

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 12TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD  
SESSION (1983) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON FRIDAY 1983-05-13

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

- \* Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly  
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (58)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P., ~~Prime~~ Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Vice-President, Social  
Infrastructure

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice President, Administration (Absent - on leave)

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Production (Absent)

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Party and  
State Matters

Senior Ministers (6)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Education  
and Social Development

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of Mobilisation (Absent)

\* Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney  
General and Minister of Justice

\* Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent)

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

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

Ministers (6)

Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Office  
of the Prime Minister

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister in the Ministry  
of Agriculture

Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister for Youth and  
Sports in the Ministry of Education and Social  
Development

\* Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister of Information  
and Public Service

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

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

Ministers of State (2)

Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State for Internal Trade  
and Consumer Protection

Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., M.P., Minister of State in the  
Ministry of Finance

\* Non elected Member

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Housing, Ministry of Health and Public Welfare (Absent)
- Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Social Development
- Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (Absent)

Other Members (24)

- Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
- Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.
- Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
- Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.
- Cde. E.B. Davidson, M.P.
- Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
- Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. P. Fredericks, M.P.
- Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P.
- Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
- Cde. E. Melville, M.P.
- Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P.
- Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
- Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
- Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.

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

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

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (9)

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

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. J. Jagan, M.P.

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. (Absent)

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

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

Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

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

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

OFFICERS

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

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(1) Thirtieth Anniversary of Historical Parliamentary Events

The Speaker said that at that time of the year, Members were reminded of and would recall some very important and historical Parliamentary events which had taken place three decades ago and more particularly the event of 18th May, 1953. He observed that the following Wednesday would be the 18th May, 1983, and would mark the thirtieth anniversary of that occasion. As it was not likely that the National Assembly would be sitting on or before that day, the Speaker took the opportunity of making some remarks concerning the occasion.

In the year 1953, a new and what was considered at that time as a very advanced Constitution was introduced in this Country. The new Constitution provided for the first time for a Ministerial system of Government and for the transfer of responsibility for the direction and control of a large proportion of Government business to the elected representatives of the people. With the introduction of universal adult suffrage, elections for the new House of Assembly were held on the 27th April 1953. Out of the seats for the 24 elected Members of the House, the People's Progressive Party won 18, the National Democratic Party gained 2 and the remaining 4 went to Independent Members. It was on Monday, 18th May, 1953, that the new House of Assembly met for the first time. The 28 persons who comprised the House of Assembly, that is the 24 elected Members, the 3 ~~Ex-Officio~~ Members and the Speaker, were present and made and subscribed the oath at that first sitting. Four of those persons are still associated with our Parliament. In alphabetical order, they are - Cde. Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, Cde. Cheddi Jagan, Cde. Janet Jagan, and Cde. Ram Karran.

The Speaker then gave a resume' on the Parliamentary Service of these four persons and, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, extended congratulations and best wishes to them.

**(14) Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cde. Hoyte from 1983-05-13 to 1983-05-26.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.**

**By the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Administration:**

Annual Report of the Ministry of Finance  
for the year 1982.

(ST: 25/2/1/9)(Circulated)

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and First Reading**

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Administration, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the provisions contained in the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Bank of Guyana Act regarding borrowings by the Government for meeting current requirements, direct advances by the Bank of Guyana to the Government and credit operations by that Bank with Government securities and to validate certain borrowings, advances and ownership of Government securities.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**BILLS - Second and Third Readings**

**ITEM 1 -**

The Prime Minister moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend certain enactments and to repeal the Bastardy Act.

The Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

Mr. M.F. Singh was speaking to the motion when the debate was interrupted to permit the Vice-President, Party and State Matters, to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 9(2)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9(2)

On a motion by the Vice-President, Party and State Matters, Standing Order No. 9(2) was suspended to enable the sitting to continue without the half-hour suspension.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

Mr. M.F. Singh concluded his speech.

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice spoke to the motion .

Thereafter the Prime Minister 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 2 -

The Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the  
Accidental Deaths and Workmen's  
Injuries (Compensation) Act.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

Thereafter 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 16:35 hrs, on a motion by the Vice-President, Party and State Matters, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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83-07-14

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.  
1983-07-14