

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 29TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1986-1987) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON TUESDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 1987

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

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)

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 (Absent)

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 Minister (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

Senior Ministers (4)

Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Labour

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 Food Policy

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

*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

* Non-elected Member

Ministers (5)

Cde. Urmia Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of National Mobilisation
Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister in the Office of the President
Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister of Forestry
*Cde. V.V. Parvatan, Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
Cde. J.T. Kissoon, 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 Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister
Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning and Development
Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Parliamentary Secretaries (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. L.R. Arthur, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent)
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.

* Non-elected Member

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

Cde. E. Mohamed, M.P.
Cde. Rose I. Semple, 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. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)
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)

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People’s Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader (Absent)

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

Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

OFFICERS

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly
Cde. I. Hartman, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers

TAKE

14:05 – 14:15 HRS

MISSING

(Cde. Chandisingh continues)

1987-01-27

National Assembly

14:15 – 14:25 hrs

14:15 hrs

Most people can enjoy expanded social services without corresponding real economic growth. All of this Cde. Speaker, it would appear to be self-evident but it is necessary I think to restate the simple facts of life at a time when several speakers on the other side of the Assembly seem to expect for example, that almost everything must now be subsidized. But, Cde. Speaker, subsidized with what? Cde. Speaker, we do not pride ourselves with having windbags on this side. So the economy must be reconstructed and revitalised by means of a fair appropriate at this stage. We cannot as a responsible Government simply sit back fold our hands and do nothing while the economy trips. Still less can we resolve serious problems of imbalance in the economic financial structure by empty rhetoric. Cde. Speaker there are no magical solutions. Indeed Cde. Speaker, the Guyanese people themselves are highly conscious and knowledgeable and they want their Government to do something to take resolute action to bring about an improvement in the situation. I am sure that with the necessary explanations they will understand and appreciate the steps now being taken to correct the imbalances and ultimately to improve the conditions of life in Guyana. But surely no one in this house our outside likes or enjoys harsh measures, while everyone relatively embraces the bonanzas and measure that tend to put more money in their pockets and improve their lot immediately. But the solutions to our problems are not always without some pleasure, without some measure of sacrifice and the illness in our economic problems require strong remedy at this time. The remedy or medicine prescribed are not at all palatable some maybe bitter but the effective cure has to prescribe not only Aspirin, we must find a real and lasting cure. As my colleague described it yesterday, Daramdeo Sawh, medicines also have side effects that are not pleasant, but it must be borne if the complete treatment is to succeed. The Minority seeks to focus attention mainly on one element of a package rather than consider the total package. In so doing I submit that they mis-represent and distort the objectives of the measures contained in the budget. Of course, Cde. Speaker, they may consider that this is in the narrow secretarial political interest. But for us we need to understand very clearly what are the objectives. What then, Cde. Speaker, are the objectives? (1) To correct certain relative price distortion in the country. For example the exchange rate. The exchange rate of \$4.40 to one dollar has become unrealistic. As you have heard certain exports, rice, gold and others already had received a higher official rate while it is common knowledge that the money was being traded on the parallel market at something like \$20 US to \$1 G. (2) The second objective is to curb the parallel market if not eliminate it. No one on this side is saying that we can with one stroke curb the parallel market but at least we could go some way towards curbing it. (3) To stimulate the economic activities particularly in the manufacturing and export fields and (4) to exploit and expand employment opportunities which would be expected to result from the stimulation of such economic activities. Such then Cde. Speaker, are the broad objectives and measures have been introduced and are being put in place to effect these far reaching

objectives. Of course we do not pretend that from now on it will be plain sailing that everything will be fine and dandy. What we say is that these measures, painful in some respects can be geared to work to get our economy going to the benefit of the entire nation. We have to look at the whole package and what it is intended to do rather than at each element in isolation from the other.

Furthermore, Cde. Speaker, recognising that the currency adjustment in this case a devaluation was necessary, this Government of the People's National Congress concerned about the well being of the workers and the masses, put in place other measures to cushion to some degree and as far as is practicable the likely impact on the cost of living. These have been adumbrated in the Budget speech and explained further during the debate by members on this side of this Assembly and we recognise that they are wide-ranging from the tax relief measures, including the separate filing of income tax returns by husbands and wives and there are other benefits in health, transport and other services. In this respect, Cde. Speaker, I think that we should also note what has happened in the case of Guysuco. Coming back to the state of profitability, we have seen the announcement made recently that sugar workers will participate in profit sharing for the first time since 1974. This will be an expense of some \$7 or \$8 million.

TAKE

14:25 – 14:35 HRS

MISSING

National Assembly

14:35 hrs

Incidentally, Cde. Speaker, I go through this entire speech, it is a long speech and no where have I seen any reference by General Secretary Gorbachev to the words Marxism and Leninism. Cde. Speaker, we are also accused of needing a large state sector for patronage, but let me say that state sector has to do with object two of the People' National Congress, and that is to our commitment and socialist ideal and more particularly to ensure that the People of Guyana own and control for their benefit the natural resources of the country. Applause. But Cde. Speaker, let me also in the same vein remind Members on the other side of what we saw only the other day in the Guyana Chronicle on Tuesday 20th January, which referred to under the Headline "One hundred Companies propose joint business ventures in the Soviet Union" and the report speaks of firms from several countries West and East, England, West Germany, Japan, France, India, and the United States who are seeking to take up those proposals for having joint ventures in the Soviet Union. And look at this: Exemption from taxes is also guaranteed for the first two years and these regulations have been made since January 1, 1986. So Comrades it is important that we should not be misled by Cannars of certain elements of the Opposition. They will be very constructive if they are studying what is happening in other countries they have been sighting to us.

Again, Cde. Speaker, very quickly the News from Soviet Union published by the Press agency, a writer by the name of Gandi Zonaski is alleged to have said in 1987:

"The second and most important one is to put all enterprise on economic accountability which in fact is the socialist equivalent to the law of average. Only recently those who support them in economic... have been considered. Now their ranks are swelling rapidly because they proceed from the realities of life" and that is what we are doing, proceeding from the realities of life." Applause. I would just like to sight one other; in Poland, the National Congress, the Government of the Polish United Congress Party was addressed by the General Secretary of the Polish party and he spoke about the problem of inflation and then he goes on "Mainly, I will re-attain the equilibrium accepting the inherent consequences about major reduction of subsidies, rationalisation of prices.. self financing, strict regime of austerity in work discipline, stronger motivation for working people and consequently faster growth of national income or failing to accept these regiments we will no longer find saddled with market shortages, producers markets, constant threat from profiteers, close incentive for workers and reduced competition for faster development. And so is it to be either harder today in order to have an easier tomorrow or half measures followed by sharp results. Cde. Chairman, I hasten to move on. Now, I would because of time and I think we have had enough of this aspect of the matter. Cde. Speaker, I would like to say that adjustments involve not only economic structures and mechanism, it has also to do with attitudes, attitudes to work, a lifestyle and our expectations. We need as a nation to develop more of a spirit of self-help within the overall pursuit of self-reliance and we need to more efficient and effective use of our resourses for survival and

progress. As indicated earlier we cannot, as a responsible Government abdicate our responsibility to the nation. The measures proposed in the Budget speech together with other ongoing measures is designed to raise the level of performance of the economy and in turn improve the well being of our people. At this time therefore it is in our nation's best interest that we Guyanese eschew the vividness and shun those who would disrupt rather than build. The spirit, Cde. Speaker, of Mashramani is almost upon us. The theme for this year's observance is developing Guyana together. Let us go in this spirit as loyal patriotic Guyanese. Let us then in this spirit as loyal patriotic Guyanese resolve to develop our Guyana together Applause.

Domingo: Cde. Speaker, while I would not wish to comment or deal with the characteristics of this Budget, for me it is good to note as for all of us, there has been no area that has been isolated or left cause for any serious concern. I would therefore like to express my simple approval that the 1981 Budget has provided extensively new areas of development. The Budget serves as a propelling force and therefore serve as a link for increased investment for tri-sectorial economy. In so doing, it provides ways for increasing the level of our production. It ensures as patriotic citizens the greater increase in the utilisation of our domestic goods and services locally in keeping with our policy of national self reliance, and further strengthening our political and economic dependence and lessen our concern for dependence on the outside world for the goods and services which we can provide locally. Increased investment and increased production will provide areas of employment. Increased investment and production will gear us for increased export and towards more competitive prices. Greater production and exports will earn us greater foreign exchange and greater foreign exchange will earn for us essential goods and services, which we cannot provide ourselves with locally especially at this time of our development. Cde. Speaker, I have generalised my own way according to my simple intelligence and understanding of the 1987 Budget but as I mentioned earlier there was no areas that call for physical debate. It would be futile for me to imitate the Cde. Minister of Finance presentation. I would therefore like to deal with my area of concern and would endeavour in my style of presentation to highlight hinterland development, involvement of Amerindian in community, regional and national development. Cde. Speaker, yesterday's debate brought about some real concern, concern not only for the commendable fact of impact findings and presentations brought out by members of the Opposition. I would want to personally challenge two members of the Opposition, Mohamed and Nokta who has been very very good in seeing far, for having the type of telescopic eyes and standing from wherever they are and be able to see exactly what is happening in Region 1 and 9. But more so Cde. Speaker, we in the PNC do not believe in abstaining, we do not believe in abstaining.

