

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 11/

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSION (1987) OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

27th Sitting Tuesday
14:00 hrs /1987-01-20

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (62)

Ministers in the Cabinet (10)

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

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

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

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

Other Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

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

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P.,
Deputy Prime Minister, Public Utilities (Absent)

Senior Ministers (4)

Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P.,
Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)

*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P.,
Minister of Finance

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P.,
Minister of Manpower and Housing

*Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Tourism

Other Ministers (15)

Senior Ministers (7)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.,
Minister of Regional Development

Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P.,
Minister of Medical Education, Environment and (Absent)
Food Policy

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

Non-elected Member

- *Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P.,
Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
- *Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P.,
Minister in the Ministry of Education
- *Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P.,
Minister of Communications and Works
- *Cde. Dr. N.E. Blackman, M.P.,
Minister in the Ministry of Health

Ministers (5)

- Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of National (Absent - on leave)
Mobilisation
- Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P.,
Minister within the Office of the President (Absent)
- Cde. D. Sawh, M.P.,
Minister of Forestry
- *Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P.,
Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. J.T. Kisson, M.P.,
Minister in the Ministry of Medical
Education, Environment and Food Policy

Ministers of State (3)

- *Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P.,
Minister of State in the Office of the
Prime Minister
- *Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of
Planning and Development
- Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P.,
Minister of State in the Ministry of
Home Affairs

Parliamentary Secretary (1)

- *Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Education

Government Chief Whip (1)

- Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P.,
Government Chief Whip

Other Members (23)

- Cde. Agnes W. Bend Kirton, M.P.
- Cde. A.K. Habibulla, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
- Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
- Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
- Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
- Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
- Cde. Amna Ally, M.P.
- Cde. L. Arthur, M.P.
- Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
- Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
- Cde. F.. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.

Cde. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P.
Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
Cde. B. Persaud, M.P.
Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.
Cde. K. Sankar, M.S., M.P.

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

Cde. E. Mohamed, M.P.
Cde. Rose I. Sample, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Cde. Bhagnatee Latchminarayan, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
Cde. Enid E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo
Islands/West Demerara)
Cde. I. Ally, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Cde. B.L. Domingo, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper
Essequibo)

**Cde. Joycelyn Thom-Lindie, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/
Berbice) (Absent)**

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P.,
Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P.,
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (6)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.,
Minority Chief Whip
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A.

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. I. Hartman

14:05 hrsANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to Cdes. Jackson, Johnson and Sharma for today's sitting.

Statement By Ministers

The Minister of Finance (Cde. Greenidge): Cde. Speaker, last Friday after the Budget Speech, Cde. Respu Daman Persaud asked how soon printed copies of the Speech will be made available and in response I expressed the hope that I will be able to provide Members with printed copies the next day. Unfortunately in spite of our best efforts, it was not possible to make the printed copies available. In the circumstances, the Government is of the view that the Debate should be adjourned to another date to afford Members enough time to consider the Speech.

I request that the debate be adjourned to Monday, 26th January, 1987.

In addition to that, table 11 was mention in the Index but it has been deleted from the Estimates so there should be no mention of page 11.

Cde. J. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, I would like to refer to a matter I find very disturbing and that is that motions and questions that has been put to your office since August have not been put on the notice paper. I consider the fact that my motions and questions which were put almost six months ago not being put on the notice paper to be a grave injustice and I would like it to be rectified rapidly.

The Speaker: Your letter has been received and we are giving it urgent attention. We have already explained time and again that we do not have the staff and we cannot do better than what we are doing. We only have two Reporters and I do not know how they are coping.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order I wish to say that I expected the Minister of Finance to make some explanation concerning certain tables of the Estimates which were made available on Friday. He did not refer to it at all. He referred to it under the Budget Speech.

The Speaker: I think those tables have been circulated. They were not supplied with the Estimates but they are supplied now. We will adjourn and you will be given ample time to consider them.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, I observed that you referred to the letter I wrote pointing out that there were certain omissions in the Estimates. However, I checked it through, those that were circulated and it still seems as though some are missing.

National Assembly

(The Speaker continues)

Cde. Minister, please throw some light on this.

[At this stage the Minister of Finance consults the Secretary to the Treasury]

The Speaker: In the meantime, Mr. Kwayana, may I hear you?

Mr. Kwayana: I was wondering, Mr. Speaker, if you are referring also to my letter of yesterday's date. I suggest that you deal with them at the same time.

The Speaker: I am dealing with them one at a time, so I will come to yours. Yes, Cde. Greenidge, I also do not have those.

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Speaker, those tables are indeed missing from my copy so the Secretary to the Treasury is trying to establish what happened to them.

The Speaker: So what is the position? When is it going to be given on Friday afternoon?

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Speaker, I understand your concern but I am really not in a position to answer that. The tables could not have been completed without those pages.

The Speaker: All right, let us deal with Mr. Kwayana and probably take the suspension for a little while and see what will happen. Mr. Kwayana refers to pages 8A and 12A and between 18A and 32A. They are completely missing. There are some blank pages. I do not know if it was the intention that those be referred to as 8A, 9A or what. But some indication is required because it will appear that after 8A.

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Speaker, when the Estimates are being formulated, if I may explain, we actually prepared them in sections. Some sections at the back may have been prepared before the sections at the front. It is not possible to give a definite number beforehand. So the gaps do not represent a loss in tables. Therefore, pages 8A and 12A and 18A and 32A are really not missing. Looking at the Estimates it may indicate that they are missing.

The Speaker: Perhaps we can take a half hour suspension to see if it can be clarified. The sitting is suspended for 30 minutes.

Suspended accordingly at 14:20 hrs

On Resumption –

The Speaker: Comrades and hon. Members, when the suspension was taken I think two or three pages were not circulated. These have now been done. Dr. Jagan, your complaint has now been satisfied.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: Yes.

The Speaker: Mr. Kwayana, I have been informed according to your letter, that between 8A and 12A there are blank pages, and those are numbers 9, 10, 11. I think the Estimates are now in order. Cde. Thomas.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, "That this National Assembly do now adjourn to Monday, 1987-01-26 at 14:00 hrs. [The Minister of Regional Development]

Adjourned accordingly at 15:55hrs