

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Volume 10/

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE SECOND SESSION (1982) OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA.

2nd Sitting

14:00 hrs

Thursday, 1983-02-10

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P.

Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government – People's National Congress (61)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P.,

Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P.

(Absent-on leave)

Vice-President, Work, Transport and Housing

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P.

Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance

Cde. H. Green, M.P.

Vice-President, Agriculture

Cde. B. Ramsarrop, M.P.

Vice-President, Party and State Matters

Senior Ministers (7)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P.,

Minister of Education

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P.,

Minister of National and

Regional Development

*Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P.,

Minister of Internal Trade and

Consumer Protection

*Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P.,

Minister of Energy and Mines

*Cde. Dr M. Shahabuddean, O.R., S.C., M.P.,

(Absent)

Attorney General and Minister of Justice

*Non-elected members

*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P.

Minister of Foreign Affairs

*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.

Minister of Home Affairs

Ministers (6)

Cde. U. E. Johnson, M.P.

Minister of Co-operatives

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P.

Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of
Economic Planning and Finance

*Cde. Y.V Harewood-Benn, M.P.,

Minister, in the Office of the Prime
Minister

*Cde. H. Rashid, M.P.

Minister, in the Office of the President

*Cde. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P.,

Minister of Health

*Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P.

Minister of Labour, Manufacturing
and Industrial Development

Ministers of State (2)

Cde. M. Corrica, M.P.

(Absent-on

leave)

Minister of State in the Ministry of
Internal Trade and Consumer Protection

Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P.,

(Absent-on leave)

Minister of State for Youth Sports,
in the Ministry of Education

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P.,

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Works, Transport and Housing.

Cde. D.AN. Ainsworth, M.P.,

Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of
Education.

Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P.,

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs.

*Non-elected Member

Other Members (26)

Cde. M. Ally, M.P.

Cde. M. Armogan, J.P., M.P.

Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.

Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.

Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P.

Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.

Cde. E. B. Davidson, M.P.

Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.

Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.

Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.

Cde. P. Frederick, M.P.

Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.

Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P.

Cde. A. McRae, M.P.

Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P.

Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.

Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.

Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.P.

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

Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.

Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.

Cde. H.B. Walcott-Nascimento, J.P., M.P.

Government Chief Whip

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

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

Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P.

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. B. Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Cde. C.A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Cde. W. Bipat, M.P. (Region No 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Cde. H.I. London, M.S., M.P. (Region No 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Cde. I. Chowritmootoo, M.P. (Region No 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Cde. N.R. Charles, M.P. (Region 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region 8 – Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)

Cde. A. Dorrick, M.P. (Region 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)

Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region 10 – Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

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

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P. ,(Absent)
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (8)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P.,
Minority Chief Whip.

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.

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

Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent)

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

Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P. (Absent – on leave)

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent)

Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

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

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – Cde. M.B. Henry

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER
LEAVE TO MEMBERS

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to Cde. Narine for the period 1983-02-02 to 1983-02-18, Cde. Corrica for today's sitting, Cde. R.C. Fredericks and Cde. Bishop until the end of the week and Cde. Beniprashad until 1983-02-14.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

The following papers were laid:

- (1) Report of the Ombudsman for the period October 1981 to September 1982.
/The Speaker/
- (2) (a) Annual Report of the Ministry of Finance for the year 1982.
(b) State Pension (PATRICK HASTINGS DALY) Order 1983 (No. 1) made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on the 6th January, 1983 and published in the Gazette on 15th January, 1983.
(c) Rate of Interest (Amendment) Order 1983 (No. 4) made under section 6 of the Rate of Interest Act No. 13 of 1979 on 26th January, 1983.
/The Vice-President, Economic, Planning and Finance./
- (3) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Liquor Corporation Limited for 1981. [The Vice-President, Agriculture]

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

The Minority Leader (Cde. Dr. Jagan): Cde. Speaker, I wrote you today on a matter which I consider to be of great urgency and importance. Great hardships are being created today to a large number of people and particularly young people. They are denied the possibility to get education. Physical hardships are being experienced. There is a variation of what used to happen. That is why I thought I should raise it now. Previously when mass games was first introduced students used to practice for a couple of hours a day but today they have to be there from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon. There is no proper provision for children to get proper medical attention when they are injured and all that time is wasted. Why is it that you have to have mass games from November, or whatever time it was, to February. Is it only for the glorification of the President or is it in the interest of the students?

The Speaker: You know you cannot make reference to the President.

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Cde. Dr. Jagan: I am sorry. If students are to have physical culture why is it not being done in the afternoon? I understand the previous practice was they had a book and they turn to each page and have a different colour so that if they want to signify anything it is a different colour of that page.

The Speaker: That is for the debate, Cde. Jagan. You have to satisfy me as to the urgency.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, I am just referring to the hardship, from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. No instruction in that period so the children's education is affected. Aren't we concerned about that and physical problems? They are threatening and coercing. If you do not go you will be transferred to another school.

The Speaker: Comrade and honourable Member, I did receive your notification earlier in the day and I have listened to your request on the matter you urged for me to consider. For this matter to qualify for discussion under the items I must be satisfied that it is one which is definite, one which is urgent and one which is of public importance. As regards urgency the matter must be of recent occurrence and raised without delay. You yourself said since November. That certainly could not be recent. This particular matter is not of recent occurrence and was already mentioned on previous occasions in the Assembly. During the debate on the President's address of government policy which begins today an opportunity will also arise. In the circumstances it will not be possible to permit discussion on the matter as raised by you.

MOTION RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF SITTINGS OF THE
ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

The Vice-President, Party and State Matters (Cde. Ramsaroop): Cde. Speaker, I wish to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 23(3) to permit the motion in the name of Cde. Patricia Fredericks.

The Speaker: Leave is granted.

Cde. Ramsaroop: I formally move the suspension of Standing Order No. 23(3) to enable the motion to be taken.

Question proposed, and agreed to.

Motion Carried.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS – FIRST READING

The following Bills were introduced and read the First time:

- (1) Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Bill 1983 – Bill No. 1/1983. /The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance/
- (2) Companies (Amendment) Bill 1983 – Bill No. 2/1983 /The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance/
- (3) Praedial Larceny (Enhancement of Punishment) Bill 1983 – Bill 3/1983. /The Vice-President, Agriculture/
- (4) Trade (Amendment) Bill 1983 – Bill No. 4/1983 /The Minister of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection./

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

The Speaker: Cde. Ramsaroop.

Cde. Vice President, Party and State Matters (Cde. Ramsaroop): Cde. Speaker, pursuant to the requirement of the Standing Order, I wish to make the following nominations to constitute the Committee of Selection. I have consulted the People's Progressive party, the major Minority Party in this Assembly, and these are the nominations after consultation with them:

Cde. Ramsaroop, Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, Cde. U.E. Johnson, Cde. O.E. Clarke, Cde. P.A. Rayman, Cde. H.L.B. Singh, Cde. H.B. Walcott-Nascimento, Cde. H.I. London, Cde. Ram Karran and Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud seconded.

MOTION

APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

"Be it resolved that this National Assembly approves of the Government's policy adumbrated in the President's Address which was made to the Assembly on Monday 1983-02-07." /Cde. P. Fredericks/

The Speaker: Cde. Fredericks.

Cde. P. Fredericks: Cde. Speaker, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on Notice Paper No. 1, which seeks this Assembly's approval of the Government's policy set out in the President's Address on Monday, 7th March, 1983.

I wish to first of all offer congratulations to our Leader and President for two major events that would occur in his life this year. That is, his attainment of the age of sixty years and also on his achievement of thirty years as a parliamentarian, which is no mean achievement, since it is during this period that some of the most significant changes have taken place in the history of our own country. /Applause/

Just to perhaps refresh the memories of those who might tend to forget too quickly, I would like to cite just a few of these. We have moved during this period from colonialism to independence, then on to Republican status. We have seen major achievements like nationalization of our main industries. We have witnessed development in every

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corner of our country through the policy of self-reliance and using the instrument of selfhelp which should by now be second nature to all Guyanese. We can, I am sure, recollect that just a few years ago when we embarked on the policy of selfhelp for our development many then laughed at the idea. It seemed a mere myth to some but we have risen to the occasion and today we have concrete evidence of selfhelp projects throughout Guyana completed by the people themselves for their own benefits. It is because of our strong will to survive that we now have projects: houses, roads, recreation centres, schools and many more such facilities all done by selfhelp. I could go on and on outlining the changes that have occurred during the life of our Leader in this Assembly and our country as a whole. But this is not my objective here today. I think that the most fitting any Member of this Assembly today can pay to such an outstanding stalwart is to follow closely in his footsteps.

/Applause/

I would also like to congratulate Cde. President for the inspiring direction given to us in his address on Monday last, direction as to what should be the main policy thrust which will guide this nation over the year and even beyond the year. We have noted that in one of his major addresses to this nation the Cde. President remarked that we have to develop agriculture in four major aspects, that is, on an individual basis, on a professional basis and, also, regional and national projects. It is obvious that because of the present state of our economy we must adhere strictly to a programme for our survival. We must, as we commonly say, get our priorities right. It is true that although we realise the gravity of the situation there are many Guyanese who still insist that they should treat themselves to the luxuries which we cannot now afford, and they do this at any cost. This is why among us today we have incidence of sabotage, black-marketing, economic crimes, smuggling and other illegal acts involving foreign exchange which are aiding in the decline of our economy. But as was stated by Cde. President, these subversives will be dealt with accordingly and our main objective this year is to provide our population with the basic essentials for their survival, that is, nutritious food, clothing, reasonable housing, medical care, potable water supply, power, reliable public transport, recreation and, last but not least, relevant training which will provide our populace with the necessary skills which our country needs at this time.

Throughout its history Guyana has been renowned for its agricultural potential. It has been the policy of this Government from its inception to promote agriculture to its fullest. It is as clear as crystal now that to survive this crisis agriculture must be the major thrust and must represent the area of concentration and priority. It therefore goes without saying that all must be involved and because of the type of system which operates in this country, there is a place for every sector of the population regardless of their ethnic origin, their political affiliation or their religious belief.

We first of all have to embark on more agriculture on an individual basis. This is the time when every Guyanese must be able to cultivate even on a small scale to assist their own personal economy. We also have the professional farmers and great emphasis will be placed on obtaining the necessary inputs for the acceleration of their programme. Then there are the projects which will be undertaken at a regional level. These projects too will have priority which will be undertaken at a regional level. These projects too will have priority and should be managed in such a way that they can become the backbone of the economy of the ten regions.

We still have to improve on the management of our state projects. We still have to continue to diligently seek markets for better prices for our rice and sugar. Diversification has for sometime been a major programme of Guysuco and will continue to be so, exploring all possibilities.

Already, we are well on the way to national self-sufficiency in edible oil. We are now at the stage where more and more of our people are discovering the nutritious value and the delicious tastes of legumes grown locally. Pigeon peas, minica, blackeye peas and mung are now household names among our housewives. Perhaps if we did not find ourselves in this crisis we would not have yet been awakened to the reality of what our Guyanese soil could produce. Not so long ago, during my school life, minica and mung were names unknown to me. But I can assure you that today my children can write it, they can spell it and they enjoy eating it. [Applause] There are some crops, too, which in some regions can be grown on a very large scale with very little inputs. One such profitable crop is the peanut.

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(Cde. P. Fredericks continues)

These regions will also in their programmes allow for mass cultivation of such crops.

Cde. Speaker, fishing and shrimping are old trades in Guyana, but it has taken this Government and this Leader to make it a major industry. Apart from providing us with a cheap source of protein, it will very soon be one of the industries that will be providing us with much foreign exchange.

Our forestry resources have long been lying idle and we will during 1983 endeavour to exploit it to its fullest. Not only will we then be providing an important input for housing our people, but it will be another export to the Caribbean and other countries. Already Guyana Timbers Limited has embarked on the production of pre-fab houses, shingles and wallaba post.

Gold too Cde. Speaker, is another area that perhaps we have not been exploiting to the fullest in the past. With the re-organisation of the Gold Industry our economy will benefit more. In this re-organisation and restructuring there will be no place for illegal dealers. We have for too long been wasteful and were in the past too quick to throw away what we termed as waste. However, time and the necessity have proven us wrong. We are now exploring the possibilities of making use of such products like our sugar cane bagasse, our rice bran, our animal fats and many more. During this period too, many other non-traditional areas of manufacturing will be assisted; the manufacture of clay bricks, the production on a large scale of our local handicraft and many more.

We have the resources, we have the skills and all that is required now is the will and ingenuity of the Guyanese people.