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(Cde. Domingo continues)

But doing and ensuring that the welfare and development of all the people of Guyana are safe.

I would also like to thank Mr. Abraham for making my task even simpler for his rebuke to those comrades. Mr. Abraham highlighted the medical services in both those regions, sufficient drugs, and he mentioned Moruca and other areas and the decrease in malaria in Region 9. He also commended the community health worker programme that has been implemented and I think generally he supported Government's initiatives at this stage.

My friends on the other hand were caught in, I would say, jumbled facts and could not even tell which from which. I would also like to warn that the next time Cde. Nokta is in the region I would ensure that he gets the right vehicle for transportation since I think he mentioned he paid \$30 the last trip. It would be a pleasant task of mine to ensure that the Member joins the right car on entry and departure. I think that would be a pleasant task for me as an Amerindian Captain.

I would like to say further that we on this side of the Assembly have got the personalities and capabilities of representing people, and personally I do not want any form of representation from any other Member of this side of the Assembly.

To return to the Budget, as I said, my main focus would be on those areas. What impact has this Budget got on the system of regionalism generally? The system has been instituted under the Local Government Act and is for the vital aspect of socialist democracy. Regionalism is so instituted to organise as many people as possible to manage and develop the entities in which they live. The Budget has set out clearly to achieve those objectives and to further strengthen the system of local democracy. It ensures, therefore, the efficient management and development of those areas, organising popular co-operation in respect of the political, economic and social life of those areas. It provides us, therefore with the task and the duty to maintain and protect public property, to improve the working and living conditions, promoting the social and

cultural life of people, raising the level of civic consciousness and so consolidating social legality and safeguarding the rights of citizens.

Cde. Speaker, I want to highlight some other areas since the Budget, as I said, has further strengthened the cause of regionalism. We have not been able to highlight some of those facts and I can assure this Assembly that since this Government came into being, for last year 1986 our educational and training has been upgraded and ^{the} a/number of people that were trained and offered hinterland scholarships amounted to over 1,067. Presently, the total number of students that are in training in various institutions amount to a total of 185. Apart from that we have got 56 hinterland students that have been on the teachers' upgrading course and are presently in Training at the Cyril Potter's College of Education. We have got other areas of training for our people. Some are being trained as nurses, midwives, some are being trained in the Medex Programme, some of which have returned and are serving in their respective communities. Some are serving as agricultural officers, some are serving in corporations, some are in our banking institutions and in many other areas we can find people. That alone can show the kind of concern that this Government has with regards to developing and the development of the hinterland regions and the development of the people in these areas.

I want to further say that with the supply of milk and biscuits to those nursery schools, for instance, in Region 1, some of the schools have been benefiting from this service already. But apart from that, it is the task of the community to ensure the well being and development of its future leaders and I want to state here that in my community we did not wait for Government to send milk and biscuits, but we undertook the initiative and made available at least one hot meal to those students at **Kwebana** Primary School. It is our intention that this programme is intensified so that we will be able to have these students fed during the school hours. That is our programme, and I would urge this Assembly that we should ensure that we make more meaningful contributions in our community by being more fully involved. I think we would be doing much justice for our young society and generally for people of this country, rather than making empty, rhetorical and misleading statements like those made some time ago.

The comrades on the opposite side referred to a number of issues that have

been going in those regions. Some of those mentioned regarded schools, transportation, repairs of roads and what have you. It is quite true that there were a number of problems but I want to deal with the maintenance and repairs of schools and buildings. This is part of our regional programme and this is an on-going programme. I would also like to state here that it is very unfortunate that those comrades, Members of the Minority, did not see it fit to mention what we have been doing as regards repairs and buildings and institutions which are being completed in those regions. They just sought to identify those areas of weakness.

Domingo:

With regards to transportation this is a problem and it is Government's policy and intention that we look at those problems so I do not need to deal with that because I think it is stated clearly in the budget that that is part of Government's policy programme for development. It is true that some areas are terrible but not as was identified yesterday. I want to say also that since Government vote is always there it is our intention to look at all of these problems during the ensuing year as part of our program. Cde. Speaker, I want to say that our agriculture development has not been very bad. In fact, it has been increasing in terms of its production and productivity but for this year it is intended, and I want to refer to Region 1 that a number of experimental stations at Burma, Hossorroro, Moruka will be upgraded. We would also be looking at the development of further crops, blackeye, legumes, peanuts and development of our citrus crop. In one area, we will be concentrating on the coffee and cocoa development.

Fishing industry will be another area of concern and there is an artisanal fishing complex that is to be set up at Mariwana Hunction. This will cater for fishermen and fishing activities and thus boost the fishing activities in the region. For 1987 also it is expected that enfolding of 16 acres of land would be done along the Waunna and Hossorroro road. It is our intention to introduce a livestock programme in the region. We have started a programme at Hossorroro. Cde. Speaker, I would like to highlight for example another area, health. This has been boosted also in the region and as was mentioned, the programme is ongoing and the starting of an additional health programme has been doing well. Therefore, Cde. Speaker, what is our task or concern with this budget. Let us first give this Budget the credibility it deserves. Let us provide our communities with the right type of information organizing the people in all sphere of society, engaging them in greater production and productivity and enhancing the social and economic well-being. We on this side of the Assembly, Cde. Speaker, will continue to display our intelligence and work towards this end and we will continue to ensure at all times that in all circumstances that our Party or Government will continue to be the vanguard of the masses of the people of Guyana. Our task is towards economic balance and reconstruction. Applause.

Janet Jagan: Mr. Speaker, in examining this budget I am concerned with what is happening to the quality of life in Guyana. I listened to the Minister of Mobilization and he spoke about proceeding from the realities of life and I want us to look at the realities of life in this country. He also made a remark that we must not be misled. We must not be misled into believing that this Budget is the same Minister said is going to expand our employment opportunities etc. We have to look at the realities and we must not be misled. The same Minister told us about this Budget improving the conditions of life in Guyana. I have grave doubts about that. In fact, I have to examine what is happening to the standard of living of Guyanese. Conditions of life has deteriorated. He also said to us that the illness requires some remedy. Since I am on the subject of health, I think it might

Janet

14:55 hrs

be good to look at this striking expression that the illness requires some remedy. Any doctor will tell you that the first thing is to diagnose the illness. If you do not diagnose the illness no matter what remedies you give, it will never cure. I know that from my own experience. Just last week, a woman came to me to assist her in her problem. Her problem was that she was very ill. Laughter. If you listen to me you would not laugh. She was very ill and she came to me for help as do many people who are seeking cure on how to solve their problems. In her case, she had been to the regional hospital, the public hospital in Georgetown, spent one week in a private hospital and she had seen two private doctors. I think that happens frequently with people who are ill and who are looking for a remedy and run many places and I had guided her in the right direction. It turned out that she was completely and totally misdiagnosed in all the five places she went and when the right diagnosis was found, she started getting the right treatment. Now this Government does not properly diagnose what is wrong with the economy but they are going ahead with strong remedies which might possibly kill the patient. Now in looking at the quality of life in Guyana, we have to examine certain norms that may give us an indication of what is happening. For example, the Pan American Health Organization report on the health conditions of the Americas in the section of Guyana 1981-84 shows that the infant mortality rate in 1984 was 45 for 1,000 births. Last year the Budget said that the infant mortality rate was 40 thousand and then it had fallen in recent years to as low as 35 thousand. But I wonder how true last year's Budget was because we can only go by accepted international standards. In 1982 as I reported in this house before, the world population of children reference bureau had shown that Guyana had an infant mortality rate of 44, which was the highest in the Caricom. The highest. The closest to us was St. Vincent with 38.1. That was in 1982. PAHO report said that last year it was 45 per thousand and our Budget said it was 40 per thousand. I am not sure what the truth is but the indications are that things has been worsening with our child population. Some time ago, PAHO had noted that Guyana had the largest incidence in childhood nutrition in the English speaking Caribbean. I think in its most recent report, PAHO reported that nutritional deficiency is the fore leading cause of death among children in Guyana.

1987-01-27 Janet Jagan 15:15 hrs

It ceases to be a guarantee. The environment remains the same with impure water supplies. Government has removed subsidies, increased taxation and removed price control. It gives an incentive to blackmarketing and when these prices go up poverty increases. Pure water supply, in my motion last July I sighted all the areas where the water supply was so poor. Oh they said everything was going to be fine, everything is going to be okay and they will settle the whole thing in two or three months. The fact of the matter is like the wind bags over there we hear a lot of noise but they do not produce results. They talk about wind bags, they talk about rice and I have not seen the solution to the water problem. It is not being solved. Take for example on the Essequibo coast, exors, Weatherton Hall, one of the gentlemen sitting over there should know that at Coffee Grove they have not had any water for five months. There are some other places that have not had water for I and two months, how do you think typhoid increases. You do not even have the regents required for testing the typhoid. You cannot even test the typhoid, you do not even have the laboratory facilities, it is in a mess and there are so many incidents of bad water supplies where the water is impure that you are bound to have diseases. And there is not only typhoid, gastro, enteritis and so on. We talk in this budget about improving the quality of life, to improve conditions of life in Guyana. We had a motion just a few daus ago about improving the life for our aging Guyanese citizens. After that debate where the Minister rejected our proposals to bring a little help to the aged and pensioners, they range from 76 years to 81 years, they are old men and there pants are narrow. They had poor eyesight, they worked in the sugar estates all their life, they told me they began work at 10 cents a day and what do they get? They do not qualify for MIS so they get 16 dollars a week from the sugar estate and on that they have to live because the Gentlemen and ladies on the other side of the house feel that \$7 a month is sufficient along with a minimum of 15 dollars a week. At least four men are getting 16 per week therefore they are not entitled to getting old age pension therefore how are they to live. There is no health care, and they are making a lot of hot noise about improving the life of Guyanese but the fact is that the life of Guyanese are going down down down. Three of us were on this side of the House here in this Parliament in the colonial times, in 1953 and I was one of them and I am able from then to now to see what is happening to the quality of life in Guyana. Now we see beggars on the road. Now you see people sleeping all over the place and they are talking of quality of life. I was there and I know I had never seen such poverty as I am seeing to day and the poverty has been brought to this country by the Government. They have been sitting there for 22 years and they have been unable to diagnose the ills and now 22 years later they are talking about strong medicine and bringing the devaluation has only started. You are only seeing the tip of what the cost of living will be in another week or two it will be totally unmanageable.

