

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 51ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD
SESSION (1983-1985) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON THURSDAY 1985-09-19

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker (1)

*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., 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 First Deputy Prime Minister (1)

*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice-President, First Deputy
Prime Minister and Attorney General (Absent - on leave)

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

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

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

Other Deputy Prime Minister (1)

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

Senior Ministers (10)

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

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

Cde. R.H.O. 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 (Absent - on leave)

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

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

Ministers (4)

Cde. U.E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry
of National Development

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

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

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

*Non-elected Member

Ministers of State (3)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection
 Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Regional Development
 Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Education (Absent - on leave)

Parliamentary Secretaries (2)

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

Government Chief Whip (1)

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

Other Members (23)

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

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

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

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

- Cde. Dianne Abraham, M.P., (Region No. 8 - Potarc/Siparuni)
 Cde. W. Bipat, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Cde. I. Chowritmootoo, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
 Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
 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 (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent - on leave)

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. (Absent)

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

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

Cde. H. Nokta, 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)

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

Oaths were made and subscribed by -

- (i) Cde. Viola Victorine Burnham, O.R., M.P.,
Vice-President, Social Development, as
a non-elected Member of the Assembly;
- (ii) Cde. Jeffrey Ronald Thomas, M.P., Minister
of Home Affairs, ~~as an~~ elected Member
of the Assembly, and
- (iii) Cde. Kenneth Wesley Edward Denny, M.P.,
Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives,
as an elected Member of the Assembly.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Changes in the National Assembly

The Speaker made the following announcements with respect to changes in the National Assembly:-

(a) Cde. H.D. Hoyte's Assumption of the Office of President

Following the death on 6th August, 1985, of Cde. Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, O.E., S.C., the Prime Minister, Cde. Hugh Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., had, in accordance with the Constitution, assumed the Office of President, and had ceased to be a Member of the National Assembly.

On behalf of Members and his own, the Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to Cde. Hoyte in his new and in the highest office.

(b) Appointment of Cde. Hamilton Green as Prime Minister

With effect from 6th August, 1985, the new President had appointed Cde. Hamilton Green, who had been Vice-President, Social Infrastructure and First Deputy Prime Minister, to be Prime Minister.

On behalf of the Members and his own, the Speaker congratulated Cde. Green on his appointment as Prime Minister and extended best wishes to him.

(c) Appointment of Cde. Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., as First Deputy Prime Minister

Cde. Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., who had been Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, had been appointed First Deputy Prime Minister, his new designation being Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General.

On behalf of Members and his own, the Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to Cde. Shahabuddeen.

(d) Appointment of Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., as Vice President

Cde. Viola Victorine Burnham, O.R., had been appointed a Vice-President and designated Vice-President, Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister, with effect from 15th August, 1985. Cde. Burnham who was not an elected Member of the National Assembly became, by virtue of holding the office of Vice-President, a Member of the National Assembly.

On behalf of the Members and his own, the Speaker congratulated Cde. Burnham on her appointment, welcomed her to the Assembly and extended best wishes to her for success in her responsibilities.

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(e) Election of Cde. Jeffrey R. Thomas to fill Vacancy

The vacancy in the Assembly which had been created sometime ago by the resignation of Cde. Huldah Walcott-Nascimento had been filled by Cde. Jeffrey Ronald Thomas who had been a non-elected Minister, designated Minister of Home Affairs. Cde. Thomas had been declared to be an elected Member of the Assembly with effect from 10th September, 1985.

(f) Election of Cde. Kenneth W.E. Denny to fill Vacancy

With Cde. Hoyte's assumption of the Office of President a vacancy had been created in the Assembly and, in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, the Speaker had called upon the Deputy Representative, in the absence of the Representative, of the list of candidates from which Cde. Hoyte's name had been extracted, following the last general elections, to further extract from the said list, the name of a person to fill the vacancy.

He had been informed that the name of Cde. Kenneth Wesley Edward Denny had been extracted from the list and that Cde. Denny had been on 10th September, 1985, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy. Cde. Denny had been a non-elected Member of the Assembly, designated Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives.

