

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 47TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (1990/1991) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1991

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

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 (60)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Other Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister (1)

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

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

+* Cde. K.S. Massiah, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and
Minister of Legal Affairs

Other Deputy Prime Minister (2)

+ Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister
Planning and Development (Absent on-leave)
Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Public Utilities

Senior Ministers (8)

+* Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance
+ Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Planning
and Development
+ Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Trade and Tourism
+ Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Regional Development
Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Senior Minister in the
Office of the President
* Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture
* Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister of Education
* Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister of Communications and Works

Ministers (8)

Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Regional
Development
+ Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister of Labour and Co-operatives
Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Utilities
* Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture (Absent on-leave)
Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister (Absent on-leave)
Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of the Public Service
Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Culture
and Social Development

* Non-elected Member

+ Cabinet Member

Government Chief Whip (1)

Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira

Other Members (26)

Cde. R.E. Jackson, O.R., M.P.,
Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P.
Cde. K.B. Bancroft, M.P.
Cde. M. Corrica, M.P.
Cde. Philomena A. Rayman, M.P.
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.,
Cde. Amna Ally
Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P.
Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.
Cde. Cyrilda 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, J.P., M.P.
Cde. K. Sankar, A.A., M.P.
Cde. E.L. Fraser, M.P.
Cde. Mignon D. Griffith, M.P.
Cde. P.E. Rockliffe, M.P.

(There are two vacancies)

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

Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P.
Cde. P. Singh, J.P., 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. C. Vandenburg, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supernaam)
Cde. E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Island/West Demerara)
Cde. I. Ally, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. S. McGarrell, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
Cde. Ajoodhia, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. D. Fernandes, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) **People's Progressive Party (8)**

Minority Leader (1)

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

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. C.C. M.P. (Absent on-leave)
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent)

(There are three vacancies)

(ii) **United Force (2)**

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

(There is one vacancy)

(iii) **Working People's Alliance (1)**

(Vacant)

OFFICER

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

PRAYERS

The Acting Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Filling of Vacancies**

The Speaker informed Members that in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, he had called upon the Minority Leader, Dr. C.B. Jagan who was Representative of the List of Candidates from which the names of Cdes. Nokta, Belgrave and Basir had been extracted following the last general elections, to further extract from the said list the names of three persons to fill the vacancies created by the expulsion of Cde. Basir and the vacating of their seats by Cdes. H. Nokta and C. Belgrave.

(ii)(a) **Death of Former Legislature - Cde. Winslow George Carrington**

The Speaker announced that Cde. Winslow G. Carrington, a former Member of the National Assembly from 27th July, 1966 to 30th October, 1980, and also a Minister of Labour Social Security from 1st February, 1969 to 3rd April, 1977 died on 8th March, 1991 and at the appropriate time, a motion to record the Assembly's sympathy would be moved.

(b) **Death of father of Cde. Hardai Sookram, Official Reporter, Parliament Office**

The Speaker informed Members that the father of Cde. Hardai Sookram, Official Reporter, Parliament Office died on 16th March and his body was cremated last Wednesday. On behalf of Members of the Assembly and his own he extended their deepest sympathy to Cde. Sookram.

(iii) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cde. Parris from 4th March to 14th April, 1991
- (b) Cde. Parvatan from today's sitting, and
- (c) Cde. Collymore from 11th March to 25th March, 1991

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.**By the Minister of Finance:**

- (i) State Pensions (Muriel Lidina Henry) Order 1990 (No. 85), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on 28th December, 1990.
(Circulated)
- (ii) Travel Tax (Amendment) Regulations 1991 (No. 2) made under section 57(13) of the Tax Act, Chapter 80:01 on 21st February, 1991, and Published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette dated 21st February, 1991.
(Circulated)
- (iii) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1991 (No. 7), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01 on 19th February, 1991, and published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette dated 19th February, 1991.
(Circulated)
- (iv) Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1991 (No. 10), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02 on 19th February, 1991 and published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette on 19th February, 1991.
(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS**BILLS - Second and Third Readings****ITEM 1. - CARICOM ENTERPRISE REGIME BILL, 1991 - Bill No. 5/1991 published 1991-02-08**

The Minister of Finance made the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intitled AN ACT to provide for the implementation by Guyana of the Agreement for the establishment of a regime for Caricom Enterprise and for matters connected therewith.