The Minister spoke yesterday, the Minister of Health, about the WHO objectives of health for all before the year 2000. I say at the rate we are going no way, because the health is tied up not only with the services offered by the Government, but with all the other factors of life like the food wants, the environment, the quality of housing, all of these things are involved in the question of health. We heard a big noise when I brought a motion the other day, on we are bringing in some 300,000 gallons of milk, I ask here where is the milk, are the children getting the milk? Are the mothers getting the milk? No way.

You are not telling the truth. The fact is that our children are not getting the pint a day they need to keep in good health. How are you going to have the children of today, giving you health in the year 2 000 at the rate we are going how are we going to have health for all by the year 2,000. We also need to examine the medical services which has gone so bad that it is embarrassing to talk about. Our Public Hospital Georgetown does not have the basic drugs, it does not have X rays, it does not have surgical dressing and gloves. In fact I was told that the new minister of Health was told by one of the Doctors that he could not perform an operation because they did not have gloves. They have swept the institution clean and they are now talking about cutting down on personnel. Professional nurses do more work. This is the kind of hospital we have that has gone right down the hill. So I say that one of the essential factors that we have to look at in this budget is what is it doing to the quality of life and I say that the standard of living which has dropped considerably will unfortunately drop further because of the iniquitous budget which has added more and more burdens on the backs of the working people of Guyana. Applause.

Munroe: Cde. Speaker it is with a sense of gratitude and pride that I wish to associate myself with those of my colleagues who have spoken and take this opportunity to congratulate the Cde. Minister of Finance for presenting such a well thought out budget. A budget which has considerable for the small man and which gives hope to the masses. Cde. Speaker I would wish to speak on our country's food self-sufficiency programme and the progress it has made along with our women involvement. Any nation Cde. Speaker, which cannot and which does not attempt to feed itself will find its self in jeopardy. And we will all recall that our founder leader, that man of foresight and vision gave the lead by introducing the objective to feed, clothe and house the nation. This objective of food production has been followed feverishly and vigorously in so many ways. Cde. Speaker, the agricultural drive initiated by our Government has as one of its objective and will continue to have during 1987 the promotion of regional self sufficiency in food and other items including those for daily use and the provision of incentives such as renumeration and price, improved services in the areas of marketing, supply and distribution, research, credit, technical training, and advice, workers control and farm access. Considerable progress has been made in all these areas and has culminated in the steady advancement at both regional

and national level towards self sufficiency in several important areas. At the national level our edible oil production doubled between 1984 and 1985 due to the hard work put in by the staff at Neocol and as a result of the coconut rehabilitation programme. This programme was successful in encouraging renewed attention by our farmers to clearing weeds and drains on the coconut estates. And overall increase in the number of coconuts collected.

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National Assembly

15:25 - 15:35 hrs

15:25 hrs

(Cde. Munroe continues)

Further, the abolition of the price control for copra increased production. Today, we have reached the stage where nut collection has passed the 51 million mark in 1986, and the farmer has access to coconut nurseries all over the country for a supply of young seedlings to continue the rehabilitation of his or her estate.

Production of edible oil from coconuts and other sources was over 595,000 gallons in 1986. We are indeed on the road to self-sufficiency in this area.

Let us examine another important food item - milk. This Government, long ago, identified the need for us to develop our own resources. We saw the danger to this country of an increasing dependence on cheap milk from abroad, dumped on us at subsidised prices by developed countries. It was in their interests to suppress the development of our own production. We therefore took steps to introduce a special programme to encourage the achievement of self sufficiency in milk in this country in the shortest possible time. We all know of the achievements of the National Dairy Development Programme, which was started in 1984. This programme focussed immediately on the problem of providing improved pastures for our cattle, some of which had been accustomed to roam by the roadside creating traffic hazards. Today, we must all be proud of the jewel bright pastures of antelope grass dotting our countryside. Our farmers became motivated to milk increasing numbers of their cattle, they have been given the freedom to sell at their own price and we have seen in several areas the price of milk reduced as the production increased. Indeed, I feel Region 2 has won the prize in this area since milk is now a mere \$1.75 per pint at Anna Regina.

Indeed, in many regions we are fast approaching the production of sufficient milk not only for self-sufficiency, but a surplus to export to urban areas. Our national production increased from 3.5 million gallons in 1983 to 4.8 million gallons in 1985 and the survey which will be undertaken shortly is expected to show that during 1986 we passed the 5.1 million gallon mark. This programme is well underway and has now gone into high gear with the large scale importation of quality cattle by both state and private enterprises. The country has also benefitted from a donation of a quantity of frozen semen by the Food and

Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations as a boost to the artificial insemination programme.

So you see, Cde. Speaker, prospects are bright for our dairy industry and in the near future the provision of a pint-a-day for those who need it will be a reality in Guyana

Another outstanding step in the achievement of self-sufficiency has been taken in the area of ground provisions and plantains. Over 47 million pounds of ground provisions and 53 million pounds of plantains were harvested during 1986. Indeed, our provision farmers have made a sterling contribution to feeding our nation and incentives in the form of providing local markets for increased industrial development, based on their produce, are being put in place to encourage their continued production.

Much research work by I.A.S.T. and other agencies has already been put in the use of composite flours - rice and wheat, cassava and wheat, plantain and breadfruit flour for the use of making biscuits, cakes, pastry and bread. We must note with satisfaction the successes in these areas and the ability to develop and expand on the use of rice flour. It is encouraging, too, Cde. Speaker, to know that D.I.H. will in a short while be embarking on the manufacture of biscuits made from composite flours both for home consumption as well as the export market.

We have also seen improvements in our production of fish and shrimp, in the harvest of coffee and cocoa and in the production of green vegetables and fruits. How did these bumper harvests come about?

TAKE

15:35 – 16:35 HRS

MISSING

1987-01-27

Basir

16:35 hrs

Let us look at what the budget has to say about timber. The timber industry is in a very serious situation. A number of sawmills have been closed down. The Cde. Minister was talking about exploring the timber markets and trying to get the timber out of Guyana. That is not possible. Comrade under the present situation. You are not going to get the Trinidad Market. Trinidad is buying timber from Canada and now when you are making a banker arrangement where the Canadian Government will be trading Canadian sugar as a barter arrangement these people are no fools and I am wondering to know why is it in the European countries these people are planting first and they can be able to sell their lumber here, we in Guyana do not have to plant, we have to extract and yet you do not have the possibility of exporting your timber to these important countries. But most important of all Cde. Minister what sort of relation agreement you have with caricom so that we cannot sell them our lumber. We ought to examine this matter carefully. Do not throw out the question of bargaining and I want you to look at this whole question. Cde. Speaker, what I am talking about is what I know because of my travelling and when I say 12 sawmills close down I know what I am talking about.

I now want to go further and make some point about the rice industry. The rice industry according to this budget is in trouble, serious trouble. Comrades for your information we have in this country about 276,000 acres of land which can grow rice out of that only 50 per cent is being properly utilized. I do not have the time to tell you why it is not properly utilized but I will invite you to let us walk in the respective regions, don't sit as a minister in this house and depend on a few hearsay get into the field and if when you get into the field you find out what I am saying is not so then you can relieve me of my seat in this Parliament. Cde. Speaker, the future is gloomy not only for rice but for many of us here. United States have been exporting corn, wheat and rice to the caricom countries. Just imagine I ask the comrades who is dealing with this particular matter how is it we have a relationship with the Caricom countries and United States is in the making of exporting rice, corn and wheat of course Cde. Speaker, we have to look at this because we are loosing our markets. The Cde. Minister has said that he has lost a number of markets whether they are competitive or not. Cde. Speaker, we must be well informed. Rice mills are being constructed in Jamaica, St. Vincent, and in Trinidad and I hope we will not have the cause to sell the paddy to these people. Cde. Speaker, when we raised the question about meaningful participation of the R.P.A. a big thing was made about it, but the problem is that we have raised this question because to be involved not that we want to survive. We want to make certain that people

do not run away from this country and that is why this motion should have been passed in this Parliament. Cde. Speaker, the rice industry is in serious trouble. There is an area that you call Onverwagt in Bushlot that can grow 50,000 acres of rice, I invite you to see only 4,000 has been planted and this is consistent with what the Honourable Minister said here that from 49 rice farmers we are producing 20,000 rice and the farmers have left and more are leaving.

