

T H E  
P A R L I A M E N T A R Y D E B A T E S

O F F I C I A L R E P O R T S

Volume 10/

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE THIRD SESSION (1983) OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

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13th Sitting

14:00 hrs

Thursday, 1983-07-21

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MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

\*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

(Absent – on leave)

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

Cde. H. Green, M.P.,  
Vice-President, Production

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P.,  
Vice-President, Party and State Matters (Absent – on leave)

Senior Ministers (6)

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

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

\*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

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

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

\*Non-elected Member

Ministers (6)

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

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. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P.,  
Minister of Health and Public Welfare (Absent )

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

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

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Housing,  
Ministry of Health and Public Welfare

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

Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry  
of Agriculture

\*Non-elected Member

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.

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.

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.

(Absent)

Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.

Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.

Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.

Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.

(Absent)

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 – Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)

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)

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

(Absent)

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.

(Absent)

Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.

(Absent)

Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.

(Absent)

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

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

14:10 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Leave to Members

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to Cde. Dr. Reid, Prime Minister and Cde. Ramsaroop, Vice President, Party and State Matters for today's Sitting, and Cde. Narbada Persaud up to the 6th August.

(ii) Congratulations to Cde. H.O. Jack on award of C.C.H.

The Speaker: Comrades and hon. Member, since our last Sitting, Cde. Hubert Jack who was a Minister of the Government and a Member of the National Assembly up to the 30th April, 1983, was awarded the National Honour of the Cacique Crown of Honour, for public service of an exceptionally high quality and beyond the normal call of duty. I would like, on behalf of Members of the National Assembly and myself to place on record our congratulations and best wishes to Cde. Jack.

Applause

PRESENTATIONS OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following Reports were laid:

- (1) (a) Annual Report of the Directors of New Widows and Orphans Fund for the year 1975.
- (b) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana National Co-operative Bank for the year 1982. The Vice President, Administration
- (2) Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour, Manufacturing and Industrial Development for the year 1982. The Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Cde. J. Jagan: Under the Head Questions to Ministers, I would like to ask why my question dealing with the unemployment relief and 21 other questions put by Members of my Party have not been dealt with under this item?

The Speaker: Cde. Clerk, please proceed.

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

The Minority Leader (Cde. Dr. C. Jagan): Cde. Speaker, I wrote you in connection with a matter which I consider to be of very grave importance and urgency hoping to get you to agree to have a debate and an adjournment motion today. I refer to the question of continuing shortages of food, the question of strikes

taking place in the country which are affecting production. Having discussed with you and having consulted with you and the Vice President, Cde. Hamilton Green, we agreed that we will have the Motion which we had since March or a similar type of Motion put on the Notice Paper and very shortly a debate will take place on this question. Therefore I would ask to withdraw this letter.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS - FIRST READING

The following Bills were introduced and read the First time:

- (1) Police (Amendment) Bill 1983 - Bill No. 15/1983 /The Minister of Home Affairs/
- (2) National Science Research Council (Amendment) Bill 1983 - Bill No. 16/1983
- (3) Savings Schemes Bill 1983 - Bill No. 17/1983 /The Vice President, Administration/

#### PUBLIC BUSINESS

#### BILL - SECOND READING

#### TEMPORARY BORROWINGS BY GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT OF EXISTING LAWS AND VALIDATION) BILL 1983

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. /The Vice-President, Administration/

The Vice President, Administration (Cde. Hoyte): Cde. Speaker, the Financial Administration and Audit Act regulates the management of the financial affairs of this country. It makes provisions for dealing with revenues and the disbursement and management of those revenues. This Act, however, has a peculiar and perhaps unique provision in that it sets rigid limits on the power of the Government to receive advances from the banking system or to effect borrowings by way of the issue of treasury bills. That provision is absolute, it does not give any flexibility at all. But one can perhaps understand why such an extraordinary provision should be in the statute when one remembers that the legislation was passed in 1962 when we were still a colony.

But even so in 1962 the imposition of an inflexible limit on the short-term borrowing powers of the Government was something unique. The researches of our

legal and financial technicians have not been able to find a similar provision in any of those countries which used to be British colonies and certainly not in the laws of any independent Commonwealth country. So that there must have been some particular reason known only to the British, why they should have put such a provision in the Act in 1962. There were of course consequential limitations on the power of the Bank of Guyana to make advances to the Government or to hold negotiable instruments which belonged to the Government.

