

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 18TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1986) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 HRS

ON WEDNESDAY, 1986-07-16

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 (Absent - on leave)

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

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Agriculture (Absent -
on leave)

Senior Ministers (4)

Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)

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

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Transport (Absent - on leave)

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

Other Ministers (11)

Senior Ministers (3)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.I., Minister of Manpower, Housing and
Environment (Absent - on leave)

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 (Absent)

Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.F., M.P., Minister within the Office of the
President (Absent - on leave)

Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of
Education (Absent - on leave)

*Non-elected Member

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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. Kisooson, M.F., 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.F., Minister of State within the Ministry of Planning and Development (Absent - on leave)

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

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

Government Chief Whip (1)

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

Other Members (24)

- Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.
 Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
 Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad-Rayman, M.P.
 Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Edwina Melville, M.F. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. Anna Ally, M.F.
 Cde. L.R. Arthur, M.P.
 Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
 Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
 Cde. G.W. Chin, J.I., M.P.
 Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. M.I. Deon, M.P.
 Cde. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.F.
 Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
 Cde. C.L. Goddes, M.P.
 Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
 Cde. B. Persaud, M.P.
 Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.F.

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

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

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

- Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.F., (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Cde. Bhagmatoo Latchminarayan, M.F. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Fomeroon/Supenaam)
 Cde. Enid E. Abrahams, M.S., J.F., M.F. (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) (Absent)
 Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
 Cde. M. Stephens, M.F. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)

*Non-elected Member

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Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

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

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. (Absent - on leave)
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. (Absent)

(ii) United Force (2)

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

(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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cdes. Chandisingh, Corbin, Bend-Kirton, Cumberbatch, and Mr. Feilden Singh for that day's sitting and
- (b) Cde. Collymore from 17th July to 7th August.

(ii) Election Petition - Judgement On

The Speaker reminded Members that at the sitting on 12th June, 1986, he read a letter dated 11th June, 1986, which he had received from the Chief Justice, informing him that on 5th June, 1986, the Chief Justice had declared the Election Petition presented by Winston Payne and Ivan Austin to be a nullity and had accordingly dismissed it, and, in that letter, the Chief Justice had promised to send the Speaker a copy of his Judgement on the matter.

The Speaker informed the Assembly that he had received from the Chief Justice a letter dated 3rd July, 1986, together with a copy of the Judgement consisting of 41 pages and that the copy was available at the Table.

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(iii) Aid to the Contras by the U.S.A.

The Speaker announced that with a letter dated 11th July, 1986, from the Cuban Embassy in Georgetown, he had received a copy of a motion by the National Assembly of the Popular Power of the Republic of Cuba concerning the decision of the United States of America to make a monetary donation as military aid to the Contras. The copy of the motion was available at the Table.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Vice-President, Education and Social Development, and Deputy Prime Minister:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Education
and Social Development for the year 1985.

(ED: 30/2/2)(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS -

No. 5 - Alleged Police Brutality, etc. - Notice Paper No. 28 published 1986-04-10

Mr. Kwayana asked the Parliamentary Secretary, Home Affairs, the following question:

- QUESTION:
- (i) Will the Parliamentary Secretary state whether there has been a departmental enquiry into the alleged police brutality against Mr. Anthony La Cruz of Moruca?
 - (ii) If there has been an enquiry, will the Parliamentary Secretary tell the National Assembly what are the findings of the enquiry?
 - (iii) If the answer to (i) is negative, will the Parliamentary Secretary say whether she proposes to hold or order such an enquiry?
 - (iv) Will the Parliamentary Secretary say whether a member of the Police Force in plainclothes duty has been tailing Mr. Balram Dhany of Three Friends, Essequibo?
 - (v) Will the Parliamentary Secretary further say whether this same policeman was authorised to approach the same Mr. Dhany and offer him a bribe or inducement for breaking his affiliation with the WPA and attaching himself to any other opposition political party?
 - (vi) Will the Parliamentary Secretary say whether the Commissioner of Police was instructed not to reply to letters from this member on the subject matter which forms the basis of questions (i) to (v)?
 - (vii) Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that Mr. Bhairo of Stewartville, West Coast Demerara, a member of the W.P.A., was detained for a number of hours on March 24, 1986 at Leonora Police Station on the pretext of having committed the offence of claiming to be a policeman and questioned about the activities of the WPA?

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- (viii) Is it the present policy of the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Police Department to tail political activists of opposition parties not suspected of any offence and if so do the victims of this practice include Members of Parliament?

