

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 33RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD
SESSION (1983-1984) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON MONDAY 1984-08-27

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (61)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-President and First Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Social Infrastructure and
First Deputy Prime Minister (Absent)

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice-President,
Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Vice-President, National Development
and Deputy Prime Minister

Other Deputy Prime Minister (1)

*Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Planning

Senior Ministers (8)

*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Cde. R.H.D. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Mobilisation

Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines

*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister of Forestry

Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Health and Public Welfare

*Cde. M.L. Parris, M.P., Minister of Education

Ministers (6)

Cde. Urmia Johnson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of National Development

Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Education

*Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P., Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives

Cde. R.C. Fredericks, M.P., Minister of Youth and Sport within the
Ministry of Education

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Transport within the Vice-Presidency
of Social Infrastructure

*Cde. Dr. S.P. DaSilva, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture

*Non-elected Member

/...

Ministers of State (2)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection
 Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Regional Development

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Housing, within the Ministry of Health and Public Welfare
 Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Youth
 Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, National Development

Government Chief Whip (1)

- Cde. Bidiawattie Tiwari, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Other Members (24)

- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.
 Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.
 Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. Philomena A. Rayman, M.P.
 Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
 Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad, M.P.
 Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
 Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
 Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.
 Cde. Patricia Fredericks, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.
 Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
 Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
 Cde. Edwina Melville M.P.
 Cde. Y. Khan, M.P.
 (One seat vacant)

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

- Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P.
 Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

- Cde. Dianne Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 Cde. W. Bipat, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
 Cde. I. Chowritmootoo, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
 Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)
 Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
 Cde. H.I. London, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Cde. Cora A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
 (Vacant) (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (8)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Minority Chief Whip

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.

Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. H. Nokta, M.P. (Absent)

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Cde. M.B. Henry, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers

OATHS OF NEW MEMBERS

(1) The Speaker informed Members that he had been informed that -

(i) Cde. William Arnold Lennox Haslyn Parris,

(ii) Cde. Malcolm LeRoy Parris and

(iii) Cde. Dr. Simpson Perry DaSilva

had been appointed to be Ministers with effect from 16th August, 1984 and although those three persons were not elected Members of the National Assembly, they had, however, by virtue of holding the office of Minister, become Members of the Assembly, but could not vote therein. Before they could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, they had to make and subscribe the oath.

Thereafter Cdes. W.A.L.H. Parris, M.L. Parris and Dr. S.P. DaSilva who were present made and subscribed the oath.

(2) The Speaker informed Members that following the resignations with effect from 16th August, 1984, of Comrades Dr. Ptolemy Alexander Reid, O.E., and Bishwaishwar Ramsaroop, as Members of the National Assembly, and his call upon the representative of the List of Candidates from which Comrades Reid's and Ramsaroop's names had been extracted, he had been informed that the names of the two persons who had been extracted from the said list to fill the vacancies in the Assembly were :-

/...

- (i) Richard Alexander Van West-Charles, and
- (ii) Yusuf Khan,

and that they had been declared to be elected Members of the National Assembly on 20th August, 1984. Cde. Dr. Van West-Charles who had been a non elected Minister had become an elected Member of the National Assembly and had to make and subscribe the oath again as such. Cde. Yusuf Khan as a new Member of the Assembly was required to make and subscribe the oath.

Thereafter Cdes. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles and Yusuf Khan who were present made and subscribed the oath.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Changes in the assignment of responsibilities to Ministers, etc.

The Speaker informed Members that, following the retirement of Cde. Dr. Ptolemy Alexander Reid as Prime Minister, he had informed that the President had made a number of changes in the assignment of responsibilities to Ministers and in the functions of Parliamentary Secretaries and in designations of styles. For the information of Members of the Assembly, and for inclusion in the records, he announced the following changes, all of which became effective from 16th August, 1984:-

- Cde. Desmond Hoyte, who had been Vice-President, Production, had been appointed Prime Minister.
- Cde. Hamilton Green, who had been Vice-President, Social Infrastructure, had been appointed First Deputy Prime Minister and his new designation was Vice-President, Social Infrastructure, and First Deputy Prime Minister.
- Cde. Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen, who had been Vice-President and Attorney General, had been appointed a Deputy Prime Minister and was designated Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General.
- Cde. Ranji Chandisingh, who had been Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture, had been appointed a Vice-President and a Deputy Prime Minister, and was designated Vice-President, National Development and Deputy Prime Minister.
- Cde. Haslyn Parris, who was not an elected Member of the National Assembly, had been appointed a Deputy Prime Minister, and was designated Deputy Prime Minister, Planning.
- Cde. Jeffrey Thomas, Minister of Home Affairs, had been assigned responsibility also for Parliamentary Affairs.
- Cde. Carl Greenidge, who had been Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, had been re-designated Minister of Finance.
- Cde. Sallahuddin, who had been Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture, had been appointed a Senior Minister and designated Minister of Forestry.
- Cde. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, Minister of Health and Public Welfare, had been appointed a Senior Minister.