Cde. Speaker, in all these areas of production and in this basic programme for survival the regions have a major role to play in executing this programme – to first of all bring about food sufficiency and to produce at a level of quantity and quality and fit for the export market and for their local consumption. No more can the regions afford to depend wholly and solely on central Government to finance their programmes and projects. The Regional Democratic Councils have the responsibility of instituting programmes and projects that will be assets to their individual regions in the first place and then to the country as a whole.

Through it all we have to bear in mind that we are working for the general improvement of the lives of all Guyanese. The Local Democratic system is a system which is a people's oriented system and is implemented by the people themselves for the people themselves. It is a system which is unique for the type of development we need in Guyana. The system is there for us to benefit from and we must ensure that we make maximum and beneficial use of it.

No doubt these programmes which I have touched on generally will be expounded fully by my colleagues during the course of this debate. Cde. Speaker, as put over to us by Cde. President in his address and I quote "ours is indeed a war of survival" and to survive we must accept the proposition by putting our economy on a war footing. We should not let this term scare us. We as Guyanese people have the capacity to survive. During the 1949-1945 war we survived. We were not then masters of our own faith. We did this for the British. Why can't we then do this for ourselves now? 1983 is termed 'year of will' – a slogan which we shall all carry with us mentally since if we have the will to survive, survive we will. Cde. Speaker, I now put this motion standing in my name for acceptance by the House.

The Speaker: Cde. Bipat.

Cde. Bipat: Cde. Speaker, I rise to second the motion clearly put forward by Cde. Patricia Fredericks general and in so far as the dual success of our President in attaining the age of sixty and at the same time thirty years in office.

Cde. Speaker, this twentieth century has been an era full of contrast. On the one hand, there has been an unprecedented effort to create international organisation capable of maintaining law and order and security while on the other hand this century has been an age full of unparalleled barbarisms. Man can be quite civilised at one moment and as ruthless as wild animals at another. In so doing I wish to quote our Prime Minister who then as Deputy Prime Minister in his book "glimpses of the world economy" in which he states 'Wherein lies our hope' "Our hope lies in MAN, not a foreign MAN, not a MAN that wages battle against us covertly or openly, but in MYSELF. Both man and animal are products of nature. Both are placed in nature.

The animal does not transform nature, he extracts from it his immediate means of subsistence; he does not aim beyond the satisfaction of his material needs.

Man on the other hand is a producing artist. Man realises himself as a man only by realising nature, by transforming it to his measure."

Those were the words of the Deputy Prime Minister Cde. P.A. Reid and in that manner Cde. Speaker, our President in his address has been telling us on a number of occasions that we the Guyanese people can overcome our difficulties.

Cde. Speaker, as a consequence of that our Cde. Leader has been consistent on the issues that confront us, especially in the field of decentralisation. The issue of decentralisation is topical and it is necessary from the outset to settle its definition along with certain other terms which will form an integral part of the subject and consequently will be used. In the points which follow decentralisation will connote and embrace both processes of decentralisation and devolution. What therefore are the ingredients of decentralisation and devolution? Decentralisation, I submit, is the delegation of authority adequate for the discharge of specified functions to staff of a central department who is situated outside the headquarters, while devolution is the legal conferring of powers to discharge special or residual functions upon formally constituted Local Authorities of Local Agents.

It must be recognised from the beginning that the magnitude of the task with which modern Governments are faced makes it highly desirable if not necessary for them to provide a reservoir of local energies, enthusiasm and initiative in the form of Local Authorities in the Guyana situation – the Regional Democratic Councils to aid in the achievement of the goals of Government. Despite this desire however, it must be conceded that not all functions of Government can be decentralised. From the very nature of some functions effective performance of them can best be managed from the centre. In this category are vital functions as: (i) law and order (ii) Military Control and Defence, transport and communication and fourthly, fiscal policy.

The new system of Local Democracy as adumbrated by the People's Constitution is geared for development. As such centralization with its bureaucratic system is too inflexible and consequently impedes the march along the road to socialist democracy. Further in seeking the desired development of its communities, Government comes face to face with the urgent need for decentralisation, thus providing a means or the impetus of social change and economic improvement.

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The role of Central Government is to initiate and carry out most of the things that must be done to accelerate social change and economic development and these involve: (i) Formulating comprehensive plans and programmes as a basis for the allocation of resources of a functional and geographic basis. (ii) Providing the legislative framework and funds for the programme.

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(3) Providing leadership, inspiration, policies and technical standards for extending services on a nation-wide basis;

(4) Creating administrative machinery and training technical and administrative personnel;

new ideas

(5) Introducing/and practices among the people, stimulating popular involvement in development programmes and developing local government and other local institutions to maintain and build upon the innovations, with continuing participation by the people;

(6) Executing overall development measures, such as the construction of major public works, which will increase the opportunities for fruitful local effort.

In Guyana, all the above functions are carried out by Government through the channels of its Ministries, but it has been felt over the years that our measure of underdevelopment was due to our paternalistic reliance upon Central Government to conceptualise plans and make decisions for us. Decentralisation, it is argued, will reverse this reliance upon Central Government, thus creating self-reliant productive communities which accept co-operativism as a way of life.

Further, in the present bureaucracy and red tape, centralisation can be pushed too far. For example, in some instance approval at the highest level must be obtained before even minor actions at the lowest level can be taken. As an example, appointments of even the lowest grades of personnel in schools may have to be cleared through the office of the Teachers Service Commission. Expensive machinery lie idle for lack of spare parts which await approval from headquarters. Again, in some instances, the equipment may not be moved to another district or school for want of permission from the centre. A case in point is the amount of expensive equipment lying idle at Manchester Secondary School while the Community High School nearby is longing for equipment to carry out its programme.

Cde. Speaker, in speaking about consistency, as I indicated earlier, I wish now to quote our Cde. Leader who, in his address at the opening of the Caribbean Regional Seminar on "Central Services to Local Authorities" held in March 1971 said:

"We feel that the people, through their Local Government agencies, must be involved in the development process, and there are two good reasons for that feeling, that idea, in our context. Number one, I think it is dehumanising to have some central agency issuing dictates and laying down the law of the Medes and Persians. The result of that could hardly be the production of real citizens, but on a number of dependent robots; and, secondly, in a country like Guyana, which I believe is not peculiar in the Caribbean, there are not enough resources for the Central Government to provide all that is needed at the Local Government level, and consequently we have got to recognize that part of our national capital is the initiative

of the people, and if we do not get all these aspects of our national capital involved in the national exercise of development, we are pro tanto poorer and to that extent less effective in our national goals and quests."

The Cde. Leader continues:

"The argument has gone on about it and as to the merits and demerits of centralization and decentralization. My Government is convinced that there must be decentralization, that there must be a wider area of responsibility given to the Local Government agencies; there must be a greater autonomy than we have had in the past; there must be specific tasks undertaken by them, which, in the past, were undertaken and ineffectively carried out by the Central Government, oblivious of the wishes and aspirations of the people in the far-flung corners of our country."

So said the Cde. Leader in March, 1971.

Cde. Speaker, democracy works best only if people participate in the exercise of power, only if there is joint decision-making. Some other areas of time-wasting from centralisation are as follows. I wish to use the field of education as an example because of the role education has to play in this period of national survival:

(1) Uneconomic distribution of school supplies. Supplies must go to the centre in Georgetown before they are distributed to the regions;

(2) Excessive prescriptions from the centre; signing of admission certificates for entry to secondary schools, an exercise which should be the duty of the Education Officers in the regions;

(3) Excessive adherence to the education code which has long outlived its usefulness;

(4) Material or social rewards which workers at the centre enjoy make it difficult to recruit staff for the regions.

When all the hindrances and consuming efforts resulting from over-centralisation of control are taken into account, it is reasonable to advocate that rational decentralisation can facilitate the co-ordination of services generally and educational services in particular at the local level, and thereby increase their effectiveness.

On the question of purposes of decentralisation, the Government decentralises its authority so that decisions can be made as rapidly as possible and are practicable in order to accelerate the economic, social and cultural development, and to make the effects of programmes more lasting. Decentralisation, it is held, can serve a number of purposes related to development generally. (1), it relieves many an executive at the ministerial level from involvement in many purely local issues;

(2) It frees key officials at the Ministries from onerous and detailed tasks and increases the speed and effectiveness of administration at all levels;

(3) The rapid expansion in the various services greatly increased the number of daily transactions, but effective decentralisation should reduce many irritants

and wasted efforts which centralisation would have imposed.

Decentralisation involving effective participation and involvement by the people in Government's programmes carried out locally can yield many benefits and advantages:

(1) The people will have a better understanding of what Government proposes through their involvement, for instance, ⁱⁿ the Regional Education Committee and the Parent/Teacher Association, the Regional Agricultural Committee and the Farmers Associations;

(2) Through this understanding, they will be more likely to adopt the new ideas and practices of Government. The purpose of Mass Games and the agriculture thrust in schools will be better appreciated;

(3) Use the services offered, Agricultural Extension Officers, school farms etc. in the interest of the communities;

(4) Contribute their own effort and resources to the programmes- self-help building programmes, the essential ingredient being self-help.

The Speaker: Two minutes more, Cde. Bipat.

Cde. Bipat: I wish to conclude by saying in order to raise our national resources, we have a major priority to raise significantly - for survival - agricultural production. There must be transformation from subsistence farms into commodity-producing farms. A factor which must not be overlooked is the opportunity now being given for persons to use their spare time constructively and productively both in their own and in the national interest. This is a challenge.

Further, we should realise the necessity to bring about a state of self-reliance and self-sufficiency so that, in planning our economic, social and other advancement, we will be free from having to make adjustments because of decisions made by persons or countries outside our own. In our hands lies our destiny. Let them be safe hands.

Cde. Speaker, this makes us much more confident and proud of what we are doing and what we have achieved in the past and I am sure that under the leadership of our beloved Cde. Leader, Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, the President of our beloved country, we shall break through with the will of the people. [Applause.]

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14:45 – 14:55 hrs

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The Minority Leader (Cde. Dr. C. Jagan): Cde. Speaker, a great deal has been said by the last two speakers about the merits of the President, and this year it seems that a great deal of fuss is being made including what I said already about coercing children to glorify the President. Unfortunately no one has very much to show in terms of achievement after 18 years of misrule in this country. No one minds glorifying someone, but it must be for deeds. What are the deeds? What has been achieved after 18 years? The country is in a mess. What has been given to us in this speech? Nothing. It is empty. On one page says:

"Tremendous difficulties and inconvenience which we have experienced." We who? Are we talking about the masses or are we talking about the ruling P.N.C. elite and a parasitic class which has emerged around it? What difficulties are they facing?

Next, they have put blame again and again on others. They blame the world crisis. There was a picket line the other day when the T.U.C. who brought them to power was picketing against them for the first time in eighteen years. They said it was the IMF fault. They were warned about the IMF but they went into it and said it was the only road they could go. That was in 1978 – year of survival.

Next, there is talk about putting economy on a war footing. Let us talk about will, clear perceptions and perceptives and that these are essential. Of course, there are the usual pleads and threats. As to priorities, they are set out: agriculture, fisheries, forestry, gold. First of all the priorities are not necessarily correct for real development from a strictly planning point of view and development point of view. This Government blundered in the early period when they concentrated on infrastructure. When we warned them it was no use, telling us about the debt of the Third World. Sure, there are certain factors from the capitalist world crisis which contributes to this problem with them. But what is equally important is in the wrong planning strategies which imperialism sold to some of those to whom they put power in their hands and as a result economies now cannot produce enough to pay for those debts shortages. The figures are there for all to see what production level we have reached. Had the planning strategy been correct from the very beginning this country today would have tripled production level perhaps in the three main sectors of the economy and we would not have been up to our necks in having difficulties to pay those debts. That is the first thing. More extraction of natural resources is not the way out.

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This emphasis cannot save Guyana. Primary producers alone extracting natural resources will keep you in a stage of dependency – capitalist dependency and when you are in that position, when a world capitalism is in crisis, obviously you are not going to get out of it. What is needed is a balanced industrial agricultural growth and a planned proportional development of the economy. That is what is laid down by the people who talk about building a Socialist future. That is what is laid down. This is elementary. Why is not being implemented here? After all these years of mistakes and being told what is correct, why is it they are not doing so? Obviously, they have got the country in such a mess now, that they are not any longer even free even if they want to do it. They have to succumb to orders, political orders from outside.