The Parliamentary Secretary, Home Affairs, gave the following reply:

- ANSWER: (i) The answer to question at (i) is 'yes'.
- (ii) With respect to the question at (ii), three policemen alleged to have been involved in the incident have been charged with the offence of using unnecessary violence to a prisoner, contrary to section 4 (L) (11) of the Police (Discipline) Act, Chapter 17:01.
- (iii) In the circumstances, the question at (iii) does not arise.
- (iv) The answer to the question at (iv) is in the negative.
- (v) In the circumstances, the question of (v) does not arise.
- (vi) The answer to the question at (vi) is in the negative.
- (vii) With respect to the question at (vii), the matters alleged are not within the knowledge of the Parliamentary Secretary. The Parliamentary Secretary does not concern herself with the day-to-day routine activities of the Police Force.
- (viii) With respect to the question at (viii), the answer is in the negative.

Supplementary questions were asked by Mr. Kwayana, Cde. Mohamed and Cde. Nokta.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 - Bill No. 10/1986

The Vice-President, First 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 Interpretation and General Clauses Act.

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PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1 - CHARGES BY CORPORATIONS

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That all variations upwards in the charges made by Corporations providing a service to the community be subject to approval by the National Assembly.

Cde. Nokta seconded the motion.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, Cde. Janet Jagan and Mr. Kwayana spoke to the motion.

Thereafter Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud replied.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, concluded the debate.

The motion was put and negatived on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Kwayana	Cde. Daniel
Cde. Basir	Cde. I. Ally
Cde. Nokta	Cde. Abrahams
Cde. S.F. Mohamed	Cde. Khan
Cde. R.D. Persaud	Cde. Latchminarayan
Cde. J. Jagan	Cde. Bishop
Cde. C. Jagan	Cde. Charles
	Cde. Semple
	Cde. E. Mohamed
	Cde. Trotman
	Cde. B. Persaud
	Cde. Marshall
	Cde. Geddes
	Cde. Edwards
	Cde. Deygoo
	Cde. DeJesus
	Cde. Deen
	Cde. Chin
	Cde. Calistro
	Cde. Bovell-Drakes
	Cde. Arthur
	Cde. A. Ally
	Cde. Munroe
	Cde. Doobay
	Cde. Davidson
	Cde. Beniprashad-Rayman
	Cde. M. Ally
	Cde. Gill-Mingo
	Cde. Williams
	Cde. Ferreira
	Cde. Cdie-Ali
	Cde. Habibulla
	Cde. Sawh
	Cde. Kissoon
	Cde. Johnson
	Cde. Harewood-Benn
	Cde. Van West-Charles
	Cde. Farris
	Cde. Burnham
	Cde. Shahabuddeen
	Cde. Green

Total 7

41

ITEM 2 - RIGHT OF DISMISSED WORKERS TO BE HEARD - Notice Paper No. 8
published 1986-02-06

Mr. Kwayana moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That in the opinion of this National Assembly no civilian or other employee of the Government or of the public sector should be dismissed or subject to final penalty without the right to be heard and the right of defence against specific charges and that where a Court, other tribunal, arbitration or conciliation procedure rules in favour of a worker or employee, reinstatement should follow, except on agreement with the trade union or the legal representative of the affected worker or employee.

The Minority Leader seconded and spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 16:04 hrs the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 16:32 hrs the sitting was resumed.

The Prime Minister spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Mr. Kwayana replied.

The Prime Minister concluded the debate.

The motion was put and negatived on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. Kwayana
 Cde. Basir
 Cde. Nokta
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed
 Cde. J. Jagan

Cde. Daniel
 Cde. I. Ally
 Cde. Abrahams
 Cde. Khan
 Cde. Latchminarayan
 Cde. Charles
 Cde. Semple
 Cde. E. Mohamed
 Cde. Trotman
 Cde. B. Persaud
 Cde. Marshall
 Cde. Geddes
 Cde. Edwards
 Cde. Deygoo
 Cde. DeJesus
 Cde. Deen
 Cde. Chin
 Cde. Calistro

Carried 5
 Foward

18

FOR
B/F 5

AGAINST
18
Cde. Bovell-Drakes:
Cde. Arthur
Cde. A. Ally
Cde. Munroe
Cde. Doobay
Cde. Davidson
Cde. Beniprashad-Rayman
Cde. M. Ally
Cde. Gill-Mingo
Cde. Fowler
Cde. Williams
Cde. Ferreira
Cde. Odie-Ali
Cde. Sawh
Cde. Kissoon
Cde. Johnson
Cde. Harewood-Benn
Cde. Parris
Cde. Burnham
Cde. Shahabuddeen
Cde. Green

Total

5

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ITEM 3 - IMPORTATION OF WHEAT - Notice Paper No. 9 published 1986-02-06

Mr. Kwayana moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That in the opinion of the National Assembly wheat for milling should be imported, thus improving the domestic food balance and improving the livestock industry.

