

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 5TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1986) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 HRS

ON FRIDAY 1986-02-28

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker (1)

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

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

Ministers in the Cabinet (10)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Prime Minister

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

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

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

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

Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P., Vice-President, Education and Social Development, and Deputy Prime Minister

Other Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development (Absent)

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Agriculture

Senior Ministers (4)

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

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

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Transport

*Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Trade (Absent)

Other Ministers (11)

Senior Ministers (3)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Manpower, Housing and Environment

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

Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister of Information and the Public Service

Ministers (4)

Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of National Mobilisation

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

Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister within the Office of the President

*Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Education

*Non-elected Member

Ministers of State (4)

- *Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Manpower, Housing and Environment
- Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Forestry
- *Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Planning and Development

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. A.K. Habibulla, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the President
- Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Home Affairs
- *Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Education

Government Chief Whip (1)

- Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Other Members (24)

- Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
- Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
- Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashed-Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. Elaine B. Davidsan, M.P.
- Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
- Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
- Cde. Amna Ally, M.P.
- Cde. L.R. Arthur, M.P.
- Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
- Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
- Cde. G.W. Chin, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P.
- Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.
- Cde. Cyrillda A. DeJesus, M.P.
- Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
- Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
- Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P.
- Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
- Cde. B. Persaud, M.P.
- Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.

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

- Cde. E. Mohamed, M.P.
- Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

- Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
- Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
- Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
- Cde. Enid E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
- Cde. I. Ally, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Cde. Patricia A. Daniel, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
- Cde. B.L. Domingo, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
- Cde. S.I. McGarrett, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
- Cde. M. Stephens, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

*Non-elected Member

3.

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader (Absent - on leave)

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (6)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P., Minority Chief Whip
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

Mr. E. Kwayana, 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

The Speaker informed Members that when the National Assembly had first met on Monday, 3rd February, 1986, three Members had not been present to make and subscribe the oath and as two of those Members, Cde. Dr. Richard Alexander Van West-Charles, and Cde. Janet Jagan, were present at that sitting, the oath would be administered to them.

Thereafter Cde. Dr. Richard Alexander Van West-Charles and Cde. Janet Jagan made and subscribed the oath.

The Speaker congratulated Cdes. Van West-Charles and Jagan on their again becoming Members of the National Assembly and welcomed them and extended best wishes to them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cde. Dr. Jagan for six weeks, from 1986-02-17 and that during his absence Cde. Janet Jagan would be carrying out his functions.

(ii) Broadcast of Budget

The Speaker informed Members that, in accordance with the usual practice, he had given permission to the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation to broadcast live the Budget presentation to be made by the Minister of Finance at that sitting. The Corporation had also been given permission to record for subsequent broadcasts Speeches which would be made by other Members of the Assembly at other sittings during the budget debate. Such subsequent broadcasts would, however, have to be made in accordance with the approved practice, that is, the time used for the broadcast of speeches would have to be allotted to the Members of the Assembly in the proportion to the Party representation in the Assembly.

(iii) Public Address System

The Speaker said that permission had also been given for the installation as usual of a public address system for the budget presentation.

(iv) Bills Listed for Second Reading

The Speaker informed Members that the second reading of the Bills on the Order Paper would not be proceeded with at that sitting.

(v) National Awards

The Speaker informed Members that in the recent announcement of National Awards, made on the occasion of the sixteenth anniversary of the Republic, five persons who had been formerly associated with our Parliament had been granted National Awards:

- (i) Cde. Robert James Jordan who had been a Member of Parliament from 1961 to 1973 and a Minister from 1964 to 1970, had been awarded the Cacique Crown of Honour for service of an exceptionally high quality and beyond the normal call of duty in the field of politics;
- (ii) Cde. Bishwaishwar Ramsaroop who had been a Member of Parliament and a Minister from 1969 to 1984, had been awarded the Cacique Crown of Honour for service of an exceptionally high quality and beyond the normal call of duty in the field of politics;
- (iii) Cde. Joseph Adolphus Tyndall who had been a Minister and a Member of the National Assembly from 1978 to 1982, had been awarded the Cacique Crown of Honour for public and political service of an exceptionally high quality and beyond the normal call of duty at the national, regional and international level;
- (iv) Cde. Philomena Ameena Rayman who had been a Member of Parliament from 1973 to 1985 and a Parliamentary Secretary in 1981, had been awarded the Medal of Service for long service with exceptional dedication in the field of politics and in community and social work; and
- (v) Cde. Alexander Irving Crum Ewing who had been a Clerk of the Legislature from 1945 to 1963 and who had been made an Honorary Officer of Parliament when he retired, had been awarded the Golden Arrow of Achievement for long and dedicated service of a consistently high standard in the public service.

On behalf of Members and his own, the Speaker extended and placed on record their congratulations and best wishes to the five persons.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Guyana for the year ended 31st December, 1986 together with the Central Government Development Programme Capital Projects Profile for 1986.

(Circulated)

- (b) Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) (Designation of Office of Director of Guyana National Trading Corporation) Order 1985 (No. 65) made under section 2 of the Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) Act, Cap. 27:03 on 15th October, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 1985-10-26.

(ST: 34/2/1/15) (Circulated)

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

Fuel Crisis

Mr. Kwayana sought leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly in order to discuss the fuel crisis.

The Speaker stated that while he had permitted Mr. Kwayana to raise and to refer to the matter which he wished to have discussed, Mr. Kwayana had not, in the first place, satisfied the requirement of Standing Order No. 11(2), i.e. he had not provided the Speaker before the commencement of the sitting with a written notification of the matter to be discussed.

The Speaker further said that even if Mr. Kwayana had satisfied the requirement of the Standing Order, he would have been precluded from allowing the matter to be discussed on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly at that time, as an early parliamentary opportunity was shortly to occur i.e. when the 1986 Budget and Estimates were to be debated and considered, and on which occasion the matter could properly be raised and discussed.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY
AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

Suspension of Standing Orders 9(2) and 32 (a)

On a motion by the Minister of Manpower, Housing and Environment, paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 9 and paragraph (9) of Standing Order No. 32 were suspended to enable the Minister of Finance to complete the reading of the budget speech uninterrupted and to enable the sitting to continue beyond 16:00 hrs if necessary, without being suspended.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

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

- (1) INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 - Bill No. 3/1986

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the
Income Tax Act.

(2) OFF-SHORE BANKING BILL 1986 - Bill No. 4/1986

A Bill intituled An Act to enable certain banking and other businesses to be carried on from within Guyana in foreign moneys, securities and properties for foreign customers.

(3) BANKING LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 - Bill No. 5/1986

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Banking Act and the Bank of Guyana Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1986

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and move the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1986 (See Appendix).

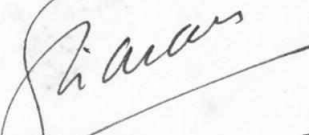
After the motion was proposed, the Minister of Finance named Thursday 1986-03-06 as the day for the resumption of the debate on the motion.

Distribution of Documents

The Speaker requested Members to remain after the adjournment to receive the documents pertaining to the budget presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 15:57 hrs, on a motion by the Minister of Manpower, Housing and Environment, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Thursday 1986-03-06.


S. NARAIN
Speaker
86-03-03

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

1986-03-03.