Cde. Speaker, the Guyana Libya Cooperation came here with a bang with Mr. Kennard. They are in trouble, they have no water supply there and even the paddy they produced there is sub-standard. In an area like Cane Grove where the rice mill has been closed down for some time there are 3,000 acres of rice land and only 1,000 is operating. Cde. Speaker, I have a cheque here where a rice farmer, who planted and sold his paddy to the GFB was given this cheque nearly two months ago. I myself went to the bank and they told me to go back, do not call it a bounced cheque it would be rude, say it needs to be adjusted. Laughter.

This man has to pay the local authority Bill and many other Bills. Now let us be honest, Cde. Vie if you were to be given a cheque for your salary and it was bounced for a few months what would you do? Let us put ourselves in the position of these people. Cde. Speaker, let me go on, On the West Coast of Demerara, paddy has to be sold twice and this is happening because of many conditions not only water supply, we do not have proper seedlings arrangement in this country where farmers can have pure seedlings to plant, Essequibo used to produce that but that was long ago. Leguan, a comrade spoke about water supply in Leguan and things are going well and I am in sympathy with some of you because I know you were informed so. But I was in Leguan Sunday and the situation is not as is being said here. They have 8,000 acres of rice land and only 3,000 is being planted and even the project implemented is not in completion and it is giving the farmers a lot of problem. Let us come to the Wakenaam silo constructed there. The silo is being taken off from Wakenaam and parts being sent to Essequibo. Wakenaam do not have any rice only paddy so the parts are being taken off and sent to Essequibo in other words they are forcing the farmers to send their paddy to Essequibo to occupy the silo. You must look at this thing. Let me come to the mighty E. Coast.

It was supposed to produce 300,000 bags of paddy, the figure was just around 178,000 bags. Cde. Speaker, this is not to do with me and you this has to do with the economy. In 1964 under the colonial regime the PPP was able to produce 164,000 tons of rice and in 1983 after 21 years you have just produced 156 tons of rice. What is really happening and if we were to work it at the rate of the land development there was an increase of 10.6 percent but now we should have got 500,000 tons of rice produced, this is not so.

TAKE

17:30 – 17:35 HRS

MISSING

Basir: 1987-01-27 16:55-17:05 hrs

You would never know but the farmers are finding it difficult and the Comrade, mentioned that the farmers in the Rupununi are using stones for files and things like that. Cde. Speaker, I would advise this Parliament that instead of allowing the State entities or the two PNC entities to take over the profit of the flour that is being sold, let this profit from the wheaten flour be given to farmer to subsidise the farmers so that the inputs for agriculture so that the farmer will be able to survive and stick to the land. This is as straight as the night leaves the day. You must give the farmers subsidies. When the PPP was operating under the colonial Government you asked for \$5million sursidy for the GNC. By now 1986 we should have had \$200 million dollars to subsidize the farmers to keep them going. Cde. Speaker, we have not yet established in this government a real and genuine export policy for agriculture product and this has to be worked out. A country like this which has tremendous potention, and almost every single thing you can imagine and yet we are not exporting anything. It needs to be examined and carefully worked out. Too much time is wasted talking about nothing. We mentioned something about sea defences. I would like to make this view to all of us. Sea defence is threatening this country and if you do not care your sea defences many of us will be wiped off along the coastland.

Cde. Speaker, we spoke of a lot of shortages in this budget but very strange is the shortage of rocks in this country. They cannot get rocks to build and construct sea defences that is the complaint of the region. Cde. Speaker, they are breaking the guns to pass the walls and I want to ask the Minister concerned to me sometime to let us discuss my experience Cde. Speaker, I can go on to explain some things to you that are not planning in the farming, sugar, rice and bauxite industries. It is necessary for us to re-examine this whole situation, this Budget. Cde. Speaker, cannot solve the problems of the Guyanese nation. There are a lot on inconsistencies and there is no genuine relation. We have a problem to deal with and it is not the matter or circumstances but how we will deal with the circumstances and this budget has not given us the way and idea how we are going to deal with this circumstances in the country. Suspension

I have been listening to all that has been said by Members on the opposite side of this honourable Assembly and find it difficult to come to any other conclusion than that some members have either not read or have not read with clarity this Budget Speech that we are today discussing. Permit me to make reference to just a few instances of prescriptions for self-reliance. First, let us look at page 9, and my colleague Cde. Habbibulla yesterday dealt with some of the prescriptions here where the budget prescribes the generation of large enough numbers of cadres "to organise and strengthen the information systems for planning in today's uncertain milieu; the need to standardise and streamline the methodology for planning at Regional, Sectoral, and National levels; the need to institutionalise an appropriate monitoring mechanism; . . ."

Cde. Speaker, at random, I turn pages. Let us look at page 13. It talks about the development of biogas stoves and lamps by the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, and on page 16 - I do not know if the hon. Member of the Assembly who was the last speaker before the break read this, it states:

"The Government has also, in its technical assistance programme signed with the IDB under the Industrial Rehabilitation Loan, been promoting seminars on project preparation intended to enhance the capability of the private sector to prepare projects for submission to financing agencies."

We can look at page 19 under the caption of "Science and Technology". It states:

"The IAST, which is the main organ for the implementation of government's science and technology policy, has completed work on the technical development of sanitary ware, and ceramic wall and floor tiles."

Further down the page states:

"Other areas of successful development include glue from fish bladder and the manufacture of several products utilising balata. NARI has recently indicated that it has successfully developed a genetically pure variety of rice and a variety suitable for the manufacture of flour. The Sanata Textiles Limited work has, after successful development of the product, commenced on the production of towelling and knitted material."

Then, if we take page 45 "Measures to stimulate economic Activity", it states:

"The lynch-pin of the programme for economic resuscitation in the coming years is the expansion of our productive capacity. In 1987, the Government proposes to adopt specific measures to stimulate the production of export and non-traditional commodities. Three measures are to be employed to this end."

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17:35 hrs

(Cde. Odie-Ali continues)

It is for these reasons that all of us in this honourable Assembly, including you Cde. Speaker, must unite in not only accepting this Budget but in perpetuating the implementation of the measures outlined here in.

....

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17:35 hrs

(Cde. Odie-Ali continues)

Of course, Cde. Speaker, this Government, made up as it is of members of the People's National Congress, the vanguard Party, the only party capable of leading this country in these trying times, has a history of able, far-sighted and efficient leadership. As way back as 1971, our dear departed Founder Leader, Cde. Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, discussed with us this concept of self-reliance as follows:

"There is one central theme to the PNC philosophy and that may be described as self reliance, that may be interpreted as self help."

. . . Assistance from without is welcome, but the basic task of development, the basic need to develop can only be satisfied by the efforts of the people by their relying upon their own resources and the resources of their country, combining and exploiting those to achieve the objectives and goals which they have set themselves."

In 1981, our Founder Leader again cautioned us. He said that to survive as part of the world community, we shall have to produce for international markets.

And now in 1986 our present astute and distinguished Leader, Cde. Hugh Desmond Hoyte, His Excellency the President of the Co-operation Republic of Guyana impressed upon us that in keeping with our party objective of promoting national self-reliance, we are required, first of all, to mobilise all our local resources - financial, material and human - to ensure the most sensible allocations of these resources.

Cde. Speaker, I submit that this budget enunciates the most practical applications of self reliance at this juncture of our economic experiences.

And three measures which are to be employed are outlined - Export Allowances, Land Development Allowances, Reactivation Allowances. I would really want to recommend that Members on the other side of this Assembly read the Budget, read it as if there is no reading disability and understand what they read. This, Cde. Speaker, is a good Budget and we must all support it.

Yesterday I sat here and I listened intently to my colleague Cde. Collymore on the stage giving another dissertation in the usual chronicle of allegations against the police generally. It is such a pity that Cde. Collymore had only been generalising and had not gone into specifics so that I could respond in a manner that would clearly give this Assembly an opportunity to come to conclusions that the learned Member of this Assembly is only speaking because it is his turn to use up 30 minutes.

The two matters in which names were mentioned ought not to be commented upon in this forum since they are at the moment engaging the attention of the legal authorities and are considered sub judice. But, Cde. Speaker, I understand Cde. Collymore's dilemma in that as I said before he is committed to use up the 30 minutes allocated to him in this honourable Assembly, and given his all-round limitations, what else are we to expect from a chimney, but smoke? And further, whether that chimney is made of metal or muscle, we can expect that as usual nothing else will be emitted but political smoke.

As I listened to Cde. Collymore yesterday, I was mindful of the Biblical Beatitude which says: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely . . ."
That is taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 5, verse 11.

(Cdo. Stella Odio-Ali continues)

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17:45 - 17:55 hrs

17:45 hrs

Cdo. Speaker, in any one week we receive a number of visits, telephone calls and letters commending one or other or a group of policemen for some timely and courageous action taken on behalf of the public whom they serve.

Cdo. Speaker, I am constrained by the time allotted to me and so I shall mention only a few very recent instances of co-operation with and commendations for members of the Guyana Police Force. Permit me to read for this House an extract from a recent issue of the Chronicle Newspaper, a newspaper which I have found to be not only informative and entertaining but reports without distortion.

"A release from police Headquarters disclosed that the Commissioner of Police, Cdo. Balram Raghobir has commended the citizens of Melanie Damishana and Strathspey, East Coast Demerara and those of NO. 19 Village, Corentyne, Berbice for responding to the call of residents who were attacked by armed bandits on their premises.

