

**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT
[VOLUME]**

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE
CONSTITUTION OF GUYANA**

174th Sitting **2 p.m.** **Thursday, 8th February, 1979**

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (62)

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., Speaker

Members of the Government – People’s National Congress (45)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S Burnham, O.E., S.C.,
Prime Minister

(Absent – on leave)

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development

Senior Ministers (12)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C.,
Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives

(Absent)

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A.,
Minister of Works and Transport

Cde. B. Ramsasaroop,
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House

- Cde. C.V. Mingo,
Minister of Home Affairs
- *Cde. H.Green,
Minister of Health, Housing and Labour **(Absent – on leave)**
- *Cde. H.O. Jack,
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
- *Cde. F.E. Hope,
Minister of finance **(Absent)**
- *Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H.,
Minister of Agriculture **(Absent – on leave)**
- *Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C.,
Attorney General and Minister of Justice **(Absent)**
- *Cde. V.R. Teekah,
Minister of Education, Social Development
And Culture
- *Cde. R.E. Jackson,
Minister of Foreign Affairs **(Absent – on leave)**
- *Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A.,
Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection **(Absent)**

Ministers (3)

- Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley,
Minister of Information **(Absent)**
- Cde. O.E. Clarke,
Minister – Regional
(East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Cde. C.A. Nascimento
Minister, Office of the Prime Minister
of Works and Transport **(Absent – on leave)**

Ministers of State (9)

- Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael
Minister of State, Regional (Rupununi)

***Non – elected Ministers**

Cde. P. Duncan J.P.,
Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Development
And Co-operatives

Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P.,
Minister of State – Regional
(Mazaruni/Potaro)

Ced. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P.,
Minister of State – Regional
(Essequiob Coast/West Demerara)

Cde. J.R. Thomas,
Minister of State, Ministry of Health,
Housing and Labour

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin
Minister of State, Ministry of National
Development

(Absent)

Cde. S. Persaud,
Minister of State – Regional
(East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)

Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman
Minister of State
Ministry of Agriculture

Cde. L.A. Durant,
Minister of State – Regional
(North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (5)

Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H.,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister
And government Chief Whip

Cde. E.L. Ambrose
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Cde. M. Corrica,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Education, Social
Development and Culture

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. E.M. Bynoe
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Trade and Consumer
Protection

Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Development
And Co-operatives

Other Members (14)

Cde. W.G. Carrington
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler
Cde. J. Gill
Cde. W. Hussain
Cde. K.M.E. Jonas
Cde. J.G. Ramson
Cde. P.A. Rayman
Cde. A. Salim
Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
Cde. S.H. Sukhu. M.S.
Cde. C Sukul. J.P.
Cde. H.A. Taylor
Cde. L.E. Williams
Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen

Members of the Opposition (16)

People's Progressive Party (14)

Leader of the Opposition (1)

Cde. C. Jagan,
Leader of the Opposition

(Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran.
Deputy Speaker

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan	(Absent)
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., Opposition Chief Whip	
Cde. Narbada Persaud	(Absent)
Cde. C. Collymore	(Absent)
Cde. S.F. Mohamed	(Absent)
Cde. S.F. Mohamed	
Cde. I. Basir	
Cde. C.C. Belgrave	
Cde. R. Ally	(Absent)
Cde. Dalchand, J.P	
Cde. Dindayal	(Absent)
Cde. H. Nokta	(Absent)
Cde. P. Sukhai	(Absent)

Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh J.P.
Mr. M.A. Abraham

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly – F.A. Narain, A.A.

Acting Deputy clerk of the National Assembly A. Knight.

PRAYERS**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

- (i) **Designation of Cde. Nascimento as a Minister**
- (ii) **Return of Mr. Singh**

The Speaker: Comrades and hon. Member, I have been informed that Cde. C.A. Nascimento, who was a Minister of State, have been designated a Minister with effect from the 1st February, 1979. **(Applause)** I am sure that members would wish to join me in extending congratulations to Cde. Nascimento on his preferment.