As to perceptions, I said the priorities were wrong, perceptions in the past were wrong, they were clouded because of orders from imperialism and now we see letters written to the World Bank to the IMF about what direction our economy will now take. It was not just voluntarily written orders came too. That is what is wrong. Now dealing with perceptives, the President said we will provide the people with the essentials as distinct from luxuries and fripperies. Since when milk, oil, soap, bread, kerosene, gas, peas are fripperies? Since when? You can't get them you can provide them to the people, now you are talking about providing essentials. Why are they not here? The fripperies are the things taking place like taking plane to Commonwealth Conference in Australia, to Cancun in Mexico, there is another one now going to Delhi. Those are the fripperies! Cut them out! By the way, Cde. Speaker, I understand the delegation to the Non-aligned Conference will be fifty-five. Recently there was one to Jamaica with a delegation of forty-two. They went on a special chartered plane. The plane was taken from the New York run to go to Delhi. I saw a rationalisation in last Sunday's Chronicle saying that it is cheaper to charter than having the delegation go to London then having to pay hotel bills and then having to go on again, what ridiculous nonsense. I understand it would cost us nothing because we have the Plane Guyana Airways going to New York. I also understand that the Indian Government

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is putting up a special Super Jet Airliner to take the delegates from New York all the way to India. Let the Minister of Foreign Affairs answer. I am told the Indian delegation wants only a few both for the purpose of expenses and also hotel accommodation – perhaps not more than twelve or even less. I am told that the invitation is for one week and they want to go for three weeks to tour India with the jet. Cde. Chairman, that is what I would call frippery that is not essential. This is adding salt to the wound of the people, like putting lemon and adding salt. This is what is happening in this country. Disgrace! Perspective. Nothing has been done to achieve the aims set out in this so called Constitution. The right to work. Instead of the right to work we have dismissals and probably more coming at the corner. Free medicine, free education, see what level they have gone to. The right to leisure, people have to scrape and earn now from two or three jobs to earn a living if they can find them. Land to the tiller, where is that? "Tremendous difficulties," to quote the President, let us say what the T.U.C. said about this. Mr. Pollydore, Secretary to the T.U.C., said the average worker, Cde. Chairman, is eating only one meal a day and the children are going to school with tea only in the morning.

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(Cde. Dr. Jagan continues)

Children are going to school with tea only in the morning and what tea means? Not tea as we were accustomed to having it here. Congopump and bush tea and sugar water. They cannot afford green-tea anymore. Oh, the Congopump got more nutritional value than the other tea we are accustomed to? Maybe.

Cde. Speaker, the same T.U.C. said last year in February that the average worker's income after tax was \$250, but he was spending \$654 a month. A subsequent report in July of the T.U.C. special subcommittee said that the workers standard of living fell from January 1981 to mid last year by 25%. They recommended a minimum wage of \$29.70 per day. The workers are not getting \$12.71 per day. That is what they have given the workers and they are talking about fripperies and something else. Cde. Speaker, it is an insult to tell workers who are in that condition about fripperies and luxuries. They cannot even get the barest essentials. They cannot find them and they cannot afford them. That is a fact of life in this country today under this regime. The perspectives. At one time they were talking about a socialist future. I have not read any word about socialism. They are dropping that from the Lexicon now. Their masters are telling them to forget about Socialism. Will. The will to survive. The workers must tighten their belts some more. They have to discipline themselves. Okay, but what about political will of the Government. That is what we have to talk about. Political will to solve financial problems, to redistribute income of the poor, to find political solutions, to have a policy, regional and international which is in favour of this nation in keeping with patriotic sentiments and aspirations and in keeping with internationalist's obligation.

First of all, political will to solve financial problems. They now say it is I.M.F. fault. In 1978 at a special T.U.C. conference from September to October. I presented a speech and said the I.M.F. road is not the road to follow. Yet the Government signed it. They followed

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it. Cde. Speaker we have said that what is necessary to solve the financial problems is a revolutionary, not I.M.F. pro-imperialist way. That is not the way. A revolutionary way on behalf of the people. That means if we want to put the economy on a war footing, if by war footing we mean that we want to mobilise our financial resources then the P.P.P. has stated what must be done. It is not that we do not have the money. \$624 million was estimated to be collected last year in revenue. But out of that, \$462 million was to pay debt and compensation payments, \$224 million was to pay salaries.

Well, in this booklet 'Strengthen the Party, defend the masses, liberate Guyana' the Central Committee Report to the P.P.P Congress I would like to read to you what we said about the question of solving the problems in a revolutionary way not in the I.M.F way to bring about immediate relief and raise morale. Page 31 "We propose to shift the burden from the backs of the poor to those who can afford it. The high lifestyle, extravagance and privileges of the P.N.C ruling class must be cut and the tribute going to imperialist vested interests must be slashed. The national cake must be distributed in favour of the masses. To cope with the chronic budget deficit and foreign exchange crisis it is necessary to

- (1) suspend debt and compensation payment or drastically reduce to one-quarter of current payments. This means reduction from \$462 million to \$115 million in total debt payments and from \$195 million to \$49 million in foreign debt payment. Unless forced by mass pressure the imperialists will agree to rescheduling of debt only on condition of a surrender of our national independence

That is dealing with debts. That is a big problem now all over and many countries are now talking not only about Socialist and Marxist debts, about cancelling the debt, about renouncing the debt, about refusing to pay the debt so much so that imperialists themselves now are faced with that kind of development and banking collapses, the international banking. They now are moving to put money in the I.M.F. Increase it by 50 percent and so on because that was called for a year ago and U.S rejected it. Now they are forced to come around to that position to put more money in the I.M.F so they can lend. Only last night the Brandt Commission made a statement on this question that the whole capitalist world and the dependant world hooked to it is likely to collapse if something is not done to rescue the international banking system to which a lot of money is owed and they are faced with default from third world countries. That is a revolutionary way, not to sit around and fiddle around with a lot of platitudes as in this speech. I go on to Number 2. What is our solution?

- (2) cut out the extravagance of the P.N.C elite
 - (a) reduce vice-presidents from five to one
 - (b) cut the number of ministers by half
 - (c) cut ministers' and superscale salaries by one-third
 - (d) reduce overseas trips and allowances by half

I just referred to one of them, the safari to Non-Aligned.

- (e) reduce purchase of arms and freeze additional recruitment of police and army personnel

Recently some more guns came into the country, heavy machinery, heavy ammunition.

For what?

- (f) reduce Ministry of Foreign Affairs by half- expenditure increased from \$3 million in 1972 to \$16.5 million in 1982
 - (g) abolish National Service or severely restrict it - \$186 million spent since 1974 with negligible results
 - (h) reduce Information Services by half
 - (i) abolish Ministry of National Development now merged with Regional Development.
- (3) take drastic steps to end corruption. If that were done it would bring us about \$400 million under the two heads - the cut in bureaucracy, the cut in the political elite and the cut in the debt and compensation payments.

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(Cde. Dr. C. Jagan continues)

With that it is possible to do things to help the people to raise morale. Mr. Speaker, many things need to be done and everybody understands this in this country today that the morale of the people is extremely low and it is no use just making pleas. They are falling on deaf ears. People are going away; they do not have their hearts in things. How will you do this? We have suggested:

- (1) Increase the wages to a decent minimum wage.
- (2) Increase N.I.S. pensions and benefits to contributors because those benefits are very low at the moment and the N.I.S. has a lot of money.
- (3) Increase the old age pensions to at least \$100 a month. We should raise also social assistance from \$20 a month.

Recently an old person came to me. They have cut her social assistance from \$20 to \$10 and when we raised this with the office dealing with this they said people have to go and help themselves, and there is a likelihood that there will be further cuts from the \$10 they are getting. This is a disgrace to people who have contributed their labour to the building of this country. This N.I.S. should pay unemployment relief to thousands of workers who were sacked by the Government and others who cannot find work.

We should have a school-feeding programme. How could children learn when they have to go to school with bare tea? Let Hamilton Green tell us how he is going to solve that problem when he speaks. We demand also that there should be an urgent works programme. In the crisis in America in the 1930s they started a programme under the Roosevelt era to help the unemployed people. It did a lot of good. /Interruption/

The Speaker: Please do not interrupt Cde. Jagan. If not, we will get a treatise on 1930.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: We also want a comprehensive training programme to train people with additional skills because that is another area where things are falling down in this country. Things are not running properly because lots of the people with skills are going away. Therefore you have to motivate the people to stay here. Therefore, give them a chance to live decently and also train them so they can do the job well. Those are some of the things which we advocate so far as the motivation of the people is concerned.

In addition to that, the political will – there has to be a recognition that what is needed in this country is a political solution. Without that you can talk and read lectures to us, as the last speaker did, of all the glories of decentralisation. But it is all going down on paper. It means nothing because nobody is listening, nobody is concerned. You can set up all the machinery you want, Local Government, decentralisation, and it is not going to work.

We have just put out an open letter to the Ottawa Mayor. We asked her if she knew that Local Government elections were not held here since 1970 when they were rigged. She came for twinning, Georgetown with Ottawa. We want to ask her if she knows that and all the other frauds which occur here from time to time.

Incidentally, on that score, Cde. Speaker, what did the Canadians say in the Report of the Sub-Committee on Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. I will read you some sections. Section 31 states:

"Mr. Burnham has virtually blocked all peaceful avenues to social and political change."

Section 28 states:

"In the opinion of many the Burnham Government is in a sense an administrative dictatorship which robs itself in the vestments of democracy."

Then it goes on to recommendations. It states:

"The Government not terminate but reduce its aid to Guyana and direct its development assistance to small projects in the private sector; and convey to Guyanese authorities its extreme disapproval of their human rights policies and practices."

Their friends who brought them to power see how they are wrecking the country. They are no longer prepared to throw good money over bad. It is a waste of time; they are trying to put it somewhere else.

Unless that problem of democracy is solved in Guyana, I mean real and fundamental democracy, and there is the observance of human rights, we are not going to solve anything and we are just beating the air. A lot of trumpets and show and palaver going on are not going to rescue the situation. Then we come again where bold leadership is necessary, political will. If you want to develop out of the mess which is facing the world today it

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cannot be done under dependent capitalism under which countries like Guyana, Latin America, Central America are caught. Even socialist orientation, much of the transition from capitalism to socialism which is written in our Constitution, requires close links with the socialist world. Let the former theoretician Chandisingh tell us if that is not true. I am circulating a booklet on that article question now to my executive. This is one of the theoretical principles of Marxism/Leninism which they said they subscribed to sometime ago. But where are the links?

The President, when he was Prime Minister, went to Moscow in 1978. He was offered unlimited credits; he was offered help to rehabilitate the bauxite industry, to buy bauxite. He was offered help to develop the gold industry. Nothing has been done except to buy some Lada cars and give them to all the big shots. Because they do not want to move in a revolutionary way in foreign policy, they use imprecise language like "North/South," not capitalist/socialist or imperialist/socialist, "North/South." This we know is a term which is used but it is not a precise term because the north also has socialist countries, not just capitalist. We hear about south south co-operation but surely that alone is not enough. Most "Third World" countries are under-developed. Most "Third World" countries are not opposed to having south south co-operation. We agree with that. But that is not enough.

It is necessary for "Third World" countries, in their struggle against imperialism to fashion a new world international order, to have close links with the socialist community. Without that it is impossible. But we do not hear anything about that in this document. We hear the talk of imperialism? Only one time in this paper the word 'imperialism' has been mentioned and that is by the way.

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(Cde. Dr. Jagan continues)

What we have inherited in the past, but there is nothing about struggle against imperialism in this paper.

Then we come to non-alignment – fooling the people that we are going to a conference jamboree. But what did Mr. President say? In Page 24 of this same booklet, L.F.S. Burnham called for the Caribbean to be transformed into a zone of peace, free from the machinations of the great powers. In the same vein, the P.N.C. Youth arm the Y.S.M. called on the big powers to desist from all overt and covert military action in the region. When they were getting pressure from Brazil in the mid 60s, they did not talk like this. They changed from their original line of two super powers to imperialisms and they developed close links with the Soviet Union and Cuba. That is a fact. But now the Minister gets up on the radio and says – the great powers or superpowers are trying to take advantage of the non-aligned movement. I am writing a letter to the Chronicle to deal with this question of nonalignment and I hope they will publish it. It makes a lot of sense, you can read it. I will send you a special copy.

Stop talking about major powers, great powers and equal blame – stop talking. Cde. Chairman, the non-align movement has a spectrum from the right to the centre to the left. The P.N.C. historically in the last eighteen years – started out on the right, then moved to the left and now has gone to the middle. They have gone to the middle – to an equidistant position from the "two great powers." that is the kind of language they are talking about now and it is manifested /Interruption/

The Speaker: Dr. Jagan don't worry with the Minister.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, they are retreating and this is shown up in the kind of language they use now. They deliberately do not work to be precise that is why they have to use language like that. That is where imperialism – United States want the non aligned movement to be a neutralist or rightist position. At least, they condemned it. John Foster Dulles said it was an immoral movement. You either have to be with us or you are against us – you cannot be non-aligned. But Carter and Kennedy were a little more clever. They wanted to woe countries like India and so on, to see if they can bring them to the middle,

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centre position – equidistant from the so-called super powers the great powers, and that is where the PNC is moving.

