

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 99TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1997) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 21ST JULY, 1997
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (44)

The Hon. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and First Vice-President

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)

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

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., 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., Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

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

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Health (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry (Absent)

*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent)

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P., Minister of Information (Absent)

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government

The Hon. Indranic 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 Local Government

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

*The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works and Communications

*The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

***Non-elected Member**

Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kisson, M.P. (Absent)
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Thakoor Silas, 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)
 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 (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P.
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.
 Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)
 Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh, M.P.
 Mr. Simon Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. David Subnauth, J.P., M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No.10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, 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. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Abraham A.C. Fung-A-Fat, A.A., M.P.

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(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

(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 had been granted to -

the Hon. Prime Minister for that day's Sitting,

the Hon. Gail Teixeira up to 26th July,

Mr. Winston Murray up to the end of July,

Mr. Phillip Bynoe and

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine for that day's Sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

Annual Report of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare

Fund Committee for the year 1996.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 17/1997 published 12.7.97

The Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Minister of Finance, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Tax Act and the Income Tax Act.

- (2) SHOPS (MISCELLANEOUS ENACTMENTS)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 18/1997

The 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 amend the
Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act
and the Shops (Consolidation) Act.

- (3) TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND SEVERANCE PAY BILL 1997 - Bill No. 19/1997

The 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 conditions governing termination of employment and grant of redundancy or severance payment to employees and for matters connected therewith.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/1997

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Minister of Finance, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Assembly to proceed upon the motion to approve Financial Paper No. 1/1997 and thereafter moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1997 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$240,597.052 for the period ended 31st December, 1996 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(The Paper was presented to the Assembly on 10.7.97)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, that this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1997 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$240,597,052 for the period ended 31st December, 1996 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

ITEM 2 - FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/1997

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Minister of Finance, signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Assembly to proceed upon the motion to approve Financial Paper No. 2/1997 and thereafter moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1997 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$362,623,118 for the period ended 2nd July, 1997 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(The Paper was presented to the Assembly on 10.7.97)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this Assembly approve of the proposal set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1997 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$362,623,118 for the period ended 2nd July, 1997 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

BILL - Report of Select Committee and Third Reading

ITEMS 3 and 4 - INTEGRITY COMMISSION BILL 1995 - Bill No.17/1995 published 4.11.95

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Select Committee on the Integrity Commission Bill 1995, be adopted .

(Notice Paper No. 114(M94 Govt77) published 10.7.97)

(See Appendix for the amendments which were made by the Select Committee).

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Integrity Commission Bill 1995 was read the third time and was passed as amended.

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 5 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 11/1997 published 21.6.97

The Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip), moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

(Read a first time on 10.7.97)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Miss Amna Ally

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 6 - GUYANA CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 12/1997
published 21.6.97

The Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip), moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Guyana Citizenship Act.

(Read a first time on 10.7.97)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Miss Amna Ally

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 7 - IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 13/1997 published 21.6.97

The Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip), moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to
amend the Immigration Act.

(Read a first time on 10.7.97)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Miss Amna Ally

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 8 - SUMMARY JURISDICTION (OFFENCES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 -
Bill No. 7/1997 published 14.6.97

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act.

(Read a first time on 10.7.97)

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl spoke to the motion:

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendment:

Clause 2 - Schedule

The amendment proposed to section 70 of the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act, Chapter 8:02, was amended by the substitution of “forty-five thousand” for “ten thousand”.

ITEM 9 - PREVENTION OF CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 8/1997
published 14.6.97

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill which was put and carried:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Prevention of Crimes Act.

(Read a first time on 10.7.97)

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 10 - CATTLE STEALING PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 9/1997 published 14.6.97

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Cattle Stealing Prevention Act.

(Read a first time on 10.7.97)

Mr. John Fredericks spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 11 - SUMMARY JURISDICTION (PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997- Bill No. 10/1997 published 14.6.97

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act.

(Read a first time on 10.7.97)

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 12 - MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS) (AMENDMENT)
BILL 1997 - Bill No. 16/1997

The Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House),
on behalf of the Minister of Finance, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor
Vehicles Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act.

(Read a first time on 10.7.97)

Mr. Dunstan Barrow spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of
the House), replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining
stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 13 - FORESTS (EXPLORATORY PERMITS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 -
Bill No. 14/1997 published 23.6.97

The Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture moved the second reading of the
following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Forests
Act to provide for the grant of exploratory permits
and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 10.7.97)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Idris Deen

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan.

Thereafter the Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture replied.

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The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendments:

Clause 3

Substitution of the words "a permit" for the word "permission" in the penultimate line of the proviso to subsection (4) of the new section 5A.

Clause 7

Insertion of "20,000" after "US\$" in the first line of item (9) of the Schedule.

Bill - Deferred

ITEM 14 - BANK OF GUYANA BILL 1997 - Bill No. 15/1997

At the request of the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), and with the leave of the Assembly, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to revise and amend the law relating to the Bank of Guyana and to provide for related and consequential matters.

(Read a first time on 10.7.97)

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.12 p.m., on a motion by the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


D.C. JAGAN
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Georgetown.

21st July, 1997.