I think everyone knows how Government finances its operations. It does so principally by levying **taxes**, but those taxes accrue to the Government over a period of time and there is always a lag between the inflow of the taxes and the need to make expenditures. **The** difference between the inflow of revenues and the actual expenditures which have to be made which is really met by short-term borrowings, either advances from the banking system or the issue of short-term treasury bills. We have, therefore, inherited a provision which, in the circumstances of an independent country and certainly in 1982, really does not make any sense. It is meaningless. In the colonial times, that limitation could have been enforced by the Governor and by the Colonial Secretary. But in the circumstances of an independent nation we have a provision which is neither here nor there. **The** limitations placed by that statute are ineffectual in that if they are breached nothing really happens.

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(Cde. Hoyte continues)

Therefore, Cde. Speaker, for the purpose of tidiness and good order, it is important that we should so amend our laws to give them some meaning and in this particular case, to tidy up this legislation to bring it into modern times. Now, if I may develop this point about this provision being unique, I would refer first of all to the United Kingdom itself where in its Exchequer and Audit Department Act of 1866, there is no such limitation. In the Exchequer and Audit Department Act of 1922, there is no such limitation. Indeed there is absolutely no limitation upon the power of the British Government in the Act and one finds the same provision in the United Kingdom National Loans Act of 1968. Nearer home in Trinidad and Tobago, even when that country was a colony, in 1959 when there was passed the Exchequer and Financial Administration Ordinance as it was then called in that country, there was flexibility. In other words, the Government could always have gone to the legislature with a proposal to fix a limit. There was never a rigidity in the law which said that that limit could not be exceeded, and similarly, we find in Barbados, when that country became independent, it adopted a provision which was similar to the Trinidad provision in its financial administration and audit act.

If one were to go a little further afield and look at the Act in Canada one finds again an absence of inflexibility. It is always left with the legislature on a proposal from the Government to say what the limits should be. The purpose of this bill therefore, Cde. Speaker, is to amend our Financial and Audit Administration Act, to introduce a provision which would enable the legislature to fix the limits to govern the short term borrowing powers of the Government.

While this bill is before the House, the opportunity is also being taken to validate those instances in which short term borrowings did exceed the rigid limits set by the Act over the years. As I have said, over the years, the limits were being exceeded because we were in a situation where the limits were meaningless and nobody even bothered to raise the question even in this House – even my friends on the Minority benches would have accepted that we were not dealing with a situation as in 1962 when our total expenditure both on the capital and current side was \$82,000,000.



We are now in 1983. In last year's estimates we saw that the capital and current expenditure was \$1.6 billion. So we are in a different situation in which the Government is no longer confined, as it used to be in colonial days, to merely holding the ring while other people got on with economic activities.

Governments today all over the world whatever the system is are very active in the economic development of their countries. So that I present this bill Cde. Speaker, and commend it to the members of the House.

Motion proposed.

The Minority Leader (Cde. Dr. Jagan): Mr. Speaker, the Vice President is trying to get this bill passed by this House gave us what appears to be a rational argument, largely legalistic what exists in England, what exists in Canada and then he even added in the period of the P.P.P. Government, size that is, that in the P.P.P.'s time, the budget was within a limit; you got the figure he mentioned, but let us say less than \$200 million now it is \$1-1/2 billion, as he put it.

That is not the question. The question is that in British time, in the P.P.P.'s time, there was proper administration of the finances of the country. Rules were set, the practice was to try to have first of all a balanced budget and not to resort to deficit financing which has become a way of life of this Government.

The big debate in Brazil as the time of Kubitschek, when he wanted to build Brasilia and make a big road right across the jungle, - was that the way to development was deficit financing, make money, create money, borrow. The Brazilian miracle has evaporated and now Brazil is very much in trouble, up to its neck in debt. There are riots in the streets now, right now and today all the unions have decided to go on a general strike because of the stringent new measures imposed by the IMF which is leading to further burdens on the working people. So let us say very frankly this Government has not by and large, I am not saying in every detail, pursued any different policy except nationalization of the sugar and bauxite industries which has taken a form of state capitalism and bureaucratic parasitic capitalism, what has happened in Brazil has happened here and in so many other third world countries. We hear about the new International Economic Order – good, we agree with that. Even the U.N. Secretary General recently said, warning third world countries that they must not default on their debts.

