



Mrs. Holder: I repeat: the number of phantom pensioners has now increased to 17,640. The monthly haemorrhage from the fund, this is the pension fund, would, therefore, be over \$116 million or \$1.3 billion annually. This is evident of the high level of corruption under this Administration.

In closing, it is necessary to state that had the Auditor General, in his review of the Old Age Pension Programme, taken into consideration the census figures rather than solely rely on the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, this situation would have been properly investigated and old age pensioners would have received thousands of dollars more than they are now receiving.

I am prepared to make my study available and public whenever necessary.

[*Applause*]

Mr. Speaker: Far from being prepared to make your study available, I am directing that you make it available to the Clerk of the National Assembly for the benefit of Members. You quoted from a report and that report needs to be available.

145th Sitting dated January 28, 2011

BUDGET SPEECH 2011 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2011

Preamble

Mr. Corbin requested the source Mr. Ramson was quoting from because it was in keeping with the rules of the House. Mr. Ramson said he will provide the source even though there is no such rule. The Speaker informed Mr. Ramson that there is such a rule.

Verbatim

Mr. Corbin: Cde. Speaker, on a Point of Order, I know the learned Attorney General, the Hon. Justice, is aware that if a Member asked for the source, and he is insisting that we follow rules, he should let us know the source of his quotation. He, himself, in his presentation, said the author that he is quoting from wrote several books. I would like to make a note of it. I am grateful if he can do so in accordance with the rules.



Mr. Ramson: I will give it to you. I apologise. There is no such rule, but I apologise. I have read the Standing Orders.

Mr. Speaker: There is a rule, Hon. Member.

Mr. Ramson: Is there a rule?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Ramson: Well, we will discuss that rule after we have finished this presentation, if I may.

But I apologise to Cde. Robert Herman Orlando Corbin. The name of the book is, *Guyana: A Nation in Transit, Burnham's Rules*.

BUDGET SPEECH 2011 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2011

Preamble

Mr. Robee sought the Speaker's guidance as to whether the words "corrupt" and "corruption" are unparliamentary. The Speaker informed Mr. Robee that the words are unparliamentary, but unparliamentary language was so rife within the House at the time by both sides that it was totally impossible for him to bring any control to the matter.

Verbatim

Mr. Corbin: There was the burning down of the Rice Board. All of that started years ago – 1957 – 1964 – to hide all of the financial irregularities there. If the Hon. Member wants to go back, we can waste a lot of time going back into history but do not behave like a knight in shining armour. Do not behave like that because I will remind you of the sabotage of the sugar canes and the blowing up of bridges to halt production. Do not let us go back to that. You can try that with the younger Members who do not understand the history of corruption in this country. [**Mr. Neendkumar:** What about the barge? Tell us about the barge.] I can tell you about that. As was the nature of the PNC, there was an inquiry...



Mr. Rohee: Mr. Speaker, I rise to seek your guidance on a matter. The Parliament of Guyana: Handbook for Members of the National Assembly has a list of unparliamentary expressions. It says:

“The following is a list found in the 19th Edition of Erskine May’s Parliamentary Practice.”

It lists “corrupt” and “corruption” as unparliamentary expressions.

Mr. Speaker, I am seeking your guidance as to whether this is applicable in the situation in which the Hon. Member is speaking.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members the words “corrupt” and “corruption” are unparliamentary, but I hasten to add that unparliamentary language is so rife within the House right now by both sides that it is totally impossible for me to bring any control to this matter. I try my best from time to time but Members who know better continue to violate this rule with great impunity. I just wish to make that statement.

143rd Sitting dated March 26, 2011

BUDGET SPEECH 2011 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2011

Preamble

Ms. Manickchand used the word “ignorance” while making some explanations as to portions of Mrs. Holder’s speech from the previous day. The Speaker cautioned her about her language but she proceeded to explain that the word “ignorance” means lack of knowledge. The Speaker, however, made a ruling that the word is unparliamentary.

Verbatim

Ms. Manickchand: Mrs. Holder stood in this National Assembly last night and spoke in a manner that disparages all of my staff at the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and all of the pensioners as a whole. Sir, I know you spoke earlier and you said that we are a small group and we are identifiable and pensioners are forty-two thousand persons, so perhaps they cannot sue. However, what this Prime Ministerial candidate...