The Commissioner was referring to an incident which occurred at No. 19 Village, Corentyne, Berbice about 2:30 a.m. on Thursday when the Community Policing Group spotted two masked men armed with a cutlass, an iron bar and a piece of rope, entering the cow-pen of a resident. They raised an alarm and called out the residents who captured the bandits. There was an allegation that there was an exchange of blows as the bandits resisted arrest and one of them died, while the other one was arrested and handed over to the Police pending charges."

And yet Cdo. Speaker, Cdo. Collymore claims that the Police have poor public relations and do not get the support of the public. I will now refer to another incident which earned the Commissioner's commendation. This incident occurred at about 09:00 hrs last Friday morning when three armed bandits went to the home of a resident at Melanie Damishana and demanded his cash and jewellery. Again the owner raised an alarm and the public-spirited citizens of that area responded to his cries for help. In a bid to escape the bandits ran and hid themselves in a clump of bushes in the Strathspey area, but before doing so they fired shots from a gun which they were carrying. It goes on to show the public spiritedness of the citizens by members of the community ^{policing groups.} not just the Community/

Cdo. Speaker, citizens have started to make monetary contributions as incentives to policemen. The Bol Air Lions impressed with the work of the Guyana Police Force contributed \$500 one week ago, because they were impressed with the work of the Guyana Police Force. The Community at Craig donated some \$1,100 to the Commissioner of Police and a further \$150 to form part of the incentive fund. Last Friday a Cdo. C. Sharma from North Road contributed \$2,000 to the incentive fund and as late as last night

The Central Demerara Lions contributed \$1,510 as an incentive for Traffic Police. On Thursday we are having a little occasion at the Office of the Commissioner of Police when they plan to contribute another \$4,000. Applause And yet, Cde. Speaker, my colleague Cde. Collymore claims that the Police has poor public relations and do not get support from members of the public.

I will not venture to say that in the population of Policemen and Policewomen now in the service of the Guyana Police Force that among them we do not have a few persons whose honesty and whose work performance is not questionable. I will not venture to say so at all. Cde. Speaker, I would like the Comrade to name me any Police force in the world where there is not a certain level of policemen who are engaged in some act of dishonesty or some lackadaisical attitude. That is a world-wide phenomena. Applause Cde. Speaker, where do recruits into the Guyana Police Force originate? Certainly not from any place but from our own country, Guyana. And, Cde. Speaker, those recruits come to the Police Force with the failures and accomplishments of this very society and when such recruits are discovered the Administration will put in force the proper mechanism for immediate remedial action. This ranges from departmental charges with the appropriate charges noted out against those who are found guilty. or example, discharge or dismissals to criminal charges dealt with in the public courts of law in Guyana. Cde. Speaker, I submit that for the honourable to give the inference that the Guyana Police Force as a unit and that participants of the law enforcement programme which we have drawn up for this country, were not performing their duties would be grossly unfair. Cde. Collymore talks of lack of transportation in the Police Force, but I submit that despite such constraints the Police are not neglecting their duty. Cde. Speaker, someone drew my attention recently to this leaflet which I could classify as one deliberately bent on mischief and misinformation. But I would not say that. I would just like to point out that in its issue of January 19, 1987 that there is an article "Thanking the Police."

"Mr. Kassim Bacchus of Craig, East Bank, wishes to thank Cpl. 9252 Austin and the police from the station for the speed with which they came to his aid when he was attacked by bandits. He thanks also the people of Craig of both races who came to his aid."

Cde. Speaker, I would like to advise this hon. Assembly that at this moment there are 106 functioning Community Policing Groups in Guyana. These groups are based on the context of crime prevention. Cde. Speaker, I wish to commend the Guyanese people for this and to remind citizens that the

Guyana Government sees every citizen as a law enforcement officer and provision is made for the citizen in the laws. The Constitution provides this for the citizens of Guyana that each and everyone be a law enforcement officer.

Cde. Speaker, this is part and parcel of the self-reliance to which this Budget refers. Yes, there are those citizens who exercise the preference not to be part and parcel of this law enforcement but that is nothing new nor is it peculiar to Guyana. If I had the time I would have read from the Gospel according to Luke Chapter 10, Verses 30 - 35. The parable of the good Samaritan as told by the best story teller where a man and a rob attacked a man, bandits, thieves in the street, knocked him down and took all his money and left him with his clothes torn. This phenomena existed throughout the ages and still some people want to say that the People's National Congress Government is causing the people to choke and rob. That situation existed since Biblical days. A priest passed him and likewise a Levite then came a good Samaritan who not only cleansed the wounds and took care of him but left instructions that the man be taken care of.

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17:55 - 18:05 hrs

17:55 hrs

(Cde. Odie-Ali continues)

Cde. Speaker, I submit that from all the evidence that I have already presented, Guyana is fast becoming a country of Good Samaritan. I call on all those who yet have not expressed this altruistic tendency which some psychologists say is innate, to do so now. Be a Good Samaritan. Have compassion on your neighbour. We are all part of the state. For as Aristotle puts it, anyone who cannot live within a society and who is not part of the state is either a beast or a god. The police cannot work alone. They need your continued support and co-operation.

Cde. Collymore makes a big hullabaloo of what he referred to as 'Abscondings' from the police force totalling 401. I regret that I have to repeat my earlier remark that I detect that there exists a certain reading disability problem. I went and got the same 1985 Report he referred to. Would you believe that what he refers to as 401 abscondings - on page 8 of that Report which all of us have state that for men who have reached the age of retirement - 24; those discharged during probation, that is, they did not complete successfully their training - 58; dismissed, because we could not tolerate whatever nonsense they were doing - 35; died - 8; and the truth is that there were only 119 of what you may term abscondings. There is a real disability in reading. I wish to draw the attention of this Assembly --

The Speaker: I wish to draw your attention that you have one minute more.

Cde. Odie-Ali: Cde. Speaker I want the Asssmbly to know that the Traffic Department of the Guyana Police Force is doing a job that reflects
Would you believe, Cde. Speaker, that even though last year we had an increase of some 3,000 new vehicles registered in Guyana adding to a previous total of 57,000, that the accident figures had decreased. It is this kind of self-reliance that is reflected in this Budget where people are called upon to use their initiative and I call on the Members of this Assembly to not just say 'I support the Budget', but to ensure that the measures outlined in the Budget are explained and prepresented to the people of this country so that we may all make good of a situation that can only be remedied by the **prescription** in this Budget.

Mr. Kwavana: Mr. Speaker, I think I will be wanting in courtesy if I did not express regret that the last speaker did not get an extension. Obviously,

she has quite a lot to say and I have a deep interest in the police. I hope to say something in the Committee of Supply on that score. But the passage she quoted from Open Word just now was put there precisely to show the public that not all policemen behave the same way. The man came to Open Word and insisted that it should go there because people are always talking about the police and he wants people to know that they came to his rescue. There was nothing compelling us to publish it. I leave that as an example of how newspapers should behave in a proper Republic.

I wish to defend the right of everyone in this Assembly to speak. We have quite a lot of ground to cover in half an hour. I will not be able to cover the ground. I am here as a victim of circumstances, a victim of the boldness of the ruling Party which decided that the W.P.A. should have one seat in the Assembly. That is boldness and bravery and all sorts of things and I am going to deal with that a little later. The Budget is really not an answer to our problems at all. It is tinkering it is a very serious problem and dangerous tinkering at that. It is in a position of an open-ended prophecy. Anyone can get up and prophesy. If you prophesy that there will be a Second coming without giving a date, no one can fault us. You just have to say it is a loss of faith when they lose hope. The Budget is something of that order.

But I have been very impressed with the emphasis laid on the boldness of the Budget and the novelty and the bravery. I want to say that the P.N.C. does not lack those qualities at all. I want to say, too, that someone chided Dr. Jagan and the hon. Member was quite helpful/^{to}us, those of us who are interested in those things about this musician. The ruling party does not know the alliance of the devil or this budget, it would be superfluous.

