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly record its deep regret at the death of Mr. Gowkarran Sharma and pay tribute to the distinguished and outstanding service which he rendered to Guyana and to the Parliament in his capacity as a Member of Parliament and Minister of Labour and as Minister in the Office of the President;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Assembly direct that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing family and relatives.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)

Dr. Clive Thomas

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

The motion was put and carried.

Thereafter Members stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect for the three deceased.

ITEM 4 - REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) moved the following motion:

WHEREAS Government recognises the need for and is committed to constitutional reform:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the appointment of a Special Select Committee of the Assembly to review the present Constitution of Guyana and make proposals for its reform and that the Committee be hereby empowered, in the exercise of its functions, to invite and receive memoranda from the public - individuals as well as organisations - and to receive evidence and such expert advice as it considers appropriate;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Committee report to the National Assembly before the date when National Elections are next due.

The Minority Leader spoke to the motion:

Dr. Clive Thomas spoke and moved the following amendment to the second resolved clause:-

Deletion of the words "report to the National Assembly"
and

Substitution of the words "complete its work in time for
the establishment of a new Constitution".

The following Members also spoke:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal
Affairs.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) replied.

The amendment by Dr. Thomas was put and carried.

The motion as amended was then put and carried on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Nadir
Mr. Williams
Dr. Thomas
Mr. Ramrattan
Mr. Ramdass
Mr. Paul
Mr. DeSouza
Mr. Baldeo
Mr. Bacchus
Mr. Da Silva
Mr. Gilbert
Mr. Zephyr
Mrs. Sukhai
Mr. Rodney
Mr. Ramotar
Dr. Lall
Mr. Kissoon
Mrs. James
Dr. Hanoman
Mrs. Edwards

AGAINST

Mr. Hyman
Mr. Peters
Mr. Fredericks
Mr. Hukumchand
Mr. Gouveia
Mr. Bynoe
Mr. Tyndall
Mrs. DeJesus
Mr. Deen
Mr. Subnauth
Mr. Alexander
Miss Persico
Miss Ally
Mr. Barrow
Mr. Bernard
Dr. King
Mrs. Riehl
Dr. Mc Kenzie
Mr. Corbin
Mr. Hoyte

FOR

Mr. Chand
 Mr. Baksh
 Mr. Husman Alli
 Mr. Fazil Ali
 Mr. Belgrave
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mrs. Jagan
 Mr. Chan
 Miss Teixeira
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Nokta
 Mr. Mohamed
 Mr. Persaud
 Mr. Hinds

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AGAINST

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SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.07 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.40 p.m. the Sitting was resumed.

ITEM 5 - REPORT OF SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 1993

The following motion which was moved by the Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill 1993) was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee on the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill 1993, be adopted.

/...

BILL~WITHDRAWN

ITEM 6 - MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 1993 - Bill
No. 27/1993 published 11.12.93

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Health, the following Bill was withdrawn:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to reform
the law relating to abortion and
to provide for matters connected
therewith.

The Minister intimated that she would introduce a revised Bill at a subsequent Sitting.

MOTION

ITEM 7 - SELECT PARLIAMENTARY BORDERS COMMITTEE

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

Conscious that Guyana's sovereignty and territorial integrity are non-negotiable issues of vital national interest;

Recognising that the defence of Guyana is the duty of all Guyanese regardless of political or religious persuasion or social status;

Taking into account the fact that the price of national security is eternal vigilance;

Noting that vigilance entails the constant monitoring of all aspects of relations with neighbouring countries, and especially those concerning sensitive border areas;

Aware of the need for a proactive and not a merely reactive response to such national concerns;

Recognising that the achievement and maintenance of the required level of vigilance can best be attained through the establishing of an appropriate national monitoring and evaluation committee;

Recognising that the competence of such a committee would need to reflect the historical, political, diplomatic and national experience;

/...

BE IT RESOLVED:

That a multi Party Parliamentary Committee of this Assembly be established to monitor, analyse and inform Parliament on matters pertaining to the integrity of Guyana's frontiers; the said Committee being empowered to invite persons from other organisations and institutions to assist it in its deliberations and activities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Committee shall be known as the Select Parliamentary Borders Committee.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minority Leader

Dr. Clive Thomas.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.15 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Sitting was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

1st December, 1994