The Speaker: Dr. Jagan I do not want to interrupt you but I don't know that we are going into the debate as to the economic policy of the Government or Brazilian Government or the United Nations. This is a motion as I understand it seeking to rectify certain anomalies that existed in certain laws before and to permit the bank and the Government to borrow money not as prescribed within the limits, so I would wish if you could confine yourself to the tenor of this bill.

Cde. Jagan: I am trying to put things in proper frame because this Government is borrowing and borrowing and borrowing and borrowing, and breaking the rules too and now trying to come and validate by this law. I am saying that is why the Secretary General of the United Nations said we must put our houses in order. We know that the IMF agreement was signed by this Government since 1978. Again after they did not meet the targets, etcetera another agreement was signed. Even though conditions were relaxed, the IMF gave them relaxed conditions themselves, Turkey and I believe South Korea – even those were not met. Is it because the IMF is now putting mere stringent conditions which they call a "recipe for riot" that they are now seeking some other ways in which they can get some money. The IMF conditions have to do with money areas, including how much money can be borrowed from the banking system, how much money should be circulating in the country. You have huge deficits Cde. Speaker, from 1976, which have become chronic.

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(Cde. Dr. Jagan continues)

Last year, I am sorry I do not have the exact figures, but more or less the budget deficit was \$303 million out of a revenue of \$650 million. This country has reached one of the highest levels of taxation. The Government can go no more unless they want to grind the people in the dust. The expenditure last year was over \$900 million. I am talking about the current budget. In other words, Cde. Speaker, the budget deficit is huge and one of the things the IMF tries to do in their financial management is to see that countries like these get out, to see that the budget deficit become smaller. This is an important point.

Mitterand, the other day, was castigating the American Government for having huge deficits thus high interest rates, which are causing our-flow of capital from all the countries to the United States. You have to deal with these questions to see it in a global perspective because Guyana is not isolated from the world. In the same way, they have high interest rates in America because of huge deficits caused by defence expenditure for the arms race. Also, there are deficits and inflation because of a big army and paramilitary and police force, and also because of squander mania. Put your house in order as the Secretary General said. Do not keep borrowing. Mr. Speaker, for many years you have been hearing me talking about infrastructure in this Parliament, long before they ever talked about this debt problem, what they now call the debt bomb. What I am saying is this is no answer. The Government wants to have production increased in the country. That is one way to solve the problem, but what is the reality. Last week I went to Berbice. In Berbice it is said that only 5 percent of the lands is prepared for this second rice crop. About 60,000 farmers mostly from the Berbice area are now planting rice in Suriname. They have left Guyana. What are you doing about those questions? What are you doing about bauxite production? They do not have their own reports. Every month millions of dollars are going down the drain. Bauxite workers are striking for food. Where is workers' control? Ask the Minister over there, where is the worker's control which he likes to talk about – a lot of theorizing but not putting it into practice.

Only this afternoon at a GAWU Secretariat meeting, we were talking about workers' control in Guysuco. Yes, sugar production. I am told by our Comrades in GAWU, if they reach 250,000 tons this year they will be reaching plenty. When Gavin Kennard was Minister of Agriculture he said that they should have reached by now, or rather the target which he set a few years ago was 500,000 tons and now you are producing half. /Cde. Hoyte: Why produced 500,000 tons?/Cde. Speaker, what are you going to produce for. Cuba produced more sugar this year than last year. Whatever they are selling at, the fact is that they are producing more. Half of their production gets a price of 35 cents per pound because they had made an agreement with the Soviet Union when imperialism was squeezing them. Where are they? They have agreements and all of them are with the Capitalist World. And then they come and tell us about external factors when they were the ones who tied this country hand and foot to the Capitalist World. Cuba has been able not only to increase its sugar production despite all the low prices, but also to increase productivity. They have been able without increasing unemployment, to reduce the labour force to one-third what I was 10 years ago – in 1970 rather, and produce more sugar with only one-third of the labour force. Not, however, throwing the workers on the streets scrap heap like they do here. They put them in other areas where the economy is expanding. This is reality.