18:05

Kwayana

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This talk about boldness, bravery and novelty remind me of something I was reading on one of the few occasions when I do read. I am not as well-read as some on the other side and that is well known, my reading has been very haphazard. In fact Cde. Nokta could not pronounce the Latin words. Now, this was about 1915 when the French philosopher Vounteer made a visit to Frederick the Great. Frederick indicted him. He was a great man. He was very interested at entertaining great people so he entertained Vounteer. Vounteer wrote a letter back home, which was treated in an essay by EM Foster and he wrote a letter in this train. "The supper patties are delicious and the King is the life of the company but I have operas, comedies, reviews, concerts. My colleagues and books, but but, the princess is charming, the maids of honour...but the man is a tyrant." That is how he ended. I want to deal with the Budget in the same way. The Budget is bold, but the Budget is imaginative, but the Budget is full of new techniques, but, but but. The budget is novel and ingenuous but but but it is a ton of bricks on the poor people and the defenceless groups of this country all except a handful. Things are really happening in Guyana. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for the arrangements that allowed me to speak after the deputy Prime Minister because I benefitted greatly from what he had to say and wish to make one or two footnotes on what he said. I will seek your permission to read some of my speech. I cannot read it all. The Hon. Member entertained us with a little venture into mathematics. We heard much mention of vocabulary, which is an aspect of mathematics still. We heard much about vocab but I was a little upset about the trickering by someone who did not pronounce a Latin word in borrowed English the way you would have pronounced it. I feel it is a kind of snobbery. We are laughing at the underprivileged, those who have not had a secondary education and it is a pity. And this is what the Government is doing. It is laughing at the underprivileged and he challenged the writer of the catholic standard with estimating that the addition to the wage bill was somewhere about 15 percent. I examined that argument. The Hon. Member himself put it at 21 percent. The writer of that article took the highest possible estimate afforded by the budget. He took the 5 percent across the board instead of taking the lower end of the incentive, he took the upper end, 7 percent and he took from the budget which gave an estimate of between 15 and 20 million, he took the 20 million as an addition to the wage bill through the income tax changes and he estimated 3 percent of that 20 million of that wage bill. He estimated the 20 million as 3 percent of the wage bill. The Hon. Member estimated it at 8 percent and then he got 21 percent addition. He has to find therefore a figure to show that the wage bill is only 250 million. That is the only way we can get 21 percent added to the wage bill. The speaker also obliged us with the reasons why the rate of 10 to 1 was fixed. He said there was a multiple rate, the official rate for rice, the parallel rate and the rate for gold. The Hon Member is a very resourceful person, he is trained in several disciplines but that can sometimes be a weakness. He borrowed a concept of natural science and he said there was a resultant rate as they would call it in civics and the effective rate on the market was 10 to 1. And then he said this is the rate one should choose. Now what is wrong with that can be illustrated if you listen to a very very old story, this time from the teaching profession. It is a folk tale – interruption- I am not apologizing for that – interruption.

The Speaker: Now comrades Mr. Kwayana does not interrupt anybody. He is the most disciplined of all of us here. Applause. Let us not interfere with him. We may not agree with his proposition, his argument but let us give him a fair hearing because he does not interfere. He is very unlike the Minority leader. Laughter, and all other on the other side of the house and I will not take away the time I spoke.

Kwayana: I was saying if you look at this old tale. This headmaster one Friday afternoon sent the boys of a rather senior form across the river to gather woods. Then the education officer came upon him and asked him where are the boys, and he said I sent them across the river. The man said that is very dangerous. The headmaster said no it is not dangerous. Look, I worked out the average height of the boy. Applause. So averages have their limitations. What will save the Guyanese people as a result of this devaluation everything imported through the official rate would increase by 127 percent at least, hence the devaluation means nothing. Everything imported. There are new prices for the gasoline, diesel and so on. We are very shocked because those of us who have been around for the years I have been around remember that in the colonial times merchants would have had to fight the colonial Government to get that kind of wind fall. When a new tax came down the whole population was alert. Stocks of gasoline and other goods already in the country went up much to my surprise. But that is not the whole of it. The increase would not be a straight 127 percent. This is merely the amount by which the quoted price is likely to increase. Conditions of sale will come into operation whether it is FIB or CIF. For example, the rate of duty on landing will be paid on the higher cost not on the old cost. Consumption taxes where they have not been dropped will then be paid on that duty, paid cost and on the that final cost the commercial mark-ups will be added so even to say 120 percent is not to state the whole case. Unless there is a fall of price in the quantities of origin a large number of goods subjected to various levies will go up. All other things being equal at least by 127 percent. The changes in income tax, I am not a tax expert but what I notice is that the 5 percent is now compensation has been removed and the lowest levy now is 10 percent. At the top everything above 55 percent has been effectively removed and that appears to be real saving, a real incentive people lucky enough to fall in the higher income bracket. But the income tax concessions are not enough to offset the effects of this budget not at all. The provisions for medical expenses have not been touched so far as we can see. These should definitely go up. The provisions for a dependent daughter, this is a very strange provision it does not apply to a son, it applies to a daughter, who I think is taking care of someone rendered disabled by age of infirmity.

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To bring in no funds vote through the Ministry of trade though it is said in other places the Ministry of Trade was pressured. It needs to be explained to this Parliament whether that is so or not. What is this parallel market they are talking about? The Government corporations are thriving on the parallel market. Sujan is in the public sector and I understand too that within the machinery of Sujan highly placed people are seeing the opportunity of a turn over. Now that is where we are discussing this budget which as I said is a ton of bricks. Is it going to kill the parallel market? The only way this devaluation can put an end to the parallel market is if through the official channels whether the normal window or the new window, the goods which the people are buying are brought in. That is the only way to stop the parallel market. If that is not done a lot of things is going to be moved from the official rate to the open window rate what they call the new window rate. The budget has already indicated that medical expenses, money for children abroad and things like that will be shifted to that window if I understand it correctly. So that rate may tend to rise. It will have to be watching both the official rate and the rate on the streets and if that fail to crush the parallel market in foreign currency it means that there will be movement towards another devaluation. We should not allude ourselves that this will be a devaluation to end devaluation in terms of the Guyana currency. The Government has a very difficult situation to deal with. Some of the things admitted in that budget speech, the hon lady opposite referred to has been said by economist in Guyana: by in another, their own way by members of opposition parties for many many years. In fact in 1978 Budget speech by Mr. Hope talked of imbalances. But what has been done, many of the things said in that budget presentation which we listened to this week used to be labelled de-stabilisation and mischief. Now it is coming from the horses mouth, is it not fair for us to say that if the diagnosis has been made in time, first of all if devaluation was the cure it would not have been so steep and secondly other measures might have been found. I want to say too technically the Government seems to have people with what they call a lot of technical dexterity there is no question of that but they are applying it in a situation in which they themselves are imprisoned. I heard a certain philosopher quoted here by the Hon. DPM when he was replying to the Leader of the PPP and he said on the authority of that philosopher there is no financial bourgeoisie. I will not delve into the context about orthodoxy and so on, but I would say something else which he said which is very lasting, He said people cannot oppress another and itself be free. It is what is happening in South Africa. The White Minority Government is oppressing the mass of the population and it cannot be free because the mass of the people are rebelling and it has to fund a police

state in order to keep the rest of the population in its place. Now I want to say what the WPA sees as some of the measures that should be taken. I would not call for a rescinding of the devaluation but we think it should be done although it would not be done, but I do not want to weaken that call either. They promised us an agricultural plan, this plan was first promised on February 4th and when I heard the Minister of Finance in a public address, I fell back on one of my strong points which is writing documents and I wrote this: They promised us an agri plan, last February 4th it all began, they sent it off to Parliament, it did not go where it was sent, but it only followed its own bent and so we have no plan. And I remember another couplet about the budget..... about prevention now every half day they are making a pusher. Now the Government has 90 days within which to bring a budget. Why did they choose to bargain with the TUC before the devaluation. The TUC would have been in a stronger position their research would have been there to certain situations if the devaluation had first been announced. You do not need a budget speech to announce a devaluation it makes no sense. The minister comes here and he pronounces it and he does not even need a vote. He could have announced it from his office just the same. There is no magic whatever. The moment the budget speech on 16th January rushing the devaluation and then putting it into the budget a clause that there will be new discussions with the TUC if there is a devaluation. I do not see the logic. These are the politics of the budget we are talking about. I think it is a bad example of how a Government has to behave. There are several things that ought to be done. One other measure that the Government has told us about is the retention of foreign exchange earnings. They call it the single most critical constraint on production. I suppose they are talking about foreign exchange because they did say last year that they would go on from there to find new areas of funds. There is no plan for unemployment. Unless we see in 1977 the minimum wage without a devaluation or without anything like this went up by 6% per cent. The only justice the Government can do if they want to show their social justice is to raise the wages at least by the amount of the devaluation, perhaps that may be not mathematically correct because not all the goods that we use are totally imported but many of the goods we use have an imported input so there has to be a very very high about 100 per cent increase in wages of cost of living allowance or something to save the masses from financial ruin. Unless this is done there will be no social justice done to the masses of the working people of Guyana. I was very disappointed, the cost of housing will go up. The cost of the middle income, lower class will go up by at least 70 per cent because some 80 per cent of the materialsSpeaker: Mr. Kwayana let us get an extension

production process.

To ensure achievement of these objectives, appropriate strategies and programmes have been formulated for implementation within specific time frames taking into consideration the need to be self-sufficient in food, the need to reduce dependence on imported industrial raw materials, and the need to promote development in all the Regions including the attainment of higher levels of self-sufficiency in each Region.

The overall strategy is to provide services and pursue policies supportive of the application of improved technology and practices in order to promote agricultural growth and to diversify agricultural production and processing. This strategy will be characterized by the optimal use of domestic resources; application of relevant and appropriate technology and orientation of administrators, community leaders, youths and the population generally towards an appreciation of the value and importance of agricultural pursuits.

Cde. Speaker, 18 clearly defined sub-sectoral programmes and the supporting policies and institutional arrangements to be put in place to facilitate the achievement of the targets have been identified for attention.

Cde. Speaker, I have attempted to inform this Assembly of the objectives and strategies that the Government is taking in its approach to agriculture, so that it can be clear that we are proceeding in a planned and structured way in this very important sector. If then these policies have informed our approach, you will see then that the budget proposals are but indications of our actions to achieve the objectives - objectives which I repeat have been drawn up in consultation and in agreement with the mass of people involved directly and indirectly in agricultural pursuits.