- Cde. Malcolm Parris, who was not an elected Member of the National Assembly, had been appointed a Senior Minister and designated Minister of Education.
- Cde. Urmia Johnson, who had been Minister ~~in the Office of the Prime Minister~~, ~~was~~ Minister in the Ministry of National Development.
- Cde. Yvonne Harewood-Benn, who had been Minister of Information and Public Service, was Minister within the Ministry of Education.
- Cde. Dr. Simpson DaSilva, who was not an elected Member of the National Assembly, had been appointed a Minister and designated Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Cde. Donald Ainsworth, who had been Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture, was Parliamentary Secretary, Youth.
- Cde. Basdeo Bhaggan, who had been Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, was Parliamentary Secretary, National Development.

(ii) Congratulations to Members

The Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to

- (a) Cde. Hoyte on his appointment as Prime Minister;
- (b) Cde. Green on his appointment as First Deputy Prime Minister;
- (c) Cde. Dr. Shahabuddeen on his appointment as a Deputy Prime Minister;
- (d) Cde. Chandisingh on his appointment as a Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister and
- (c) Cdes. Sallahuddin and Dr. Van West-Charles on their appointment as Senior Minister.

He also extended congratulations and best wishes to Cdes. Haslyn Parris, Malcolm Parris and Dr. Simpson DaSilva on their Ministerial appointments and responsibilities and welcomed them to the Assembly.

Congratulations and best wishes were extended to Cdes. Dr. Van West-Charles and Yusuf Khan on their becoming elected Members of the National Assembly. Cde. Khan was welcomed to the Assembly.

Best Wishes were finally extended to Cdes. Johnson, Harewood-Benn, Ainsworth and Bhaggan in their new assignments.

(iii) New Leader of the House

The Speaker announced that as Cde. Thomas had been assigned responsibility for Parliamentary Affairs, he would be functioning as Leader of the House.

The Speaker extended best wishes to him and intimated that he would look forward for his co-operation.

(iv) New Seating Arrangements of PNC Members

The Speaker drew Members' attention to the new order of seating in the Assembly among the People's National Congress Members of Parliament. He said that the new arrangement had been proposed by that Party and was effective from that day's sitting, and that the modified arrangement dispensed with the protocol distinction between elected and non-elected Ministers and applied the alphabetical system subject to adjustments to reflect differences in length of previous Parliamentary service.

(v) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo for that sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

State Pension (Leo Small) Order 1984 (No. 40), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on 5th July, 1984, and published in the Gazette on 21st July, 1984.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) STATE LIABILITY AND PROCEEDINGS BILL 1984 - Bill No. 9/1984
published 1984-06-23

The Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the law relating to the civil liabilities and rights of the State and for matters connected therewith.

- (2) BANK OF GUYANA (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 - Bill No. 13/1984
published 1984-08-25

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 Bank of Guyana Act.

- (3) PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL BILL 1984 - Bill No. 14/1984

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

A Bill intituled An Act to alter the Constitution in accordance with articles 66 and 164 thereof, and to make provision for the establishment of a Public Service Appellate Tribunal and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

/...

(4) ENERGY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 Bill No. 15/1984

The Minister of Energy and Mines, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Energy Act 1981.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second and Third Readings

NATIONAL EQUIVALENCY BOARD BILL 1984 - Bill No. 11/1984
published 1984-08-09.

The Minister within the Ministry of Education, on behalf of the Prime Minister, moved the second reading of the following Bill:-

A Bill intituled An Act to establish the National
Equivalency Board,

Cde. Mohamed, the Deputy Speaker and the Minority Leader spoke to the motion.

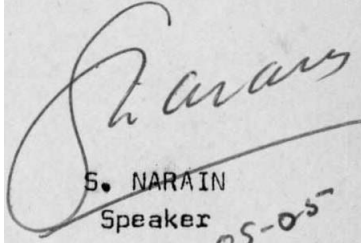
Thereafter the Minister within the Ministry of Education replied,

The motion was put and carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 15.00 hrs, on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



S. NARAIN
Speaker
84-09-05

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
1984-09-05