We cannot get sugar in the shops, we cannot get rice, and what is sold now is like dog feed. If you go in the Caribbean, you will see rice, American rice all over the place. If you go to Barbados – I was there recently – you will see Guyana rice in a corner in a bag for the dogs. This is where you have got the country. Let us face facts. More borrowing and borrowing and borrowing, that is one of the reasons why we are in this trouble Cde. Speaker. Let us come back to the deficit. The chronic and deep deficit in the budget; what causes it? What is it? Last year 73 percent of the current revenue went to pay debts and this year, from their own figures, it is estimated that 76 percent of the current revenue will be going to pay debts. This is an impossible situation they have got this country in. you cannot get out of the financial mess by borrowing more and spending it in the same old way with the corruption, discrimination and the mal-administration. Every day the infrastructure for administration is breaking down. More people, skilled people even from their own ranks, are leaving.

Even if you have a capitalist economy you have to have good managers and you are not having that now. To borrow more money they want to manipulate the financial control system. It is not a question of limits, it is a question of trying to manipulate the system now – the financial control system. I repeat, it is the borrowing - \$127 million national debt in 1964 to about \$3-1/2 billion now which is the total debt of this country – and the lack of production which have got this country where it is today. And not only lack of production, but because of the falling prices in this particular period too. When prices were high, sugar prices were high at certain times, when bauxite prices were high, there was no question of markets. How is it that they lost these markets? It was the calcined field where they had a monopoly when Alcan was running the industry. Now they have lost it. Their own admission was mismanagement, etc. I hope that the Government, if they are really interested in this country, will get down to debate not only in this Parliament – nobody is here to listen – all those Comrades over there have to do is raise their hands when the time comes to vote. They have no choice unfortunately. Even if they agree with what I say they cannot signify agreement. Let us have a dialogue. Why don't we debate all these things on the radio, in the newspaper, so that the Guyanese people will see the mess that this country is in? I do not know about these Comrades, but I hope they do. If not, I am prepared to give a lecture here any time and then invite them to listen. I am serious on this question. The crisis is too deep, there is now a vicious circle and you can't get out of it simply by borrowing. This only deepens the crisis. What is needed is basic democracy beginning from the grass roots and putting a lot of other things right. I repeat, this manipulation is not going to help, as so many other things are manipulated in this country. We asked the Government not to push through this thing but to reconsider. Let the Government agree that we put the issues to the people of this country not only from the floor of this Parliament, but in the street corners, the radio and the newspapers so that we can have a national dialogue. Let the people also indicate the direction in which this country should go.

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14:40 hrs

The Speaker: Mr. Singh.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Speaker, basically we have no specific objection to this bill. We have been told that the legislation setting limitations dated back as far as 1962. I think that to come here in 1983 and say that it was 1962 that this limitation was set and we are now setting the record straight is really a contemptuous disregard for Parliament. Why didn't we do it long before? Why couldn't we do it long before? Why is it we are doing it only now? What is our present state of affairs? I do not object to the Bill because I know that almost every nation in the world has economic problems at the present moment. This is a fact of life. I believe in what is advocated as the new economic order. I would like to see it come into being but let us face the facts. The facts are that almost every nation in the world does have problems and for us to stick to a limitation set in 1962 is unrealistic.

However, let me repeat what the last speaker said. He said Guyana is not isolated from the world. I agree with that. That is why we disagreed with the nationalization of bauxite and sugar because if we didn't nationalise bauxite we would have been selling bauxite today, instead of having it stockpiled. Nobody can eat it. The people are striking for food because you can't eat bauxite. It is there stockpiled. Jamaica has Seaga and Seaga is a different kettle of fish. Seaga is not aligned to Moscow like you, Cheddie. He is not aligned to Moscow like you.

The Speaker: Mr. Singh, Dr. Jagan and you can discuss Seaga outside.

Mr. Singh: Thank you. I am on record as having objected to the nationalization of bauxite and sugar and I say that part of our problems today is because we have nationalised bauxite and sugar. If we had not nationalised them, if we had used our existing laws to impose taxation we could have gotten the same returns. Taxation would have been able to bring us the monies which we can't get now. Bauxite is piling up there now. It is doing us no good. However, if ALCAN were managing the bauxite company they would have been buying their bauxite, they would have been producing, they would have been buying their bauxite and we would have been getting revenue from it because we would have had all the powers. We have got all the power to be able to look at their books and to be able to put on taxation, to be able to give them a reasonable return for their

investment.