I also wish to take this opportunity of welcoming back the hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singh who was abroad on sick leave. I am sure he is well and ready to do battle with his usual vigour. **(Applause)**

The Minister. Office of the Prime Minister (Cde. Nascimento): Cde. Speaker thank you very much for your congratulations. If my appointment in any way reflects the successful performance of the duties in the past it has been because of the encouragement and support I have had from my colleagues in the Cabinet and most especially from my staff. With your permission I would like to name them, Cde. Sajiwan Singh, Cde. Barbara Hopkinson, and Cde. Fitz Dorway, and I shall endeavour to serve to the best of my ability the people of Guyana, the Party and the Government, and this National Assembly. **(Applause)**

The Speaker: Hon. Member Mr. Singh.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Speaker, fellow members of the National Assembly, I am certainly very, very happy to be back in Guyana away from the cold which I had been experiencing in London but very happy that I did go there because I was able to get the medical treatment – there are the marks to show on my arms – which enable me to get back the use of my right arm.

I missed my country and I realized that unless I were to be chased of my country, this is my own country, this is God's own country compared with other countries. The only problem has been the politicians and that is what I had been made to realize forcibly while I was away.

8. 2. 79

National Assembly

2.10- 2.15 p. m.

I am certainly very happy to be back in Guyana, very happy to be back in National Assembly, and I look forward to working for the betterment of my country. **[Applause]**

Leave to Members

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to the Cde. Prime Minister, to Cde. Green, and Cde. Kennard for today, to Cde. S.S. Naraine up to the end of February, 1979 and to Cde. R.E. Jackson to the 22nd February, 1979.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS ETC.

The following Paper and Report were laid:

- (1) Pensions (Designated Service) Order 1978 (No. 2 of 1979) made under Section 23 of the Pensions Act, chapter 27:02, on the 22nd of December, 1978 and published in the Gazette on the 6th of January, 1979. **[The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development on behalf of the Prime Minister]**
- (2) Reports and Accounts of the Guyana Co-operative Insurance service for the year ended 31st December, 1977. **The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the Minister of Finance.**

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE

MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Office of the Ombudsmen

The Speaker: Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Speaker, I wrote you this morning indicating my intention to move, as a matter of definite urgent public importance, the fact that article 52 of the Constitution makes provision for the office of Ombudsman, would be there for them to do so.

My information is that the term of office of the former holder has expired and it has not been renewed and so far as the Gazette is concerned, no appointment has been published.

2.15p.m.

Many people who wish to write the Ombudsman have been calling on the Opposition because they wish to make complaint, they wish to air their grievances but they are prevented from doing so because the Ombudsman is not there.

This office, as you know, Cde. Speaker, come to us with Independence. The importance of it cannot be overstressed. We are all aware of it and I think this is the proper time and forum to ask you, sir, to consider that this matter is an urgent question seeing that people are involved and no action is taken get the Assembly to air its views on the matter with the precise and definite objective of having the Ombudsman re-appointed or a new one appointed without the delay.

The Speaker: Comrades and hon. Members, for a matter to qualify under this head, it must be of recent occurrence and raised without delay, as well as it must be raised at the earliest possible opportunity, if not, it fails in urgency. Under both heads, this Motion does not qualify. I regret, therefore, that I am unable to allow it.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS – FIRST READING

The following Bills were introduced and read the First time:

(1) MEDICAL SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 – Bill No. 1/1979.

**[The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the
Minister of Health, Housing and Labour]**

(2) RENT CONTROL (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1979 – Bill No. 2/1979.

**[The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the
Minister of Health, Housing and Labour]**

(3) GUYANA MINING COMMISSION BILL 1979 – Bill No. 3/1979.

[The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources]

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House (Cde. Ramsaroop): I move that this National Assembly do now adjourn until Monday, 12th February, 1979, at 2 p.m.

The Speaker: Comrades and hon. Members, the Sitting of the House is adjourned to Monday, 12th February at 2 p.m. The Sitting of the Constituent Assembly will take place half an hour from now.

Adjourned accordingly at 2.18 p.m.