Now the next – regional co-operation, here again bold leadership is necessary. I heard over the radio last night or the night before – that Maurice Bishop was attacking the United States for selling arms to Guatemala, for murdering people inside Guatemala and for threatening the independence of Belize, and that he had sent a letter to all the Governments in Caricom. I hope you will have the guts – not you Cde. Speaker, they will have the guts to come out and agree with Maurice Bishop and say that United States imperialism must be condemned for saying that the human right position is improving in Guatemala when people are being killed and slaughtered and that more weapons must be sent there now. It is a disgrace and we must speak out if we are interested in the region and if we are interested in humanity. Don't sit idle. Last but not least world solidarity.

Cde. Speaker, the whole world is threatened today. The President in his speech talked about the destructive capacity and then he went on to speak of the danger facing the world. He says "the world seems to be in disarray – that is on the economic side and teetering on the brink of disaster, if not of a holocaust." The reference of course is the danger of a nuclear war. "We read of missiles, costing billions, whose destructive capacity causes the most fertile imagination to boggle" and so on. On this issue I do not think we should have any difference.

Vast amounts of money are being spent for the arms race and here again we must not talk about equal responsibility. The fact of the matter is we know that the cold war was started by imperialism. NATO was created by imperialism. The Warsaw Pact was a defensive pact created by socialist countries. Ask Chandisingh if that is not correct. All over the world, the balance of forces has shifted against imperialism – Reagan who was a witch hunter when he was a Hollywood second grade actor, was in the camp with Nixon who hounded the Hollywood Tent. By hounded I mean their names were black listed by the Un-American Activities Committee. They lost their jobs as screen writers, as actors and so on. Reagan was one of them then persecuting those people. Incidentally, one of them having lost his job wrote in a pseudonym – a film script for a film called the 'Brave One.' It won an Oscar award for screen writing. Only when the man presented himself to get his award was it realised that he was the one who had been witch hunted.

Times have changed. Here again we must not only sit down and talk about equal blame, and the super powers or the great powers are spending billions. The fact of the matter is the Soviet Union has taken initiative on many many occasions. The last time under President Brezhnev, the Supreme Soviet put out a peace appeal. Unfortunately, we could not get it debated in here. There is another one now and I hope the Minister of Foreign Affairs will agree that we should have a debate in this House on that question so that we can register here – at least unitedly that we are against the arms race. We are against the non sense called 'zero option,' we are for the breaking down of nuclear weapons to a level where there can still be equal security on both sides, so that both sides can feel safe that the security will not be in peril.

Cde. Speaker, those are the points which I want to make today. If this country is to get out of the mess that it is in, you need bold leadership and those points which I mentioned are absolutely necessary. Take Grenada, Nicaragua, Cuba, the Revolutionary Democratic Countries, Ethiopia, Yemen. This is the course they are taking in the third world.

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(Cde. Dr. Jagan continues)

Yes, Suriname, too, was fighting imperialism, calling imperialism and talking about transnational corporations. They are not like you, bowling and scraping. We want to avoid going down, sinking further. We are in a vicious circle at the moment. There is no doubt about that. Cde. Chairman, if they examined their hearts carefully they would see that they are dejected. They do not have any spirit in them and they are calling on the people for spirit. Look at them! What they need now is a spirit similar to ours on this side of the Assembly. If the government members had it, they would have something moving – the spirit that comes out of revolutionary confidence, revolutionary practices, revolutionary policies. That is what this country needs. They do not have it today and therefore we think this government should scrap the seats of power and let us have a new deal in Guyana.

The Speaker: Cde. Jagan, you cannot say that democracy is not existing here. You had full 45 minutes with little or no heckling. Cde. Green.

The Vice-President, Agriculture (Cde. Green): Cde. Speaker, may I first join with the comrades who moved and seconded the Motion in congratulating the Cde. Leader and Executive President for what I consider a fighting speech, fighting in a situation that can only retrieve itself if we have the will to survive and – in spite of what the previous speaker said – the capacity to fight and to fight with and behind a great man and a great leader.

/Applause/

We have had the year 1982 described in many ways and in many places by many people but for me, for us, 1982 was an interesting year and a good year because it was the year that brought to our attention the realities of the world as it is, the realities of our own economic circumstances and realities to the majority of people in this country that there we are, we need to fight and fight together, and fighting together includes all people. It includes those who are misguided; it includes those who for jealousy and other reasons seem not able or capable of grasping the situation of the world as it is today.

The Cde. Leader said that we need to put our economy on a war footing and he dealt with what we consider the essential requirements. I heard the previous speaker talk about glorifying a leader. I would just like in passing to say that every group of people, every

generation that is intellectually at work must identify – and history has shown this – a single person or group of persons who by dedication and perspicacity provide that leadership that contends that people have a right to dignity. I do not know whether you want to say "glorify" or "recognise" the qualities of leadership. We in Guyana and in the People's National Congress have, over the past 30 odd years, identified and recognised that person as Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham. /Applause/ We therefore make no apologies, absolutely none, this year when we pay him honour and say to him, "In spite of the difficulties, you must continue to lead us." /Applause/

Dr. Jagan says we do not have much to show. Perhaps the efficiency in this honourable Assembly is that we have all kinds of professions represented here, all kinds of skills. As I look around, I see a veterinary surgeon; I see lawyers and I see teachers but, also, we do not have an optician, so that if he does not see, it is not, perhaps, our fault. It is significant that the Leader of the Minority only found it convenient to build a rather substantial house when the P.N.C. Government was in office.

We have heard in this Assembly the propaganda being waged by the Minority that we are blaming others. We do not set out, like children, to blame others. I believe we have a responsibility to point out to our citizens the reality of the world of which we are a part and before I deal with our agricultural thrust, may I say that we have on other occasions – and perhaps in response to that remark – pointed out that the world situation is something that we did not create and though some people find some peculiar solutions, the fact of the matter is that even if we accept this thesis that productivity and production have dropped, our difficulty is that, like so many other Third World countries, we suffer from unfair and unfortunate terms of trade. This, I believe, was pointed out during the Budget Debate by others and the Cde. Prime Minister, when he winds up, may also refer to it.

Can the members of the P.P.P. explain why in 1974 if we sold 14 tons of sugar, we could buy a single tractor from the proceeds of that sale and in 1981, to buy that same tractor we have to sell 38 tons of our sugar? In 1970, that single ton of sugar could buy 48 barrels of oil and in 1981 it would only bring us 10 barrels of oil. Without going into details, that describes basically the problem that we face.

We believe that we have identified certain priorities. The Cde. President, in his Address to this honourable Assembly a few days ago, with authority, precision and, as I said, fighting words gave us guidance. It is for us, the foot soldiers, to translate and to take heed of that guidance and make a reality of his proposals. Do not let us talk, as Dr. Jagan did, about priorities not being correct. We could not blunder in providing infrastructure because the colonial era, with his seven years of mismanagement, left us with absolutely no infrastructure, either human or physical infrastructure, and when the People's National Congress came into office we had no choice but to set in place the mechanism to put in that human and physical infrastructure. It is that which we are still attempting to do.

It was the People's National Congress Government that first took seriously hinterland development. It was the People's National Congress Government that took seriously the plight of the workers. We are forced to remind the Minority that it was they who showed a callous and utter disregard for the plight of the workers when, at a time when they could do it, when there was not the pressure on the world economy as there is today, they told the workers, "Not a cent more." The same people come here to lecture us about what we ought to do for workers.

Talking about misleading the House, I believe that my colleagues, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, will deal adequately with the misrepresentations and inaccuracies, particularly as they refer to the Bank Report, when his time comes to speak tomorrow.

The Cde. Leader, on page 14 of his Address to this Assembly a few days ago, said that essentials in our case are "nutritious as distinct from exotic food, clothing, reasonable housing ..."

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Cde. Green: It is important for us to understand what the Cde. Leader meant when he said in our case we need to look for nutritious food as a boost to exotic food because over the years, Guyana gripped in the area of western propaganda and the developed world pressure to sell their foods and their goods, accepted without thinking certain foods as being essential. Thanks to the events of last year as was observed by Cde. Patricia Fredericks when she moved the motion, we have now left the stage where our children and we ourselves can begin to understand and to appreciate how sweet it is to grow and to provide for ourselves. It is said, Cde. Speaker, that out of evil cometh good and I believe that extra ordinary good would come out of the misfortune or what appears to be misfortune for us over the past few years. Perhaps if one looks at India in the area of food, in the middle 60s, India was facing starvation as a regular feature, India was the recipient of food from external sources but because of events in the world, the so called benefactors decided that they will not continue the aid to India in the middle 60s and India, therefore, had to face reality. I believe it was common knowledge that over the past fifteen years even though famine has not been completely abolished, India today is fairly self-sufficient in foods; fancy the efforts of the Government and people.

We in Guyana must look to models like that to make ourselves completely independent in the area of food. Cde. Speaker, what are the things we plan to do in 1983? We have identified and selected a means – manageable range of agriculture commodities that we propose to push that are required to cope with the realities of our situation. Therefore, we will look consistent to the Leader's instructions to perform two basic functions within the Ministry. First, attempting by all sorts of means to increase the overall production and raise the levels of nutrition without having to resort to importation for food. Secondly, again with the collaboration and co-operation of several agencies to develop a viable agro-industry and sub-sector not only to provide food in a convenient form for some areas, but to earn foreign exchange by proceeding our excess food preparing and exporting generally and using to our fullest the products and the by-products of agriculture.

We will need to do, in addition Cde. Speaker, to involve the entire population in this process. I said before in this Assembly and on world food day and I repeat today: we offer to those who continue to waste time talking, the opportunity to join in this revolution for food security in Guyana. I hope that when we meet again members of the opposite side can tell us what they have planted and what they as citizens have done to create self-sufficiency in our society and I offer the good Doctor any quantity of seeds that he requires for planting. I know he has lawns and lands. He must make full use of it. That, Cde. Speaker, is the kind of revolution we are talking about.

For the regions, they will be involved in programme to do two things. First, create an excess of food they can export to the urban centres and outside of this country, and secondly, to achieve regional self-sufficiency. I need to say a word about that because the regional programmes are structured in such a way for this year that each region will attempt by a combination of products and commodities, to be as self-sufficient as is humanly possible. I want to repeat something that was said before. We developed over the past few years very bad habits in so far as the movement of food is concerned. We have areas in the hinterland where people can grow certain staples but because the administrators are coast oriented or have come from the coast they desire and in fact deemed very often too, imported they have been accustomed to on the coasts the man in the Rupununi, in the Berbice River and anywhere else must learn to eat as the staple, the foods he can produce and at the risk of being repetitive, the easiest example is the Berbice River. If you can as I understand, they are producing large quantities of corn, then corn must form the base for the diet and we should not have to waste money and fuel and ships to bring from the coast rice, if they are not planting rice there and use the corn as your base and export the excess for stock-feeds and a number of other things that it can be used for.

We have in addition, Cde. Speaker, a program to deal with the traditional areas. The rice farmers and others at the moment are involved in the programme to improve the quantity and quantity and quality of rice production. This is being done by cultivating where irrigation is possible, every available square inch of land. At the same time as is now common knowledge, we have an imaginative and aggressive programme to improve the drainage and irrigation of the entire coastal area. In addition, we are supporting the

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GAIBANK facility to provide assistance and loan to farmers where necessary. For this year, in rice, we have revised to a modest target of 190,000 tons. We had to revise this target Cde. Speaker, because we face at the moment what is an unusually long dry season and a drought and we had over the past few weeks to battle with the strange occurrence and I would like publicly to pay tribute to the number of Government and private agencies that have so far responded to the call to help rice farmers particularly on the West and East Coast, East Berbice areas, we would like particularly to thank Guysuco and Guymine who sent four very large pumps to West Berbice at a very short notice. People like Solo who made available to us hydro-floor pumps that they had in stock, and the Georgetown municipality who had also removed one of their pumps that they had in use to assist in the effort to save the present rice crop.

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(Cde. Green continues)

In addition, Cde. Speaker, consistent with the suggestions made by the Cde. Leader when he addressed the Supreme Congress of the People, we started the programme of promoting cassava as a food for people, animals and for industrial use. As you are aware because of the dramatic and tragic reduction in the world price of sugar it is no longer an economic proposition, particularly for the present cane farmer and we have had meeting with the cane farming societies and agencies and have recommended that they move away from cane and more to areas like cassava where as I observed we can use it for human consumption and industrial use. This programme will call for assistance by central Government and the Ministry. GAIBANK and other agencies have pledged to help the present cane farmers convert from cane to cassava and other ground crops that would grow on the particular soil where they are at the moment.