So that is why I say that I do not object to this piece of legislation. But I think it should have been coming a long time. Not at this time. 1962 it was imposed. This is 1983. So many years after. What have we been doing all the time. It makes me remember something I got recently. Here is it. Personal Investment Accounts. I see it is on the Supplementary Order Paper for debate. I recently sent a client in. this is a document printed by the Government. You Home Investment Account. I sent a client to Guyana Co-operative Mortgage Finance Bank.

Cde. Ram Karran: The honourable Member may not anticipate legislation.

The Speaker: Yes, Mr. Singh.

Mr. Singh: Very well, Sir. Suffice it to say my client was told to go to the New Building Society because they did not know anything about it in spite of this document. I think what we need is a more realistic and meaningful approach by the Government to the problem. I sympathise with Government. I know what the problems are. I sympathise with them. Every Government has problems at the present moment. I am not saying that I am going to knock them, I am not going to curse them and I am not doing to tear them apart. We all have problems. All of us have problems. I sympathise with them but let us be realistic. Let them come to us and let them not treat us contemptuously and after 1962 bring legislation in 1983. Let them come to us before. Let them treat us with some regard. Let them make us feel that we are playing a meaningful role in Parliament here and not merely sitting down as rubber stamps to anything they bring forward. Let us have some decent self respect and the Government can contribute towards that by bringing legislation to Parliament and not by merely telling us as in this explanatory memorandum it seeks to validate borrowings and direct advances by the Government by the Bank of Guyana. It seeks to validate what? It means that the law has been broken and what we are being asked now is to approve of the breaking of the law and to validate what has broken before.

All I am asking is let us be realistic, let us treat this Parliament with some degree of respect, let us be meaningful in our contributions here and let us all try to work together for the good and betterment of Guyana. I am a Guyanese. I believe in Guyana. I have no other country to go to. I have no intention of going anywhere else. I will die in Guyana and I will die a Guyanese and I want to make a meaningful contribution to this Parliament and to this nation.

Cde. Hoyte: (replying) I would really like to express my disappointment at the tenor of this debate. I thought Comrades would have focused on the matter on hand and would have perhaps sought clarification of some of the main issues with which this piece of legislation deals. Let me remove what seems to be a misapprehension on the part of the speakers of the Minority parties who believe that this is a provision to increase the overall limits of government borrowings. This has to do with the mechanics of borrowing. When I was introducing the Bill I thought I would be polite and I would like to continue to be polite. But the fact of the matter is that this particular provision was placed in the Financial Administration and Audit Act to put a bridle and bit upon the then premier of this country, one Dr. Cheddi Bharat Jagan, whom the British considered to be recalcitrant ... and that is the reason you would not find such a provision in any other law in the Commonwealth. The very fact that all these years nobody bothered to raise a question of the breach of the limits showed that even on the Opposition benches people realised the futility of this provision in an independent country.



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14:50 hrs

(Cde. Hoyte continues)

The point I was making was that the British could enforce the limits in colonial times because they had the apparatus to control a colonial Government. But in the circumstances of an independent country, the legislation is meaningless. My friend the hon. Feilden Singh will tell you that legislation without sanction is meaningless. What is the point of having a limit if there is no sanction, if there is nothing to really restrain or compel the Government?

/Cde. Ram Karran: "Expel you from the Government."/That is a long time, you have the right and you can always do it, I am sure.

Cde. Speaker, I think it falls ill from the mouth of anybody in this Assembly to say that the Government took 20 years to amend the legislation. One would expect that legislators would be the monitors and guardians of the system. The Government's figures are there. They are published in estimates, they are published in the various reports emanating from Government agencies like the Bank of Guyana and the Ministry of Finance, and anyone examining the figures would see what was happening. So I do not take seriously this allegation of a disregard for Parliament.

We were taken upon a grand tour of the world and I do not intend to follow my friends there, except to say merely one thing, and this is in reply to the hon. Feilden Singh. It is this; if Alcan still maintained its control of our bauxite industry that industry would have been shut down a long time ago, in the same way as Alcan has shut down all its smelters in Scotland and contributed powerfully to the 3.5 million British workers who are out of work today.

Question –

"That the Bill be read a Second time."

put.

Cde. Ram Karran: Division!

