

**THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**[VOLUME 7]**

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

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**199<sup>th</sup> Sitting**

**2 p.m. Monday**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1979**

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**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (63)**

**Speaker**

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

**Members of the Government – People's National Congress (46)**

**Prime Minister (1)**

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

**(Absent)**

**Deputy Prime Minister (1)**

Cde. P.A. Reid,  
Deputy Prime 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. Ramsaroop,  
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

\* Cde. H.O. Jack,  
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent)

\* Cde. F.E. Hope,  
Minister of Finance (Absent)

\* Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H.,  
Minister of Agriculture

\* Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C.,  
Attorney General and  
Minister of Justice (Absent)

\* Cde. R.E. Jackson,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent – on leave)

\* Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A.,  
Minister of Trade and  
Consumer Protection

### **Ministers (2)**

Cde. O.E. Clarke,  
Minister – Regional  
(East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

Cde. C.A. Nascimento,  
Minister, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent – on leave)

### **Minister of State (10)**

Cde. F.U.A Carmichael  
Minister of State – Regional (Rupununi) (Absent)

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

### **\*Non-elected Ministers**

- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P.,  
Minister of State- Regional  
(Mazaruni/Potaro) (Absent)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P.,  
Minister of State – Regional  
(Essequibo Coast/West Demerara) (Absent – on leave)
- Cde. J.R. Thomas,  
Minister of State, Office of the  
Prime Minister (Absent)
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin,  
Minister of State, Ministry of  
National Development
- Cde. S. Prashad,  
Minister of State – Regional  
(East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman,  
Minister of State,  
Minister of Agriculture (Absent)
- \* Cde. F.U.A. Campbell,  
Minister of State for Information,  
Minister of National Development (Absent)

### **Parliamentary Secretaries (5)**

- Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H.,  
Parliamentary Secretary; Office of the  
Prime Minister and Government Chief Whip (Absent – on leave)
- Cde. E.L. Ambrose,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. M. Corrica,  
Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Education, Social Development  
and Culture
- Cde. E.M. Bynoe,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade  
and Consumer Protection

### **\*Non-elected Ministers**

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

Cde. J.G. Ramson,  
Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Works and Transport

**Other Members (15)**

Cde. W.G. Carrington, C.C.H.

Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley

Cde. E.H.A. Fowler

Cde. J. Gill

Cde. W. Hussain

**(Absent)**

Cde. K.M.E. Jonas

Cde. P.A. Rayman

Cde. A. Salim

Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P.

**(Absent)**

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

**(Absent)**

Cde. C.A. Sukul, J.P.

Cde. H.A. Taylor

**(Absent)**

Cde. H.B. Walcott M.P.

Cde. L.E. Willems

Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen

**(Absent)**

**Members of the Opposition (16)**

**(i) 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

Cde. C. Collymore	(Absent)
Cde. S.F. Mohamed	(Absent)
Cde. I. Basir	(Absent)
Cde. C.C. Belgrave	
Cde. R. Ally	(Absent)
Cde. Dalchand, J.P.	(Absent)
Cde. Dindayal	(Absent)
Cde. H. Nokta	(Absent)
Cde. P. Sukhai	(Absent)

**(ii) Liberator Party (2)**

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P.	(Absent – on leave)
Mr. M.A. Abraham	

**OFFICERS**

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

Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – A. Knight

3.12.79

National Assembly

2.05 – 2.15 p.m.

2.05 p.m.

## PRAYERS

## OATH

### Cde. Huldah Benomi Walcott

**The Speaker:** Comrades and hon. Member, with the death of Cde. Leonard Durant, a vacancy was created in the National Assembly. In accordance with article 70, (1) of the Constitution, I called upon the Representative of the list of Candidates from which Cde. Durant's name has been extracted, to further extract from the said list the name of a person to fill the vacancy.

The name of Cde. Huldah Benomi Walcott was extracted from the list as the person to fill the vacancy. Before Cde. Walcott can take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, she will have to make and subscribe the Oath of Office before the Assembly. As Cde. Walcott is present, she may proceed to the Table where the Oath will be administered to her by the Clerk.

*[The Oath of Office was administered to and made and subscribed by Cde. Walcott.]*

**The Speaker:** Comrades and hon. Member, on behalf of the Members of the National Assembly and myself, I congratulate Cde. Walcott on her election and I welcome her to the National Assembly and extend best wishes to her.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

### Death of the Archbishop of the West Indies

**The Speaker:** We have all learnt with regret of the death last Thursday of the Archbishop of the West Indies, the Most Reverend Dr. Alan John Knight. The Archbishop had

played an important role in our Legislature. For about 16 years from 1944 to 1960 he was present at Ceremonial Openings of Sessions of the Legislature and on other special occasions, and on those occasions he offered Prayers in and for the Legislature, first as Bishop of Guyana, and from 1950 as Archbishops of the West Indies. In 1953, Dr. Knight was appointed a Member of the State Council, which was the Upper House of the then bicameral Legislature. As a Member of the State Council, he took an active interest in the work of the Legislature. He was present and spoke at all the Sittings of the State Council.

In recognition of his devoted and unselfish service in Ghana (at the time the Gold Coast) and in this country and in the West Indies generally, covering a period of 25 years, the Archbishop was in 1954, honoured by Her Majesty the Queen with his appointment as a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. It was also in this very Chamber, during a Sitting of the Legislative Council on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 1954, that the Insignia of the award was presented to him.

I am sure that Members of Parliament would wish the National Assembly to record its regret at the death of the Archbishop. Our sympathy goes not only to the Anglican community but also to the Christian Religion as a whole and to the many other organisations, of which he was a member and which he gave his support, for their loss. I will now ask Members to stand and observe one minute's silence.

*[All members stood in silence for one minute.]*

### **Leave to Members**

**The Speaker:** Leave has been granted to Cde. Jackson, Cde. Nascimento, Cde. Chowritmotoo, Cde. Hussain, and to the hon. Member Mr. Singh for today, and to Cde. Ackman for four months from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1979.

3.12.79

National Assembly

2.05 – 2.15 p.m.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS**

The following paper was laid:

Project loan and Grant Agreement between Guyana and the United States of America (through A.I.D.) for Rural Health Systems. [The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the Minister of Finance]

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolved**, “That this Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed.”  
[The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House]

**Adjourned accordingly at 2.15 p.m.**

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