On behalf of Members and his own, the Speaker extended congratulations to Cde. Thomas and to Cde. Denny on their becoming elected Members of the Assembly and he also extended best wishes to them.

(g) Appointment of Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn as a Senior Minister

On 15th August, 1985, Cde. Yvonne Veronica Harewood-Benn, who had a Minister within the Ministry of Education, had been appointed a Senior Minister and had been designated Minister of Information and the Public Service.

The Speaker congratulated Cde. Harewood-Benn on her promotion and extended best wishes to her.

(h) New Seating Arrangements

The Speaker informed Members that as a result of the changes which he had mentioned there had been some minor adjustments in the seating arrangements of the PNC Members and that a new list of all Members and a new seating plan had been prepared and copies had been circulated.

(i) Sympathy to Cdes. Harun Rashid and Harripersaud Nokta on loss of Father-in-law and Mother respectively

The Speaker informed Members that Cde. Harun Rashid and Cde. Harripersaud Nokta had recently lost their father-in-law and mother respectively.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and his own, the Speaker extended deep sympathy to Cdes. Rashid and Nokta on their loss.

(j) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cdes. Dr. Shahabuddeen, Dr. Van West-Charles, Malcolm Parris, Patricia Fredericks, Robert Williams and Mr. M.A. Abraham for that day's sitting;
- (b) Cde. Ainsworth up to 29th September,
- (c) Cde. Ram Karran up to 14th November,
- (d) Cde. Beniprashad up to 7th October, and
- (e) Cde. I. Chowritmootoo up to 29th September.

(k) Repairs to Public Buildings

The Speaker informed Members that some repair works were being done to the interior of the Building and some of those would be in respect of the Chamber, the Committee Room, the Cafeteria and the Parliament Office itself.

Those works which might last for some time, might cause some amount of inconvenience to Members and they were therefore asked to give their co-operation in the exercise and to bear with any inconvenience which might be caused.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.**(1) By the Prime Minister:**

- (i) Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Guyana Gold Board for the year 1984.

(OPM: 10/1/2/1/3/1)(Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Liquor Corporation for the year 1984.

(OPM: 20/1/2/1)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 1984.

(FA: 1/42/1)(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana National Co-operative Bank for the year 1984.

(ST: 28/1/5/3^{II})(Circulated)

- (ii) Financial Paper No. 2/1985 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$29,682.391 for the period ended 1985-07-09.

(ST: 10/4^{IV}) (Circulated)

- (iii) Financial Paper No. 3/1985 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$29,941,600.00 for the period ended 1985-09-17.

(ST: 10/14^{IV}) (Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister of Finance name Tuesday, 1985-09-24, as the day for consideration of the Financial Papers in Committee of Supply.

(4) By the Minister of Transport:

Annual Reports (2) of the Ministry of Transport
for the years 1983 and 1984.

(MT: 12/3/3)(Circulated)

(5) By the Minister of Information and the Public Service

Annual Report of the Ministry of Information
for the year 1984.

(MT: 18/4^{III})(Circulated)

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

The Shortage of Rice In the Country

At the request of Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud permission was granted to him to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing the grave rice shortage in the country.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

SALE OF TRAVEL TICKETS BILL 1985 - Bill No. 10/1985
published 1985-07-2

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

A Bill intituled An Act to provide for the
regulation of the sale and purchase of travel
tickets.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1985 - Bill No. 9/1985 published
1985-06-15

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

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

Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance 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.

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MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT - DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The Shortage of Rice In The Country

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud moved the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing the shortage of rice in the country.

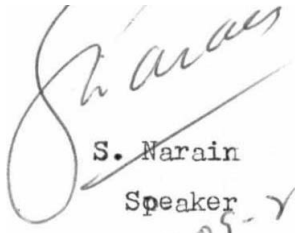
Cde. N. Persaud seconded the motion.

The Minister of National Mobilisation, Cde. Basir and Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning, concluded the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 16:08 hrs on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Tuesday 1985-09-24.


S. Narain
Speaker
85-09-23

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
Guyana.

1985-09-23