In addition to that, Cde. Speaker, in an effort to help us achieve our target for the 10 million pounds of legumes for this year we have expanded the acreage at Guyana National Service, GUYSUCO and G.R.B. to produce the seeds to make available to farmers within the next two weeks to produce the cow-pea. But the programme that we are recommending and is on-going is the promotion of the pigeon pea to supplement the general legume programme. The pigeon pea programme is catching on. We look forward, Cde. Speaker, to all agencies, the church, the social organisations, groups, institutions and schools to get about planting the pigeon pea which technologists know is a fairly hardy crop requiring no sophisticated fertiliser and responds quite easily particularly to a coastal area. By that programme we will be able very cheaply to supplement our legume requirement and provide an excellent source of nutrition for our people. The Cde. Leader said we need to move to nutrition as distinct from exotic foods. The pigeon pea is a classic example of what happened to us over the years. Years ago the pigeon peas were fairly popular and grown by almost every rural family and community. But with the advent of imported legumes, easy to come by, you just go and buy it off the shelves, foreign exchange, people relied too heavily on imported legumes and tended as happened in other cases to neglect a legume that is in fact superior both in terms of nutrition and in terms of its overall compatibility with our circumstances, equality and environment.

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I therefore, look forward to this as a breakthrough in the area of legumes. In addition work has started on the sorghum. Sorghum will help us to provide stockfeed and provide baby food which is a programme on-going by the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation.

If one looks around at the urban centres and rural communities already there is evidence that farmers are responding to production of ground provision and other root crops and we have targeted a minimum of 80 million pounds to be produced this year. With the creation of several marketing centres discussions with the regional people and proposals by several farmers themselves to form Farmers' Councils in every region and district we hope by that combination of circumstances that the price which we feel is too high at the moment for ground provision and root crops will come down substantially before the end of 1983.

An area that we also aim to be completely self sufficient in is edible oil. We have targeted for this year, as the Cde. President observed during the presentation, an increase of well over 60 percent on last year's production. We have already targeted 1.3 million gallons as the minimum for 1983. This will come primarily as a result of the coming on stream of the edible oil mill at Farm on East Bank and the use of rice bran to produce that oil. Some people without knowledge have already canvassed the propaganda that if we use the rice bran to produce oil you will be robbing the stock feed industry of an important and as they claim, the sole source of food. This is not true and I can publicly say that what indeed will happen is the stockfeed plant and producers of poultry and pigs will have a better product in the same quantity for the stock because what will be doing is removing the oil from the bran. The bran itself will still retain its fibre and some nutritional property. In fact you have a better product for the stock feed plant and farmers because of the low chance of rancidity for the very fact is we have removed the oil which is the element that causes the bran to go rancid and become bad very quickly. But in Guyana people without knowledge whenever we embark on something new and revolutionary seek ways and means to fool people. It is our business in this honourable House to keep people properly informed. Cde. Speaker, during the debate of the budget in another few weeks we propose to deal at length and with some particularity and detail with the many areas that the public, the farmer of the regions will be involved in on this question of producing food.

May I say, Cde. Speaker, that in some areas that we are dealing with immediately to assist the farmers today is the first reading of a bill to increase the penalty for praedial larceny was moved. We have already, and this needs to be made publicly, in this House amended the regulations which dealt with the question of praedial larceny because even where the farmers are encouraged, you provide the infrastructure, the materials and the good will, if when you produce somebody else reaps there can be no greater disincentive and discouragement to the farmer both small and large and this has been a difficulty. We have met with the Cde. Minister of Home Affairs the Commissioner and his Divisional Commanders and they are helping with this exercise. We amended the law so that the burden is on the person found with the agricultural produce to establish where he got it from. The old law says you have to prove who the cow belongs to and who the bunch of plantains belong to before there can be a successful prosecution in court, in addition to what we are proposing to increase the penalty. The former is already the case is law. The magistrates have been reminded of this because it is no use the Magistrates letting people off with very very light fines when they do two things, when they break a basic law and they destroy a natural effort to food security.

15:55 hrs

(Cde. Green continues)

We prefer to view praedial larceny not as an ordinary theft but as a very serious national crime.

The Cde. President talked about forestry and fisheries. In the area of fish we will be increasing, as we have in fact started to increase, our by-catch and our catch of products substantially this year. But Cde. Williams who is the fish man will deal, I am sure, at length with this matter. Suffice for me to say that during the late 1970s the Government showed faith by removing certain export duties on prawns and providing certain incentives to the owners of trawlers, particularly the private trawlers, that operate in our fishery zone. I am afraid that they have not kept good faith with us and we propose --

The Speaker: Just a minute Cde. Green. It is about three minutes to four and Cde. Green has until seven minutes after four to conclude, if not before. I do not know if it is agreed that we sit after four. Is that agreed?

Comrades and hon. Members indicated in the affirmative.

The Speaker: Cde. Green.

Cde. Green: They have broken faith so far, because we are not satisfied that they have been bringing into port Georgetown the quantities of edible fish as agreed. We propose very shortly to, both by administrative and legal action, to deal with the situation where they either bring the fish in or they will not be allowed to operate in our waters. [Applause]

Cde. Speaker, as regards forestry, this year, in both the private and the public sectors, in spite of the recession and difficulties in the world by the aggressive marketing policy which were put in place three months ago, we expect to bring in some foreign exchange as a result of the exploitation of our forest resources. I say this against the background that even though we look forward to sales of about \$24 million this year, we have in fact, between the private and public sectors, invested over \$200 million in the exploitation of our forest resources. But we look forward to a substantial movement and improvement in our forestry resources.

The regions have a critical role to play in our agricultural programme and in collaboration with the regions themselves, the establishment of farmers' associations, we look forward to a serious explosion, a serious revolution in providing food for our people. We believe it is that necessary at this stage and

at this point to argue that we need not import a single food item provided the programme we have gets off the ground, and it will get off the ground.

In spite of the difficult weather conditions, I have no doubt that the demands of the Cde. President and the will to survive will ensure that in this area we will prove to the rest of the world and to our citizens that we have the capability, we have the will to make a success of this effort.

I did not deal with sugar. To deal with sugar one again would have to lament the world price. Except to say that everything possible is being done to improve the efficiency of the sugar corporation and to put in place mechanisms to help the workers at all levels to recognise the crisis that the industry faces and that only by combined effort, by a solid front, can they hope to keep Guysuco and the sugar industry viable.

Several countries have decided over the past few months not to expand on sugar. In fact, some are already contracting. For Guysuco, we have not considered contraction as such, but serious diversification, and Guysuco is now involved in the legume programme, fish and other areas, so that the skills that exist within the corporation and the manpower they have available will be put to full use. Their instructions are to use all the lands that they have on the sugar estates, and where Guysuco cannot effectively use those lands they will be made available under the new programme of land distribution to farmers in the areas contiguous to sugar estates.

During the budget debate I have no doubt, and this debate, that other speakers will deal with particular matters related to agriculture. But I feel that I cannot conclude without referring to what the Cde. Leader said ^{again} on page 14 when he observed that we cannot consume more than what we produce directly and indirectly and that we cannot eat our cake and have it. Our thrust is to make ourselves self-sufficient. Our people at all levels must recognise that this is a combined effort. Our people must not be fooled by the propagandists who suggest that there is a peculiar thing happening in Guyana because as we meet today to debate the Cde. Leader's presentation, the world, and even my good friend Dr. Jagan admits it, is in confusion. He did not say the socialist world or the capitalist world or the imperialist world. The world is in confusion, right, left, north, south, east, west, middle-east, middle-south, the entire world is beset with difficulties. How else can he explain the fact that as we meet heretoday more people have died in the world as a consequence of malnutrition and hunger the past 15

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years – in the socialist and non-socialist world – than the people who died in all the wars and revolutions over the past 150 years. Twenty-eight people die every minute from hunger and malnutrition and this spans the globe. Do not let us talk of capitalist and socialist at this point in time. This is a worldwide phenomenon. In the U.S.S.R. they are struggling –

The Speaker: Two minutes more, Cde. Green.

Cde. Green: To maintain their crops. In the United States they are facing a recession which is bad and today 50:1 percent of black teenagers are jobless.

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(Cde. Green continues)

Cde. Speaker, our agricultural thrust is part of a process to support our irreversible process of socialism as self sufficiency by our own efforts and I believe by working together we the people, the Government and our Leader will leave for the pages of history, for the museum place, such features as poverty, hunger and malnutrition. We can under and by the inspiration of our great Leader, we have Cde. Speaker, the will to survive.

The Speaker: The sitting of the House is suspended until 16:30 hrs.

Suspended accordingly at 16.08 hrs.

16:35 – 16:40 hrs.

On Resumption.

The Speaker: Cde. Ainsworth.

The Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education (Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth): Cde. Speaker, let me at the very outset associate myself with the remarks expressed and congratulate the Cde. Leader on the achievement by the mover of the motion which we are now debating.

Cde. Speaker, once again we have had the honour and privilege in this House to be given inspiration and guidance by our skilful and revolutionary Leader and President of the Co-operative Republic, in his address on Monday 7th February to this House. At a time like this when Guyana like so many other countries of the world especially the non-oil producing, developing third world nations are reeling and buckling at the knees from the consistent battering being dished out by the disintegrating and virtual collapse of an obsolete World Economic System, which is incapable of coming to grips with the problems facing the World, the parameters for our survival as set out in the booklet "The Will to Survive" are most welcomed. These words of wisdom will, I am sure, inspire the Guyanese people to greater achievements. There is no doubt in my mind Cde. Speaker that the operationalization of the policies set out therein would have the desired effect of saving the economy in the first instance and preparing the foundation for the turnaround of the economy, thus allowing for the continued progress of our nation.

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Cde. Speaker, today the Guyanese nation faces its sternest test, our hard won Independence is being threatened, our socialist gains have to be protected and even ensuring all our people enjoy the highest quality of life possible. These noble objectives cannot be achieved by mere sloganeering or posturing but rather careful planning, disciplined work and intelligent use of our recourses, coupled with enlightened leadership at all levels and an indomitable will to survive are necessary factors for our success.

The Guyanese people under the People's National Congress have always shown their greatest resilience and capacity in times of stress and challenges, witness as the Cde. President points out on page 18, 'we cannot fail to note and admire the understanding, strength and calm which the overwhelming majority of the population has displayed. Ours has been outstanding resilience combined with stoicism, adaptability and courage never to submit or yield. We have refused as a people, to hand over our economy to the vultures; we have defended the gains of our Revolution against the onslaught against the onslaughts from without and the Trojan horses within.'

Notwithstanding the present economic strait-jacket in which we find ourselves, no one can deny the real improvement in the life and physical environment of the Guyanese people.

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(Cde. Ainsworth continues)

It is not necessary to attempt to list all the gains of the Guyanese masses since the P.N.C. took office 18 years ago. The material and cultural standards have risen. We have a confidence in ourselves to achieve that which was hitherto absent. Another significant factor is the sense of national and social dignity that Guyanese have acquired. Our feeling of self-worth has increased significantly and our pride as a people has been restored.

As we continue the struggle to construct a socialist society in Guyana in which our material resource would be exploited and developed for the benefit of our people, let me say here and now that the present economic difficulties would not lead to a change in Guyana's ideological direction. Rather, it would strengthen our resolve to continue the struggle for socialist construction. Having rejected the degradation and dehumanization of colonialism and embarked on a course of independent development, there can be no turning back, there will be no turning back. To do so will be to betray the Guyanese people and return to dependence, where we will be relegated to serfs in our dear land. We did not take control of the commanding heights of the economy just for a show of power. Rather the establishment of public ownership of the basic means of production is a necessary stage in the construction of socialism and a means of ensuring the active participation of the people in the political, economic, social and cultural development of this country.

Cde. Speaker, some may argue, and quite rightly so, that while taking control of the commanding heights of the economy is necessary for the construction of socialism, it is not sufficient. There is the super-structure which must be relevant to work in harmony with the economic base in order that socialist construction could be successful. The people's new Constitution which was promulgated in October, 1980, entrenches rights which are in keeping with socialist development. To name a few of the entrenched rights, the right to work, the right to free education, the right to free medical attention, the right to leisure and the right of land to the tiller.

We can also witness the elaborate local government system which is aimed at the further democratizing of the society, as well as ensuring active and meaningful participation of the people in vital decision-making at the local and national levels. We have indeed made a reality of people's involvement in the activities and processes which are necessary for their development.