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.

ITEM 2. - INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 - Bill No. 7/1991 published 1991-02-25

Before proceeding with the Second reading of the above Bill the Speaker drew the Assembly's attention to the following corrections:

Page 2
Clause 5: Insertion of the words "of the Principal Act" between the figure "34A" and the word "are" in the first line.

Page 4
Clause 12: Substitution of the word "Principal" for the words "Income Tax" in the first line of the clause and in the marginal note.

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

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

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, passed as corrected.

MOTIONS

ITEM 3. - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. WINSLOW GEORGE CARRINGTON

The Prime Minister moved the following motion which was put and carried
with Members standing for one minute in silence:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep
regret at the death of Cde. Winslow George Carrington
and pays tribute to the distinguished service which
he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs
that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his
sorrowing family and relatives.

ITEM 4. - CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1991 (NO. 7)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and
carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accordance with
section 9(1) of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01 confirm
the Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1991 (No. 7), which
was made on 19th February, 1991 under section 8 of the
Customs Act, Chapter 82:01 and published in an Extra-
ordinary issue of the Official Gazette dated 19th
February, 1991.

ITEM 5. - CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1991 (NO. 10)

The Minister of Finance moved the following Motion which was put and
carried;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accordance with
section 5(1) of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter
80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1991
(No. 10) which was made on 19th February, 1991 under
section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02 and
published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official
Gazette dated 19th February, 1991.

ITEM 6. - TRAVEL TAX (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1991 (NO. 2)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and
carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with
section 57(13) of the Tax Act, Chapter 80:01, affirms
the Travel Tax (Amendment) Regulations 1991 (No. 2)
~~which was made and published in an Extraordinary issue~~
of the Official Gazette dated 21st February, 1991.

ITEM 7. - EXTENSION OF THE LIFE OF PARLIAMENT

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the life of the Parliament which first met on 3rd February, 1986, consequent on the election of members thereof in the election held on 9th December, 1985, was by the alteration of article 70 of the Constitution by the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1991 extended by two months;

AND WHEREAS the said extension which began on 3rd February, 1991, will come to an end on 2nd April, 1991, on the expiration of which period Parliament shall stand dissolved unless there is in accordance with the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1991, a further extension of the life of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the preparation of the official list of electors by house to house enumeration cannot be completed by 2nd April, 1991;

AND WHEREAS further time is needed for the preparation of the official list of electors;

AND WHEREAS by the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1991, the life of Parliament may further be extended for two months or less at a time by resolution supported by two-thirds of the elected members of the National Assembly and assented to by the President, so however that the life of Parliament shall not be extended beyond 30th September, 1991:

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that this National Assembly in accordance with the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1991 approves of the extension of the life of Parliament for a further period of two months from 3rd April, to 2nd June, 1991.

The motion was put and carried on the following division:

FOR**AGAINST**

Cde. Fernandes
 Cde. Ajoodia
 Cde. i. Ally
 Cde. Abrahams
 Cde. Khan
 Cde. Bishop
 Cde. P. Singh
 Cde. Semple
 Cde. Rockeliffe
 Cde. Griffith
 Cde. Fraser
 Cde. Sankar
 Cde. B. Persaud
 Cde. Marshall
 Cde. Geddes
 Cde. Edwards
 Cde. Deygoo
 Cde. DeJesus
 Cde. Deen
 Cde. Cumberbatch
 Cde. Calistro
 Cde. A. Ally
 Cde. Melville
 Cde. Munroe
 Cde. Doobay

NIL

FOR

AGAINST

Cde Gill-Mingo
 Cde. Fowler
 Cde. P. Kayman
 Cde. Corrica
 Cde. Bancroft
 Cde. Denny
 Cde. Jackson
 Cde. Ferreira
 Cde. Per: 1:0
 Cde. Odie-Ali
 Cde. Harding
 Cde. Sawh
 Cde. Sharma
 Cde. Johnson
 Cde. Harewood-Benn
 Cde. Thomas
 Cde. Murray
 Cde. Prashad
 Cde. Corbin
 Cde. Burnham
 Cde. Green

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NIL

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.20 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Barrow

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SASE NA IN

Speaker of the National Assembly

91-05-20

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
Guyana.**

1991-04-12