I will show, Cde. Speaker, by concrete information that the agricultural road along which we are travelling is clear for production; it affords us self assurance that this nation will continue to be fed properly and it leads not only to food security but to improvement in the well being of every citizen of this nation. Permit me to identify but a few cases that will benefit from the policies of the Government of the People's National Congress and the budget presented by the Cde. Minister of Finance:

In the Rice Industry, there will be about a 10 per cent increase in rice

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(Cde. McKenzie continues)

Agriculture therefore must be considered as one of the important sectors involved in moving us towards economic balance and reconstruction. If we accept the role of agriculture as pivotal to our development then we need to accept the necessity to set a course of action that is scientific, that is positive and that is resolute. Not the type of course which one writer describes as, "one which consists of serving God in such a manner as not to offend the devil", but one in which over the last two years we have laboured to ensure a high level of accuracy in its technical coefficients, one in which we have sought the concurrence of professionals, sub-professionals, farmers, technicians, technical and non-technical support personnel in every Region of this country; one in which we have attended to not only the traditional crops, fish and livestock but the non-traditional, not only agro-industry and agro energy, but arts and crafts.

Cde. Speaker, in setting our course in the proposed Agricultural Development Plan referred to by the Minister of Finance during his presentation of the 1987 Annual Budget - a Plan which you may recall he noted will be laid in this Assembly shortly - we have identified the following objectives which are consistent with those for overall national development. We identified:

- (i) The rapid increase in aggregate output and productivity to significantly impact on the growth of the national economy.
- (ii) The achievement of nutritional self-sufficiency and food security.
- (iii) The maintenance in good working order and the optimal utilisation of assets related to production.
- (iv) The generation of increased employment and income.
- (v) The intensive utilisation of the country's flora and fauna to meet non-food basic and cultural needs such as energy, clothing, home furnishing and arts and crafts.
- (vi) The increase in net foreign exchange earnings.
- (vii) The promotion of the image of agricultural occupation as one that is socially and financially rewarding.
- (viii) The incorporation into the national consciousness of an awareness of the need to apply appropriate technology to the agricultural

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production in 1987 resulting in about 200,000 metric tons of rice as against 183,000 metric tonnes in 1986. This increase will come not only from increased acreage by our rice farmers but from increased yields from a national production of 21.14 bags per acre to 21.43 bags per acre.

In keeping with the aims of the budget, rice exports, however, will increase significantly in 1987, made possible by the completion of major rehabilitation of the second mill at MARDS in about one month's time, the rehabilitation of Black Bush Polder mill, the completion of the installation of the 10 ton mill at Anna Regina early in the second quarter of this year and the aggressive marketing by the Guyana Rice Export Board which has resulted as in the case of the E.E.C. in a 200 per cent increase from 1985 to 1986, a return to the Jamaica market after our last shipment to that country in 1983 and sales to new markets in Honduras and Nicaragua while maintaining other markets.

Two vital but somewhat unheralded contributions to the improvement in the rice industry is the high standard of quality control by the National Padi and Rice Grading Centre and the provision of high quality seed by the National Agricultural Research Institute and the Guyana Rice Milling and Marketing Authority. Indeed, the industry will see during 1987 the introduction of a system for the utilization of rice husk as a source of fuel for driers and boilers. It is well known that in the past this product of which we have vast quantities has been considered a nuisance requiring hard currency in the form of fuel in order to get rid of it.

(Cde. Dr. McKenzie continues)

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We expect that this year both at the private and public level that not only we will utilize this product as fuel hence saving foreign exchange but we anticipate that we will be able to export the ash created. This, Cde. Speaker, will be one of those activities which in his call for various types of balance that must always be kept in the forefront of considerations informing economic policy the Cde. Minister of Finance referred to as:

"A balance between agricultural and industrial production, a balance between innovation and tradition, a balance between resources and expenditure."

Cde. Speaker, the marketing of sugar continues to have deep and abiding problems - problems that are predominantly exogenous in nature but in order to stay alive this industry has had to be very efficient, an exercise that has called for bold steps, minutely planned and skilfully executed. Included in those plans is the significant expansion into what will be truly diversified agro-industry. To this end, rice, sorghum, soya-beans, dairy cattle, beef cattle, sheep, polyculture fish including crawfish, root crops and orchard crops will be among some of the commodities that will be commercially attended by Guysuco both for local needs and export earnings. As in rice, Cde. Speaker, alternative energy technology would continue in sugar particularly on the work that is on-going which is, to find a feasible way to generate energy for the national grid by the utilisation of bagasse. Similarly, Guysuco will study the feasibility of producing ethanol from the sugar-cane.

Another subsector on which much depends is the fishery subsector where there was a production of 3,500 tons of prawns and seabod in 1986 and over 39,000 tons of fish. With the addition of four new trawlers to the fleet and the completion in 1987 of the Inshore Fish Complex at Houston, Region 4 to assist about 187 small boat owners and the completion of three facilities being constructed under the Artisanal Fishery Infrastructure Project at NO. 66 in Region 6, Rosignol in Region 2 and Lima in Region 2. We anticipate a production of 42,500 tons of fish in 1987 and going over the 4,000 ton mark in shrimp.

Cde. Speaker, I have identified but a few of the agricultural commodities that are being exported indeed I could add others as fruits and

fruit juices, ground provisions and vegetables, but in order to see the physical effort of the policies and programmes of this Government I wish to call your attention to two commodities of which I admit we are not yet self sufficient. These commodities are edible oil and milk. One Member of this side spoke earlier today fully on these two commodities, consequently I will not regale you with the significant efforts we have made in the area of edible oil except to say that in 1987 we will for the first time be producing soya bean oil from soyabans grown in Guyana. Cde. Speaker, these are contributions born out of research by NARI and trials by both public and private agencies based on work being quietly pursued over the last two years.

Like edible oil the second commodity of which we are not self-sufficient and about which I wish to call attention is milk. I do so particularly in the light of comments from the Opposition benches. When this Government identified milk for urgent attention and increased emphasis toward self-sufficiency it was not only a bold step, many thought it was a reckless step particularly since milk production had been declining for years. First we planned the production system identified incentives which would lead to both short and medium term development in the first instance and we introduced a programme of intensive technical assistance through an executing agency the National Dairy Development programme. First we planned the production system identified incentives which would lead to both short and medium term development in the first instance and we introduced a programme of intensive technical assistance through an executing agency the National Dairy Development Programme.

At the beginning of each year we take an inventory of dairy cattle population and other technical co-efficients which enable us to have a ready and factual measure of our progress. This has allowed us to know that we have moved from 3 million gallons in 1984 to 4.5 million gallons in 1985 and we anticipate based on other indications that when the figures for 1986 are known in a few weeks we will have increased substantially to somewhere between 5 and 6 million gallons of milk. Cde. Speaker, this side of the Assembly never said that we had enough milk, we never said we have enough edible oil - but surely even the Minority must accept that.

Cde. Speaker, I have given but a few examples of the bold initiatives we have taken in 1986 and which the budget will permit us to take in 1987. Permit me to give some information on the work to be done in 1987 by NARI on bio-technology where through the use of tissue culture high yielding

varieties can be produced in large amounts through a system of cloning. It is our intention to work initially in root crops and tuber crops and eventually to work in as varied a crop as oil palm. This technology has important implications for providing precisely the type of product that is required by an export market. Time will not permit me to give details of the intensive technical assistance to 53 farmers in coffee and cocoa in Region 2, 3, and 4 and in 1987 we have already earmarked some 400 farmers in Region 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 for assistance in furthering cocoa and coffee production. Time will not permit me to inform you in detail of the increasing number of improved bulls being made available annually by LIDCO to beef cattle farmers. Nor does it permit me to identify all the measures that are being taken to regularise the wildlife trade to ensure our compliance with international practices while at the same time meeting adequate conservation measures yet garnering the foreign exchange earnings from our wildlife resources.

Cdo. Speaker, the increased production leading to self-sufficiency and increased export earnings could not be possible without the continued efforts of the Regional Democratic Councils in their sea defence maintenance programmes and their drainage and irrigation programmes. 1987 would see expenditures of \$95 million in the rehabilitation of the pumps at Mibicuri, Black Bush Polder, and the excavation of the main and branch canals including the Torani canal. 1987 will see the completion of rehabilitation works in Leguan, Canals Polder and Pomeroon. Drainage and irrigation work at the estimated value of \$102 million will commence at Vroed-en-hoop - La Jalousie, Buxton - Friendship and Craig - Relief during this year.

During February of this year the East Bank Essequibo Development Project will become effective. This project in Region 3 involves the rehabilitation of drainage and irrigation systems, the construction of farm roads, provision of machinery repair facilities and some agricultural inputs.

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(Cde. McKenzie continues)

In addition, two areas under Abary 1 at MMA/ADA were completed in 1986 and the other two areas are projected to be completed in July 1987, 3 months ahead of schedule. These works will provide drainage and irrigation at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels to 47,000 acres of Class 1 Soils mainly for the production of rice.

Cde. Speaker, the budget presented, stated clearly that the lynch-pin of the programme for economic resuscitation in the coming years is the expansion of our productive capacity. The budget then identified three measures to be employed:

- (1) Export allowances;
- (2) Land Development Allowances;
- (3) Reactivation Allowance.

For our part in the Agricultural Sector, we have geared and are continuing to gear ourselves to ensure that all those in the services and regulatory areas of the Sector do everything possible to encourage farmers, manufacturers, processors and other entrepreneurs to make use of the opportunities and to provide the administrative arrangements to accelerate the eligibility for such allowances.