As I said earlier, it is not necessary to list the gains of the Guyanese people since we embarked on the construction of socialism. I should, however, point out that we are proud of our gains and see them as the basis for and as the forerunners of greater gains as we move on to build a more just and humane society.

With your permission, Cde. Speaker, I would like to refer to the address to the nation by the Cde. President – then Prime Minister – on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Republic, as I reflect on the progress we have made in spite of the prevailing economic circumstances. The observations made by the Cde. Leader at that point in time are applicable even at the present moment. I quote:

"Sometimes it baffles the mind to understand how all these things could have been achieved or done in the circumstances of great difficulty and of financial constraints which have been part of the national landscape in recent years.

The answer is simple and consistent with the economic policy of the Government. If our resources are to be developed for the benefit of the people, there have to be priorities and decisions taken which, though causing hardships, have got to be executed in the general long-term interest of the people. It is a war which we are waging, a war against underdevelopment, a war against poverty, a war against an international economic system which at every twist and turn seeks to discriminate against countries like Guyana."

As we seek to raise our productive levels, there is no need to debate the importance of education to the national development process. Agriculture has been identified as a major trust in our recovery. The total education system has a pivotal role to play in actual production. It has a role to play in the removing of the biases against agriculture, in the sensitizing of the people of the need to be involved in the food self-sufficiency drive as well as the other factors which are so necessary to support the agricultural trust.

Before I elaborate, Cde. Speaker, on what we are doing with regard to education and training for agriculture, permit me to remind members of the House of some of the steps we have taken to maintain the social services. For example, in health we are all aware that we

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cannot produce if our people are unhealthy and we have been told over and over in this House of the steps that have been taken to ensure that the health services are both effective and efficient, but just to point out that before the end of 1983 hospitals at Mibikuri and West Demerara will become operational. We should also remember that in spite of the difficulties of 1982 a hospital was opened at Aishalton. The immunization programme has been expanded and for the first time in 1982 the compulsory production of immunization certificates was demanded by the school system in order to ensure that pre-school children, the younger people were properly inoculated before entering school.

It is also important to know that at the moment Guyana is free of polio. In Linden we have seen improvements in the water system. In the Rupununi 36 new wells were installed and, of these, 33 are operational. In Bartica, a pure water supply system is to be put in place before the end of 1983. As we drive around the streets of Georgetown, we recognise that the rehabilitation process of the sewerage system is in place.

We can even look in terms of what is happening in housing. The Central Housing and Planning Authority will be constructing 80 houses this year in spite of the economic constraints.

When we look at the inputs of the Central Government into the Guyana Mortgage Finance Company Limited we recognise that support is being given, in spite of the constraints, to the building and acquiring of houses by the masses of Guyana.

As all agencies and arms of the Government must be involved in the agricultural thrust, it is important to note what is happening in education today. We have put in place a system which is going to ensure that alongside the teaching of agriculture we will be teaching our students with agriculture. We are convinced that the best place for the effective learning to take place is the environment where the activity must be, that is, on the land itself and, as a consequence of that, we have made it compulsory even at the very early stage of students' development in ensuring that the six component of the secondary school education examination which is made up of agriculture, which is compulsory, and participation in one or other of national community activities. It is also important to

note that examinations such as the S.S.P.E., the Secondary School Proficiency Examination, the CXC and G.C.E. all have school-based assessment programmes for agriculture where the students are given land and other inputs by the Ministry and they are supposed to attend to the land ensuring that all the practices are carried out for efficient and effective managing of their production. They are also to keep proper accounting records as well as records of the growth and development of their produce.

It is also important to mention that, during 1982, eight Practical Agriculture Instruction Centres were set up. An incentive scheme for agricultural teachers and students is now being institutionalised. Prior to now, there was an ad hoc system where each school administered its own incentive scheme whereby the students sometimes had gifts of the produce or were able to acquire some of the farm produce at reduced prices.

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(Cde. Ainsworth continues)

Cde. Speaker, while we recognise the need to be involved in actual production and also the fact that the schools should be seen not only as a basis for learning, but being involved in production at the same time, quite a few of the schools in Guyana have been able to supplement their incomes by selling their produce which their farms had generated. We find, for example, at the Bladen Hall Secondary School they have been able to provide their kids with a fully cooked mid-day meal, a balanced meal for between seventy-five cents and \$1.50 from produce, mainly from their agricultural plots.

Cde. Speaker, I wish to point out that at the moment, from nursery right on to University there are programmes aimed at supporting the agricultural trust of this country. For example, in the nursery section there is an ongoing agricultural programme in which the schools will be expanding and growing legumes and other ground provisions. We are also moving to a stage where parent demonstrating centres will develop vegetables and legumes and engage in an educational food preparation and nutritional programme which is also on stream. Books and other visual materials for and about nursery school children in Guyana are also being prepared with an emphasis on agriculture.

In the Primary department, all teachers are being encouraged to teach agriculture. Training programmes have been planned to ensure that all teachers are given basic skills in agriculture so that they could also be a part of the expanded drive. The same activity could be seen at other levels in the school system.

The Speaker: Cde. Ainsworth two minutes more. Do not think that I am not listening to you.

Cde. Ainsworth: In the secondary department Cde. Speaker, as a matter of fact we have put in place processes to ensure that all our institutions that come under the preview of the Ministry of Education whether it be the Critchlow Labour College, the Kuru Kuru College, Workers Education or the University of Guyana, all are involved because we are convinced that for us to get out of the state of dependency, one first and foremost activity is to ensure that we are self-sufficient in food. No nation could develop if they are to depend on outside sources for the basic items which are necessary for their sustenance. As a

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consequence, Cde. Speaker, the Ministry of Education stands ready at all times to be, not passive spectators but active participants in the drive to save the Guyana Economy and to ensure that there is development for all our people. /Applause/

The Chairman: Cde. Seeram Prashad.

Cde. Seeram Prashad: Cde. Speaker, one year ago when I addressed this Assembly, I had stated that agriculture was the lynchpin of our economic structure. That statement is as true today as when it was first made. At the outset I would wish to pay tribute to Cde. Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture for a very illuminating address and to say how much we in this Assembly are indebted to him for his very illuminating exposition of the needs of the agricultural sector and the country's economy, and his incisive approach towards providing continuous solutions to those problems. /Applause/

It is agreed on all sides and in every quarter in this country that the nation is confronting an economic crisis so worldwide and all embracing that virtually no country has escaped its ill effects in one form or another. But this crisis is not of our making. We find ourselves enveloped in a situation so grave that no country, developed or developing has been able to escape its adverse effects of recession, industry, inflation and unemployment. Moreover, it is a plight of such formidable proportions that no country has succeeded in finding a solution or strategy which could give it an even temporary respite. This then is the challenge which faces our country today and as His Excellency the President so clearly described it to this Assembly it is for us to indeed, a war of survival. The People's National Congress party and this Government have not shirked in their ... and seek to escape this challenge, but it is terrible and will not seek to escape this challenge but instead to confront it boldly and to engage it in battle on every possible front, offensively or defensively. In the economic battle ahead, His Excellency the President has charted the course on which this Government and people will carry on the struggle. And in so doing he has stated quite clearly that the main trust this year and the years ahead will be agriculture. Even after the provisions by Government of the infrastructural and capital works, farmers still need assistance as the outset before production can commence. They would need to have access to easy credit facilities. For this purpose encouragement is being given to the establishment of co-operatives and assistance provide by GAIBANK.

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The Food Crop Production and Marketing Programme established in 1979 are processing satisfactorily. At the end of 1982 GAIBANK, under the Food Crop and Marketing Programme had approved for 2,185 farmers a total of \$12.9 million. Facilities and services are also being offered to farmers by the new marketing and extension centres which are being erected at various farming area round the country at an estimate cost of \$12 million.

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17:00 hrs

(Cde. Prashad continues)

So far seven centres are either completed or at various stages in the process of construction. These centres are located at Black Bush Polder, a marketing centre – this project was handed over the Region 6. The Region and Farmers' Committee are making plans to launch out in business shortly. At Kuru Kururu, marketing and extension centre – this project was completed and handed over to the Region. Arrangements are being completed to commence business shortly. At Parika, a marketing and extension centre – this project is more than 80 percent completed. At Supernaam, a marketing centre – this project has been completed and it is about to be handed over to the Region. At Charity, a marketing and extension centre – this project is 75 percent completed. It is expected that it will be ready for handing over in about a month's time. At Acquero, an extension centre – this project has been completed and will soon be handed over. At Hosororo, a marketing and extension centre – this project is more than 70 percent completed and is expected to be handed over in a month's time.

These centres will be operated by the farmers, farmers' organisation, Co-operatives and the Regional system. Managers will be appointed by the community who will be responsible for the day to day operation. The marketing centres will be wholesale centres where farmers' produce will be collected, graded and packed for transportation to main marketing centres. Agricultural inputs such as fertilisers, insecticides, weedicides, spray cans, water pumps and motor blowers will be sold to farmers. Seven trucks are being acquired for Guyana Marketing Corporation and will be used for transporting produce from farm to centres. Other vehicles and machinery have been delivered to the various Regions. Certain of the public Corporations with the necessary expertise, which in the past focused attention on consumer goods only, have now at the request of Government embarked on a programme to produce tools, implements and equipment required by farmers and in order cases to trade in the sales and distributions of the various agricultural inputs.

In the forefront of these corporations is the Guyana National Engineering Corporation whose foundry and fabrication department provides most of the traditional inputs and spare parts required for sugar estates. These include both ferrous and non-ferrous casting for processing machinery in the factory. Other estates requirements are cane punts, punt parts for irrigation and processing activities. The objective of the Guyana National Engineering Corporation for 1983 with the completion of the foundry expansion programme is to increase satisfactorily the range of items now produced. One significant development plan for the current year is the manufacture of rubber roles for the rice industry, a limited number of agriculture tools and implements are also being produced by the Guyana National Engineering Corporation and the Corporation is planning to focus greater attention to this phase of their activity. Needless to say these production by Guyana National Engineering Corporation has had the beneficial effect of providing more employment and reducing expenditure in an area with a significant element of foreign exchange cost.

Contributions to the national agricultural thrust have also been made by Guyana Stores Limited. As it has done in the case of cottage Industries the Company is establishing and maintaining contract with small farmers with a view to encouraging them to produce crops which the Company will market.

In the area of shipping, Guyana National Shipping Corporation in using its fleet of three coastal vessels in supporting our sugar industry since storage capacity in Berbice for sugar is limited to two days production and these ships are used to move sugar from Berbice to the storage terminal in Demerara. During the non-grinding season 1983 the vessels were used on a trial basis to ship rice to the Caribbean Islands. At present investigations are being carried out to ascertain what other cargoes can be beneficially transported.

The Engineering and Agricultural Division of the Guyana National Trading Corporation has established an Engineering and Agricultural division. The specific function of which is to provide support to the national agricultural thrust. This division deals primarily with the procurement, stocking and distribution of a wide range of agricultural inputs which include tractor accessories, water pumps, motor blowers, sprayers, seeds and shade netting. A variety of agricultural tools and implements are also available in

the hardware division. In addition, Guyana National Trading Corporation provides technical support through training programme for workshop personnel and operators of mobile mechanical equipment for the various agricultural entities including GUYSUCO, G.R.B., the Ministry of Agriculture as well as private farmers and corporations. The Company supplies the requirement of the rice industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Demerara Tobacco Company, for fertiliser and agro-chemicals.

Of considerable importance to the fostering of agricultural development is the role played by the Transport agencies of public sector and to a lesser extent by the private sector.

The Guyana Airways Corporation provides air transport services to various hinterland locations, many of which are at present inaccessible by other modes of transport. As many as twenty-three air strips link Georgetown with various hinterland points. The Guyana Airways Corporation, therefore, plays a vital role in maintaining the existence of these settlements by providing the means whereby they receive supplies or send their surplus production to distant markets. In 1982 the Guyana Airways Corporation carried about 40,000 passengers and about 7 million pounds of cargo on its domestic routes. It has been the policy of Government to support economic activities in the hinterland by maintaining freight rates at reasonable levels. In recent years the Corporation has experienced some difficulty in providing regular service to certain airstrips. A concerted effort is being made by the various agencies concerned to remedy the situation and there should be a significant improvement in 1983. In this way it is proposed that an adequate level of air transport service will be provided to the communities in the interior and support given to agricultural and mining activities in these areas.

Water transport is playing and will continue for some time to play a dominant role in Guyana's transportation system and the development of agriculture. The Transport and Harbours Department operates ferry services across the mouth of the three principle rivers and coastal shipping service to various riverain communities. In addition, the department operates a cargo service between Guyana and various Caribbean islands.