Cde. Basir seconded the motion.

The Prime Minister drew the Speaker's attention to Standing Orders Nos. 21(3) and 35(3) and said that a decision was taken on a similar motion on 1986-06-18 and, therefore, the motion under consideration was out of order.

The Speaker ruled that the motion was out of order.

ITEM 4 - ENACTMENT OF INTEGRITY LEGISLATION - Notice Paper No. 10 published 1986-02-19

Mr. Kwayana moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That in the context of the Government's intention to accelerate foreign investment into Guyana and to pursue a policy of economic dynamism as adopted by the National Assembly, this Assembly is of the opinion that Integrity Legislation, affecting Senior Government Officials, Members of the Government and all Members of Parliament should be enacted without undue delay.

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Cde. S.F. Mohamed seconded and spoke to the motion.

The Prime Minister spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Mr. Kwayana replied.

The Motion was put and negatived.

ITEM 5 - FUTURE OF CANE SUGAR INDUSTRY - Notice Paper No. 12 published 1986-02-28

Mr. Kwayana moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

(i) That the National Assembly urge the Government to seek the assistance of the relevant EEC-ACP institution for the establishment of a joint, high powered advisory Commission to be sponsored and and financed by the EEC, with important Caribbean technical, University, trade union and business representation, to pursue among others, the following terms of reference -

- (a) to make an objective and comprehensive study of the cane sugar industry in the Caribbean in its national and international setting, with projections into the future;
- (b) to examine means of rehabilitation of the industry, and at the same time explore alternative economic employment of the human and other resources at present employed in the industry in the Caribbean;
- (c) arising out of (b) to identify and explore possible sources of development finance;
- (d) to establish, if necessary, in an advisory sense, phases of action that involve the least possible level of social dislocation;
- (e) to submit a report or reports to the governments for their consideration and to ensure popular participation;

(ii) Further, that the objective and comprehensive study should bear in mind among other things the welfare of the existing labour force in the various countries, the need for an optimum level of foreign earnings for the Caribbean economies, and the need for Caribbean integration and economic development.

Cde. Nokta seconded and spoke to the motion.

The Prime Minister spoke to the motion,

Thereafter, Mr. Kwayana replied.

The motion was put and negatived.

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ITEM 6 - ADOPTION OF REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE - Notice Paper No. 97 published 1986-07-11

The Minister of Information and the Public Service moved the following motion which was put and carried.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Standing Orders Committee on the Motion to amend the Standing Orders to provide for a Recess for the National Assembly, be adopted.

ITEM 7 AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS - RECESS FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY -- Notice Paper No. 82 published 1986-06-11

The Assembly resumed the debate on the following motion which was put and carried:

WHEREAS the President in his address at the ceremonial opening of the first session of the Fifth Parliament of Guyana on the fourth day of February, 1986 referred to the advantages to the members if the National Assembly were to go into recess for a specified period;

AND WHEREAS this National Assembly having considered the above suggestion of the President is of the opinion that the National Assembly should go into recess for a specified period to enable the members thereof to attend to public matters, other than the work of this National Assembly, and their private matters;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Standing Orders of the National Assembly be amended as proposed in the Annexure hereto to provide for a period of recess for the National Assembly between 10th August and 10th October in any year:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That request be made to the President that he shall have regard to the wish of the National Assembly in this respect while exercising the powers conferred on him by article 69(1) of the Constitution.

ANNEXURE

Draft of proposed amendment

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly are hereby amended by the insertion therein, after Standing Order No. 8, of the following Standing Order as Standing Order No. 8A -

"Recess for National Assembly.	8A. Notwithstanding anything contained in Standing Order No. 8, unless there are special reasons for so doing, no sitting of the National Assembly shall be held from 10th August, to 10th October in any year."
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ADJOURNMENT

At 18:42 hrs, on a motion by the Minister of Information and the Public Service, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Wednesday 1986-07-23.

S. Narain
S. NARAIN
Speaker
86-07-23

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

1986-07-23