To this end, Cde. Speaker, the Guyana Marketing Corporation will continue to provide information on prices and in 1987 information on the supply of specific local commodities and information on overseas requests and interests in traditional and new commodities that may be grown in our ecozones. G.M.C. will continue to ensure the functioning of the simplified system presently in force, for exporters where they are involved in only a "one stop" that is at G.M.C. for all their documentation for exporting agricultural commodities.

In 1986 the Commissioner of Lands and Surveys issued 1241 titles totalling 14,690 acres. It is anticipated that in 1987 about 2040 titles covering 25,000 acres will be issued. We expect that these efforts will afford ready land development in the production of crops, fish and livestock for processing hence attracting export allowances. We expect that land development allowances will accrue to a large of farmers and as a consequence to that improvement or development, better husbandry practices will follow and perhaps in time a larger percentage of farmers living on their farms resulting in a number

concomitant benefits.

In conclusion, Cde. Speaker, what this budget has done is to call on the unrealized economic potential of agriculture and to say that in the light of favourable technical possibilities what was needed was added incentives to allow for further investments. The budget in essence says: "I have made available to you the private and public sectors the incentives, information infrastructure and institutions, I have made them available in personal income tax relief; in various allowances for export, for land development and for the re-opening of your factories. I have made available other tangible and intangible benefits. I now expect you to study to adopt and to make full use of these economic opportunities".

I hope, Cde. Speaker, that in the end there will be a resounding positive and unanimous mandate for the measures outlined in the budget. /Applause/

The Parliamentary Secretary, Education (Cde. Persico): Cde. Speaker, like previous contributors to the debate in this honourable Assembly, I would like to extend heartiest congratulations to the Cde. Minister of Finance on the very frank, well-balanced and comprehensive Budget Statement he delivered on Friday, January 16, 1987. For, Cde. Speaker, the Budget presentation gave a very bold and purposeful prescription for economic reconstruction. It referred to a number of areas of concern, identified immediate tasks, and highlighted a number of proposals which demand the involvement of the people of this country.

I propose, Cde. Speaker, to elaborate on two aspects of the presentation. First, I wish to comment on the section on page 59 which states:

"... the Government, cognisant of the need to render some support to the Trade Union Movement, and to enhance its capacity to bring workers' education up to a satisfactory level, and to maintain the necessary standards, has agreed to assist the Movement to the extent of roughly nine hundred thousand dollars. Specifically, financing is to be provided for capital works on the Critchlow Labour College and for the research activities of the Labour Movement".

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(Cde. Persoco continues)

In the case of Mass Games, participants also develop balance and poise; they learn to be disciplined since they are required to act with precision. Ideologically, they learn to respect their cultural heritage and to take pride in their national identity.

Basically, then, we are using physical education, sports and Mass Games as vehicles for ensuring a healthier nation, for giving comrades the opportunity to improve their physical and mental well-being and thus, for developing healthy personalities.

With regard to the drug problem, these measures will help to some extent to provide for our young people in particular, healthy alternative ways of using leisure, thereby assisting in the revival of moral standards. Indeed, Cde. Speaker, there are other support systems. For instance, the Probation and Welfare Department of the Ministry of Education continues to counsel and assist offenders and their parents and guardians. During 1987, the service will give priority to the training of staff in the prevention of drug abuse and the rehabilitation of drug offenders. This effort will be made in collaboration with the Department of Youth and Sport, the Schools' Welfare Division of our Ministry, and other similar resources within the regions and communities concerned.

Cde. Speaker and Members of this honourable Assembly, our long term benefits are assured. We have laid a good foundation. Development is now a question of time and total commitment. I thank you, Cde. Speaker. Applause

Cde. Belgrave: Cde. Speaker, when I was much younger, I attended a movie and this movie had a wonderful display. There was on stage a young lady playing a piano and the music was sweet. What came out that piano was 'Beautiful Dreamer'. The piano circled on a disc and then something came out from under the bottom of the piano holding this young lady aloft. It was a hideous monster - a guerilla. This is exactly what it is. We got wonderful speeches - King Kong. You remember that? It was a wonderful movie as we are having wonderful speeches. One would not expect from the Government benches that anything is wrong in this

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country, everything is all right. At the last part of the Minister of Finance's
if
speech he mentioned that/everything goes well deficits will turn to surpluses.
But this is only dreams. The reality of life is still yet to be faced and the
reality coming out of this budget is what the working class people of this
country will face. But before I deal properly with some issues in this budget,
Cde. Speaker, I would like to respond to my very good friend, the Deputy Leader
of the P.N.C., the Vice President responsible for Mobilisation, the Party's
political ideologue, with emphasis on socialism. He stood in this Parliament
and picked up a book and read to us what Gorba said and showed clearly
where in a socialist country the situation is similar to our concept of adjustment.
But he failed to read other paragraphs in that book. He should have, because
it is an ideological question. It is talking about the reconstruction of the
political entity where there have been some problems - the bureaucracy - some
of those being developed into a type of bureaucracy. He is warning them that there
will be adjustments in the socialist policy to weed out that system. He is
not talking about structured adjustments that the I.M.F. is speaking about
which we are moving to. You see, the Soviet Union has achieved socialism.
It has the guidance of a Communist Party. Structured adjustment has to do with
I.M.F. demands, a capitalist system. This is what we are moving to. We
are moving towards structured adjustments. We are attempting to turn the wheel
backwards in terms of preparing for the U.S. and in that level of preparation
you have plunged yourself into a pothole and equally you are plunging this
country. It will manifest itself, you will see.

(Cde. Belgrave continues)

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He spoke about joint ventures. We know Cuba had to change her structure to get in the foreign dollars. They wanted to bleed some dollars out of the capitalist system but they are not shifting back from socialism and they are not changing their position. As a matter of fact, these socialist countries are moving headlong on force towards socialism. He spoke about Poland. Everyone knows that Poland had problems. Everybody knows that solidarity had involvement with the infiltration of the CIA. Everybody knows that there was a disruption of the Polish economy and harsh laws and measures had to be made to remove the developing force of bureaucracy to turn the tide of the development of Poland. Poland now is on a headlong course to maintain and preserve the struggles that they have made in the past.

A Comrade who was once my head teacher and whom have a lot of admiration for addressed this Assembly and did not lay the facts on the table. She tarnished the value of the Budget Speech because I am afraid that it may have been the policy to hide or put the dust under the carpet some of the true realities that will come out if the Budget is implemented. The Minister of Planning got up and gave a lot of figures. I do not know figures but I know that figures have got a lot of people before Ramraj Jagnandan. They take two strokes and make 11, they take two strokes and make nought, and one stroke and make six and seven. So figures can be dangerous. I am afraid of these people when they come with this figure business because I am dealing with the stark realities of life where the bulk of the cost of living will go on the backs of the working class in this country.

And the cost of living will go up tremendously. We are being told that this devaluation is not a true devaluation. But since devaluation was mentioned in this house everything left the ground and went up in the air. You see there is no mechanism mentioned to check it. Let me give you an idea: Cooking gas will go up to \$47.00 This will last a family of 5 only one week. We are talking about working class people who have large families. I thought they would have put a subsidy on an important item like kerosene, but instead they announced that it will now be \$8.00 per gallon. In some of these homes they still have lamps and nobody is catering for that because the \$8.00 sound reasonable to us. \$8.00 is a lot of money in the lifestyle of these people. We are talking about the working class, the main wheel of our development. Okay you are saying you cannot afford it, but I am asking myself why is it that the people in the rural communities have to pay more for these commodities than the people in the city?

TAKE

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MISSING

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You are stifling the workers, you are stifling growth in this country to interfere with your own economy. You are preparing the cracks for imperialism which finds ground upon these particular areas because what you will have is dissatisfaction and it will mount and mount and mount and manifest into something is a good enough ground, is a good enough platform for imperialism. You are preparing the ground work for it. Cde. Speaker, this bit as I said has its hidden values and like I said before things are happening. The gorilla has come back. The tune is sweet but the gorilla will undoubtedly stalk the people of this country with its ugly face. I say 10 to 1 bottles of bricks, no where to settle, 10 to 1 is murder. You are murdering the Guyanese. Change your path. In the Rupununi Cde. Speaker, we used to subsidise/salt travelling for children. Twelve dollars was a passage for the child out of the Rupununi. What will be the figure now. I beg of you Cde. Speaker, I am sitting now, I beg of you, you have a little influence ask the Government to recind from their position, recind the effects of this budget. Let us recess and leave our suggestions to the Prime Minister. Have another look at the budget and ensure that whatever is done in this Parliament will be a happy note for the Government and Opposition. [Applause.]

The Speaker: Comrades and Hon. Members this completes all speakers for today. Our report of the Business Sub-committee concerning the allocation of time for the consideration of the 1987 expenditure by the Committee of Supply has been circulated to Members. I would suggest that we dispose of it before we adjourn.

Assembly in Committee.

The Speaker: ; Comrades and Hon Members I wish to report that the Business the Committee of Sub Committee of/Supply met on Thursday, January, 1987 to consider the allocation of time for consideration of the estimates in the Committees of Supply and passed a resolution on the matter. Copies of the Sub Committees minutes resolution and time table has been circulated. Would the Deputy Prime Minister/Planning and Development kindly move the necessary motion.

Cde. Parris: I now move that this committee of supply agrees to the business sub committee in its resolution.

Question put and agreed to.Assembly resumed.

Adjournment.