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17:10 hrs

(Cde. Prashad continues)

On the regional shipping service the main cargoes carried are rice, bauxite, clay bricks and lumber on the outward leg, and cement and fertilisers on the inward leg. The department, therefore, plays an important role in promoting our exports and in bringing in key inputs for agricultural and construction projects at reasonable rates. A problem in previous years has been excessive down-time of these vessels due to lack of spare parts. Arrangements have, however, been worked out with the Central Bank to secure the necessary foreign exchange and it is anticipated that in 1993 the operations of the overseas service will be expanded.

In its domestic operations the Transport and Harbours Department plays a much greater role in supporting agricultural production and other economic activities. In 1982, the department carried approximately 8 million passengers and 40,000 tons of cargo on its domestic services. Cargo rates are low-ranging from 16 cents per North West District service. The low rates charged on the Government steamer services helps to maintain the flow of agricultural produce from hinterland settlements to market centres on the coast.

The policy of supporting economic activities in the riverain areas by providing adequate and inexpensive transport will be continued.

The main centres of production of ground provisions are the North West and Pomeroun areas. Water transport provides the best and, in some cases, the only available means of moving food crops from farms to market.

Vessels operated by the Transport and Harbours Department, and privately owned sloops and motorized vessels operate on the rivers in the North West, the Pomeroun and along the coast, and they provide a reliable means of access to the markets in Georgetown. This is a cost advantage of about 30 percent in favour of water transport over road transport. The disadvantage is that the small vessels referred to is not equipped to handle perishable products as their holds are generally small in space and in adequately ventilated. Moreover, most of the produce is packed in bags and the handling during storage and uploading is more or less rough and damaging. On the other hand, produce transported by truck appears to be less vulnerable to damage, because of less handling and shorter distances.

A fleet of huckster-type buses operated by Guyana Transport Services Limited to assist the farming community in transporting their produce to the market centres in the West Coast/West Bank Demerara, in the Georgetown/Timehri/Linden area, from New Amsterdam to Crabwood Creek and from New Amsterdam to Black Bush Polder. Freight rates are set at the lowest possible figure, at between one and two cents per pound, with minimum charges of thirty and sixty cents. It is proposed to increase the fleet of huckster buses by four units, one of which will be used to facilitate the farmers at East Bank Berbice.

In former years agricultural schemes were established with a prime emphasis placed on drainage and irrigation aspects. The harvested crops had to be transferred from farm to market along earth dams which became impassable after heavy rains. The Government now insists that each new agricultural scheme should make provision in the design and construction phases for a solution to the transport problem. This has been reflected in the Mahaica Mahaicony Abary/Agricultural Development Authority and Tapakuma Extension Projects where a number of all-weather roads have been built into the schemes.

In the light of existing budget constraints, we must accept the facts that only a limited number of all-weather roads can be constructed at a time, and others have to be managed and maintained in such a way that they provide reasonable access most of the time.

Cde. Speaker, I am certain that this Assembly will be convinced with the real efforts being made by Government towards improving the fortunes of those engaged in agriculture, and I commend to this assembly the approval of the Motion.

The Speaker: Cde. London.

Cde. London: Cde. Speaker, it is always a great honour and privilege to address hon. Members of this Assembly. Today, this honour is greater as I embrace the opportunity to seek to offer my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the benefactor of us all on this side of the Assembly, the father of our nation, a friend and Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, for he celebrates his 30th year as a Member of Parliament and his 60th birthday shortly. Long may he live! He is a humble son of the soil of great vision, of whom we are proud. He is a Guyanese whose accomplishments will adorn the pages of history of the world. Men of distinction the world over are already not only singing his praises but emulating the movements, like National Service, which we have introduced. It is really unfortunate

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that the Minority Party has not yet learnt to appreciate the contribution of the National Service in our agricultural thrust, as well as its contribution in providing opportunities for developing the capabilities of thousands of our Guyanese students. I am optimistic that the Minority is learning, even slowly. They have moved from total opposition to token acceptance. That is a good sign.

The setting of the world as outlined by the President in the first phase of his address to this honourable Assembly, though frightening, must be recognised as a fact for the world's vast majority to live with. At least it is good to note that the Leader of the Minority has accepted the fact that we have a frightening situation created by the imperialists. To think otherwise is only to indulge in self-deception. The world is indeed, even as the Leader of the Minority said, teetering on the brink of disaster.

Most of the Guyanese population has felt the shockwaves of this disaster but only few are aware of the cauldron of the world's affairs in which Guyana must be boiling.

(Cde. London continues)

When our President Cde. Burnham referred to the alarming amount of money being spent in missiles while millions of human beings are debilitated as a result of malnutrition and further millions die of starvation, we must be forced to recall the announcement of President Reagan of October 2, 1981 when he decided to go ahead with the manufacture of 200 of the B-1 Strategic Bombers. Each of these lethal machine we are told costs more than \$350 million US. Against this grave threat to the socialist gains of all struggling third world countries not only for survival, but a place in the sun comes a gloomy global 2000.

A futuristic study conducted by the US Establishment at the request of former President Jimmy Carter, some of the projections Cde. Speaker, are:-

- (1) Developing countries will remain heavily dependent on the USA for their food and survival, even in the 2000.
- (2) The whole world population will continue to increase at an annual rate of 1.6 per cent leading to a total population of 6.3 billion by 2000. Of these 1,323 and 5,28 million will be in the developed and less developed countries respectively.
- (3) Climatic changes will certainly occur in the future.
- (4) The world food requirement will be 2.12 billion tons of grain by 2000. The requirement of less developed nations will be .8 billion tons but their own production will be .75 billion tons.
- (5) That the price of oil is expected to double by 1990.

In an article in the Indian and Foreign review on this study S. K. Sinner expressed two main concerns that we need to bear in mind:

- (a) "If the price of oil is to double by 1990, obviously, the price of food grains will also increase. This will be dangerous for those developing countries who remain entirely dependent for their food supplies on imports."
- (b) "The Third World has not taken a serious note of this report even at the scientific level."

In Guyana, many have never taken seriously the Leader of this nation when close to two decades ago he travelled across the country appealing for increased production and even encouraging it by distribution of planting materials free of cost. Many of us in this House most likely received

from the hand of the Leader himself black eye peas, bora and mung to name a few. It was refreshing to read that the President of this country visited garden plots in the South Ruimveldt area assisting and encouraging food production so that people could see that he is serious. It is good to see that the people of South Ruimveldt are following the example of the people of my own Village No. 8 who have crops planted on their parapets where grass used to grow. I take this opportunity of congratulating the Management and Staff too of the Fort Wellington Hospital Compound for the beautiful appearance of cassava and other crops that are growing where grass grew before.

Unfortunately Cde. Chairman, everybody has not taken the Leader seriously and what is disappointing if not hurtful is to find that Heads of Schools unmindful of the call to grow food where grass is growing. On the occasion of the visit to the Georgetown Technical Institute on Tuesday only of this week, I was shocked to see the state of the school compound over growing with grass. At this Institute the Head and Staff have not got the message. I recall Cde. Speaker, that as Headmaster of St. Ignatius School in the Rupununi over sixteen years ago Dr. Reid on the occasion of a visit to that school delivered an address. As usual, it was brief and to the point. The topic PRODUCE. To the majority of students and teachers PRODUCE became a nick name for Dr. Reid and a passport for my prof-ligate companions.

These go to show that among the blessings that the Good Lord gave to Guyana is a Leader of great vision Cde. L.F.S. Burnham and a Party, the People's National Congress destined to rule this country for ever and ever. To achieve this desired objective for the unity of the nation, the good of all and to insolidate our socialist gains of free education and health care and so on. We must manage and develop our human and material resources as we concentrate on agriculture as a priority. There is great need for proper care, maintenance and deployment of our agricultural machinery at this time. Hitherto it was a different world and a different time as the lyric says 'Dis time nah lang time'.

It must be made clear to all that we reduce the quality of the services to which we are entitled under socialism when we misuse our

valuable resources. In other words the money spent say to repair a tractor or bulldozer carelessly used could have been utilised to purchase more school books, uniforms or medicines or further research in food production and preparation. It is recognised that because we are in a state of transition and because socialism is about people, our first concern must be about the people who run the machines.

We must motivate all our workers for peak performance. Quite a lot of research has gone into this important aspect of human organisation to achieve peak performance.

Because the regions will play a pivotal role in management and development of our human and natural resources and because of the precious nature of the human resources (in face Cde. Speaker, as the Leader of the Minority Party said, we are growing desperately short of skilled and experienced workers). Our new management must first of all realise that fear no longer supplies the motivation for the workers in any enterprise. 'What we need' says Peter F. Drucker in his excellent book in "The Practice of management" is to replace the externally imposed spur of fear with an internal self motivation for performance. Responsibility not satisfaction is the only thing that will serve" says Drucker. The goal of the responsible worker can be reached by four ways according to Drucker:

- (a) Careful placement
- (b) High standards of performance
- (c) Providing the workers with the information needed to control himself
- (d) Providing him with opportunities for participation that will give him a managerial vision.

I wish to add a fifth and that is socialist emulation.

Responsibility must carry with it an ever increasing measure of consciousness or feeling for the tools used in production.

The spectre tractors, draglines, combines, hynacs, bulldozers abandoned all over the face of this country more or less through misuse must horrify us. Admittedly this kind of recklessness was born out of the attitude of mind so often expressed in these words "Whey da come from – more deh." Alas there is more but we are not in a position to buy as we wish and this is so for many reasons.

- (a) Shortage of foreign exchange
- (b) Our credit worthiness as a nation
- (c) The changing international scene.

Our shortage of foreign exchange. Cde. Vice President spoke well about that and I want to repeat some of the facts here, for even though The disadvantages suffered in sale of our exports and cost of our imports. Only as recently as Wednesday of this week the story is told in the Guyana Chronicle under the caption "Little will to solve real problems" Time to stop forum game. It is a happy co-incidence that according to the report our Leader Cde. Burnham and the spokesman for Venezuela Enrique Ter Horst were on the same wave length. Said Enrique. "Despite the initial situation facing the world economy there seems to be little will to deal with the real problems in a serious way." "We have suffered too much damage. We continue to think that serious consideration must be given to economic recovery stimulated or at least supported by increasing power of the develeping countries".

The world sugar price fell from £651 a ton in 1974 to £83 a ton in 1982. While the price of capital goods rose by over 400%. A 77 horse power tractor costing £20,000 in 1964, fetched a price of £80,000 in 1982. What 1000 bags of paddy could purchase in 1974, it would now take 3000 bags to purchase the same commodity.

One must not overlook the other indeterminables resulting in increased costs of production and so on. We in this House must join the President as stated on page 18 of the address in showering praises on those managers and the masses of workers and farmers who increased their levels of production during the last year in spite of the hardships.

Both the sugar workers and rice farmers played a significant roles in earning foreign exchange, but alas it was not enough to pay our overseas debts and this is the hoax of the problem. Hence our credit worthiness has been in question at the international level. As a result the lead time for fulfilment of overseas orders increased from six months to over 18 months. Moreover some companies have gone under as a result of the world economic crisis. The manufacturers of the very productive Muril tractors for example have closed shop and so there will be no spares forth coming. It is time that the P.N.C. Government in its

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wisdom with the cooperation of the GDR set up a 30 million workshop at Colington on the East Coast. The first phase of this shop consisting of machining shop and repair section is near completion. Already small orders are being fulfilled.

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Bulldozers, tractors and Hy-macs will be repaired here at a relatively moderate cost.

Machines are available for hire at reasonable rates.

Guysuco is also doing an excellent job at the workshop at Albion. These factories will be stop-gaps. Government must be congratulated any way for making a start. When we consider, for example, that a machine costing half a million dollars is made to lie idle for want of a simple part costing \$20 or even less, we may wonder why we have to import such simple things as water plugs costing 36 cents. Very often we waste hundreds of dollars because of the unavailability of a part costing hundreds of cents. Some time ago Government, in its wisdom, banned several items of foodstuff. It is now time for Government to consider --

The Speaker: Two minutes more, Cde. London.

Cde. London: It is time for Government to identify parts of motor vehicles which can be fabricated in Guyana and ban their importation.

The question of care and maintenance of vehicles is also an important matter. An operator or a driver is paid to operate or drive. That is the most he is required to know – how to start, stop and keep a machine going as required. Even if a tractor or combine breaks down in the middle of nowhere, then the operator is forbidden to touch anything. To ensure that he does not, he is not even provided with a spanner.