Assembly divided: Ayes 45, Noes 5, as follows:

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>
Mr. M.A. Abraham	Cde. Dalchand
Mr. M.F. Singh	Cde. Basir
Cde. Hinds	Cde. J. Jagan
Cde. Charles	Cde. Ram Karran
Cde. I. Chowritmootoo	Cde. C. Jagan - 5
Cde. London	
Cde. Bipat	
Cde. C.A. Singh	
Cde. Jones	
Cde. Latchminarayan	
Cde. Bishop	
Cde. Vandenburg	
Cde. Tiwari	
Cde. Sukhu	
Cde. H.L.B. Singh	
Cde. Rayman	
Cde. Primo	
Cde. Prashad	
Cde. Munroe	
Cde. Melville	
Cde. McRae	
Cde. Gill-Mingo	
Cde. Gilbert	
Cde. P. Fredericks	
Cde. Fowler	
Cde. Felix	
Cde. Doobay	
Cde. Davidson	
Cde. Clarke	
Cde. J. Chowritmootoo	
Cde. Chin	
Cde. Caldeira	
Cde. Beniprashad	
Cde. Armogan	
Cde. Ally	
Cde. Bhaggan	
Cde. Ainsworth	
Cde. Bend-Kirton-Holder	
Cde. R. Fredericks	
Cde. Corrica	
Cde. Sallahuddin	
Cde. Corbin	
Cde. Chandisingh	
Cde. Hoyte	
Cde. Naraine - 45	

Motion carried.

Bill read a Secondtime.

Assembly in Committee.

Bill considered and approved.

Assembly resumed.

Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

MOTIONPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GUYANA

WHEREAS the National Assembly by Resolution which was passed on 1982-07-08 constituted the Parliamentary Committee on the Territorial Integrity of Guyana for the purpose of keeping under constant review developments relating to Venezuela's untenable claim;

AND WHEREAS with the prorogation of Parliament on 1983-02-21 the Committee was determined;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary for the Committee to remain in being to continue its review:

Be it resolved that this National Assembly approves of the Parliamentary Committee on the Territorial Integrity of Guyana which was appointed during the last session of Parliament remaining in being in the present session of Parliament and continuing with its review. /The Vice President, Social Infrastructure on behalf of the Vice President, Party and State Matters/

The Vice President, Social Infrastructure (Cde. Naraine): Cde. Speaker, in the absence of the Cde. Vice President, Party and State Matters, I now move on his behalf this Motion standing in his name on today's Order Paper.

The question of Venezuela's untenable claim to the territory of Guyana has from time to time been raised and discussed in this National Assembly, and on the 8th July last year on a Motion which was moved by the Cde. Prime Minister, the Assembly unanimously passed a Resolution which provided for the constitution of a Parliamentary Committee to review developments relating to that claim.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

15:00 hrs

(Cde. Naraine continues)

The Committee was comprised of members of this National Assembly drawn from the three parties represented here in with the Cde. Vice President for Party and State Matters as Chairman of the Committee.

Since the constitution of the Committee, it met on six occasions and the members were kept up to date on the position. A number of documents including exchanges of correspondence between the Government of Guyana and the Government of Venezuela were circulated and were reviewed by the Committee. The Committee discussed these fully. With the prorogation of parliament earlier this year, the Committee was in accordance with parliamentary practice determined. It is felt necessary that the Committee should continue its work and that the composition of the Committee be kept to same, save for Cde. Jack, who is now no longer in Parliament and whose position would need to be replaced.

The motion seeks the approval of the Assembly for the Committee to remain in being during this session of Parliament and I now commend it to the Assembly for approval.

Question proposed, put and agreed to.

Motion carried:

Appointment of Member to Serve on the Parliamentary Committee on the Territorial Integrity of Guyana.

The Speaker: Cde. Naraine.

Cde. Naraine: Cde. Speaker, I beg to propose in place of Cde. H. O. Jack, who was a member of the Parliamentary Committee on the Territorial Integrity of Guyana and who is no longer a member of this Assembly and therefore can no longer hold this position, Cde. R. Chandisingh as a member of the Territorial Integrity Committee.

The Speaker: Any more nominations. There being only one nomination, Cde. Ranji Chandisingh is declared appointed to be a member of the Parliamentary Committee on the Territorial Integrity of Guyana.

The Speaker: Cde. Naraine.

1983-07-21

15:00 – 15:05 hrs

Cde. Naraine: Cde. Speaker, I beg to move the adjournment of the Assembly to a date to be fixed.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, "That this Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed."

/The Vice President, Social Infrastructure/

Adjourned accordingly at 15:05 hrs.