The question that we must therefore address our minds to is to change our whole policy of the past and make it reasonable and applicable in our present-day situation. We remove the man from behind the bullock and the donkey cart and place him behind expensive and sophisticated machines without the required orientation. Many of our operators perform with the bull and donkey mentality in which there is limited service and maintenance requirement.

Machines, therefore, should do what they are supposed to do. When the engineers issue manuals, they expect that these books will be read, marked and inwardly digested and we hope that this will be done. I wonder if there should not be another organisation set up for the prevention of cruelty to agricultural implements. Apart from the aesthetic value

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of using clean and tidy machines, faults in machines show up easily when the machines are free of dirt.

Storage is an important aspect in the care of machine and equipment. Quite recently a Resolution was passed by the N.C.L.D.O. calling on Government to set up People's Courts to deal with cases of larceny. Although we have storage and we have several guards watching, for example --

The Speaker: Time, Cde. London. I thought you were a teacher and that you would know how to do précis. Cde. Chowritmootoo.

Cde. I. Chowritmootoo: Cde. Speaker, I rise to support and speak on the Motion before this honourable Assembly. I am sure you will agree with me that once again last Monday, 7th February, 1983, we were treated to words of wisdom and intelligence coming from the lips of our dear Cde. Leader and President, Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, when he addressed us.

We are meeting at a time when plans are afoot to celebrate the 60th birth anniversary of our Cde. Leader, his 30th year as a Member of Parliament and our 13th year as a Republic. May I use this opportunity to congratulate our Cde. Leader and President on reaching yet another milestone and to wish his continued good health so that he can continue to lead us for a long, long time.

The emphasis this year is placed on agriculture for survival in this Year of Will. Cde. Leader and President in his own inimitable style, in delivering the Opening Address "The Will to Survive" to this the Third Session of the Fourth Parliament, sets out clearly how it is intended that agriculture will be fully emphasised when he told this august body at paragraph 1 on page 15:

"If agriculture is to represent the area of concentration and priority, all government ministries, agencies, and corporations as well as the Local Government Organs like the Regions and Sub-Regions must be intimately involved."

By now I am sure we recognise the new life and importance that agriculture is to play this year and for years to come in helping us to survive. It is taking the highest priority in our national development strategy. The future development of our country is tied to our capability of developing our agriculture to its fullest.

The Government of the People's National Congress, since assuming office, has massive investments in agriculture totalling well over \$4,000 million. Schemes such as the Mahaica/Mahaicony/Abary, Tapacuma, Black Bush Extension Project and the Guyana National Service have all been and are being developed as major agricultural pursuits. Phase 1 of the M.M.A. will bring well over 41,000 acres of land under cultivation.

These aims and plans must have supportive ingredients apart from the natural resources of land, water and even manpower. There must be available seeds, fertilisers, planting materials, storage and drying facilities, agriculture credit and technical assistance. To facilitate the procurement and availability of the aforementioned supportive ingredients, the regions must have a pivotal role to play. It must be the responsibility of the regions to sensitise the population, adults and children, to the significance, importance and relevance of agriculture. The regions are to develop and implement programmes to ensure a high level of food sufficiency.

Along with the central agencies, the regions are to establish marketing centres for the benefit of farmers and other consumers. They are also to intensify efforts to produce quality foods for export. A campaign is to be launched to motivate rice farmers, rice millers, regional personnel, researchers as well as extension and credit agents to relate meaningfully to improve the volume and quality of rice production and the efficiency of rice marketing. Every square inch of land which has recently benefited from Government's investment and which is in a condition for cultivation is to be under the plough. Minor works are to be done in areas which do not have an improved drainage and irrigation system in order to support expansion of cultivation and improvement of productivity in such areas.

Self-sufficiency in seeds. The regions must start, and in some cases have already started, a seed multiplication programme to ensure an adequate supply of viable seeds. For example, in Region 6, I am aware that seed propagation centres have been established at Benab, at Lesbeholden in Black Bush Polder and only recently at Rotterdam on the East Bank.

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(Cde. I. Chowritmootoo continues)

The distribution of mineral fertilizer with the increase anticipated in land utilisation. There will be need for more mineral fertiliser and a proper programme. So far Government has handed over the importation and distribution of fertiliser to the Guyana National Trading Corporation. The GNTC now distributes through its other outlets and also the regions had assumed responsibility to distribute fertiliser to the farmers when needed and on time. I think I need to mention here that small farmers and kitchen garden planters could now make full use of local manure – cow dung – the heap compost – buried dry grass which is a very good and useful source of fertiliser for little and small kitchen gardens. It will be interesting too if small plot cultivators engage in intercropping so that they can help to boost the soil level.

Dealing with planting materials, continued research must be done to realise the best quality and most prolific growers. There will indefinitely be the need to have more and more planting materials made available. The Agricultural Station at Mon Repos will have to expand its operation for providing more planting materials, storage and drying facilities. There is right now work in progress to complete the drying floor at Anna Regina which is well over 10,000 square feet. So far a number of marketing centres with storage facilities have been in some places completed and are about to be completed at Black Bush Polder at Kuru Kururu, Bartica, Supenaam, Charity, Aqueero and Hosororo. This exercise is continuing. Added to this, Cde. Speaker, rice millers will be encouraged to make full use of Gaibank credit facilities to improve their receiving, drying, storage, par-boiling and milling operations.

Dealing with Agri prints, Cde. Speaker, Gaibank is to intensify its activities in 1983 to meet the increased demand for credit. Gaibank approved over six hundred loans totalling \$126.2 million between 1973 and 1981. Credit to small farms under the Food Crop and marketing programme is in full swing in the following regions: Region No 1 North West and Moroka area; Region No 2, the Pomeroon, Essequibo Coast and Supenaam; Region No 3, Essequibo Islands, East Bank Essequibo, Lower West Bank Demerara and West Coast Demerara; Region No. 4, Soesdyke Linden High Way, Upper West Bank Demerara,

East Demerara, Demerara River, Mahaica River and Cane Grove; Region No. 6, East Bank Berbice, Corentyne Coast, Corentyne River, Canje River and the Black Bush Polder; Region No. 7, Bartica, Mazaruni/Potaro, River's View; Region No. 10, Upper Berbice River. Any farmer who is farming in the food crop area with two to 25 acres of land can obtain a loan from Gaibank, likewise, any co-operative society or group of farmers. The loan is given for all crops except rice, sugar cane, coffee and bananas. Loans are given to do the following: clearing lands, digging drains, building of farm houses, building boats to transport the produce, purchasing of vehicles, purchasing of small equipment, purchasing of out-board motors and purchasing of all farming implements. A farmer can get a maximum of \$36,000 and the co-operative societies of a group of farmers can get as much as \$360,000. The extension staff is expected to organise farmers in groups to better understand the programme, to assist in arriving at quantities and types of inputs needed to assist in the identification of works to be done on the far, to identify crops and farming practices to be used on the farm, to conduct regular meetings, visits, demonstrations and field days with the farmers. In the whole scheme of things, the Guyana marketing Corporation is expected to purchase agreed crops produced by the farmers, to provide regular marketing information and to pay the farmers promptly for their produce. Gaibank also supervises the food crop credit and work along with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Guyana Marketing Corporation to promote the food crop programme.

In dealing with technical assistance, there will be the need to intensify and encourage professional training development in agriculture. Full use must be made of the Guyana School of Agriculture, the Burnham's Agricultural Institute, Belbaag, to name a few. There must be on the work training where active farmers are being given technical help by people who are themselves involved in active farming and to ensure that agriculture be seen not only as a theoretical and experimental activity, but rather as economic pursuit at every level. Technical personnel must demonstrate with the co-operation of the nation, that agriculture is indeed an economic activity, administering knowledge and materials such as fertilizers, insecticide, weedicides, in accordance with the needs determined by observation and experimentation.

Cde. Speaker, in 1983 the Ministry of Agriculture will collaborate more closely with the regions and with relevant institutions such as the Ministry of Trade, the Bank of Guyana, the Ministry of Finance and Gaibank with the view of ensuring a reliable source and supply of fuel fertilizer, pesticides, machinery, equipment, spare parts and other material inputs as well as agricultural credit and services relating to production, transport marketing processing and distribution of farming produce. It will be the responsibility of the regions to ensure drainage and irrigation systems, as well as access roads and dams are efficiently maintained in areas where people are now farming and also in areas where people are desirous of embarking on farming ventures. It will be very interesting to note here, Cde. Speaker that many of our drainage systems and canals were done in the good old days without the use of some of the sophisticated machinery that we have available and if the people are channelled properly and are given the right kind of advice I am sure that that kind of muscle skill can be put back into operation and we can improve our drainage and irrigation facilities.

It will be necessary for the regions to mobilise the producers to contribute substantially to the maintenance of the agricultural infra-structure for a breakdown of that will definitely result in a poor production. A programme for the development of agriculture processing is to be developed in 1983. The programme will embrace educational and developmental activities and will involve household on farm and community processing as well as industrial processing of varied range of agricultural commodities.

The Speaker: Two minutes more Cde. Chowritmootoo.

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(Cde. I. Chowritmootoo continues)

Cut down on waste and preserve out of season periods. Stemming from this emphasis agriculture will be very necessary to have and develop agro-based industries. Examples are processing and canning, preservation of fruit, vegetable, fish and meat, working towards being self-reliant nation. Cde. Speaker, in conclusion I wish to quote from 'A great future together' an address made by Dr. Kenneth King sometime in 1973. Page 3. "Secondly, Guyana must be self reliant. This concept may be examined at two levels. If we consider it at the level of the individual it means that Guyanese national must possess the skills and expertise that are necessary to run and manage a modern state effectively, that they must believe they are capable of doing so and there must be unnecessary and automatic recourse for external assistance for development." If we are to survive we must bear this quotation in mind. The future of this country is in our very own hands. With the will to survive let us apply ourselves to the task of building a prosperous and rich society based on agriculture. Survive we will, survive we must. Cde. Speaker, I have very great pleasure in commending the motion before this Assembly. Thank you. /Applause/

The Speaker: Cde. Williams.

Cde. Williams: Cde. Speaker, once again I am happy to witness what must go down in history as yet another splendid presentation by his Excellency, the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and equally important, leader of the vanguard political movement in Guyana. /Applause/ Cde. Speaker, the majority of people in Guyana, within CARICOM, the Non-Aligned Movement and even within the Commonwealth, have come to accept Forbes Burnham's leadership especially at a time when their countries are plagued with economic crisis and seem desolate and teetering on the brink of disaster if not of a holocaust. Cde. Speaker, earlier the leader of the Minority Party questioned our members glorifying the work of Forbes Burnham, the great leader. It is rather unfortunate. I have been tempted to seek the support of colleagues of this Assembly to produce some form of protection for the leader. But in re-thinking when one realises that the Leader

of the Minority and his party only reflect one-tenth of the population of this country one need not bother. One is also tempted to question if the leader of the Minority would make such a statement whether or not it is not time for him to be replaced by one of his colleagues as leader of that party.

The President, Cde. Speaker, has given once more in his presentation imaginative leadership as has been outlined in his presentation to this Assembly on the Ceremonial opening of the Third Session of the Fourth Parliament on Monday, February 7, 1983. Cde. Speaker, I support Cde. President's observation that Guyanese have the will to survive and in displaying that will we shall confound our critics and scatter our foes. My Government has recognised the expansion and effective development of the agricultural industry as the major thrust for 1983 and even after if this nation is to survive and survive we must.

The fishing and shrimping industry has a major role to play in the course of this development. It pleases me to repeat the words of the President spelt out on page 15 of this booklet 'The Will to survive' and I quote "The object here is twofold. First to make available to our people, a great abundance of fish protein and second, to take advantage of a yawning external market." Cde. President earlier in that presentation alluded to the fact that a more detailed discussion and amplification will be given in relation to the fishing and shrimping industry. In proceeding to outline that, Cde. Speaker, it is useful to mention at this point that the Government of Guyana, the people of this country is benefitting from a loan of US\$12.7m and here again despite the talks, despite the sayings, the loan would not have been possible if it was not felt that there is great faith in the economic recovery of this country. It is expected that out of this loan Guyana will benefit from the construction, and not purchase, of twenty shrimping trawlers capable of accommodating at the same time the by-catch of shrimping operations and I want to make it quite clear since earlier speakers referred to the care and maintenance of equipment. The cost of each trawler is calculated at G\$1.4m. That is the price we are paying for one trawler in order to assist in the exploitation of our resources. We expect, Cde. Speaker, that the first five trawlers, in keeping with the agreement, will leave the shipyard on the 21st of May to come to Guyana and immediately proceed on its shrimping exercise. The second batch of five trawlers will arrive at the end of August. On arrival they too will proceed on shrimping exercises.

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The third batch at the end of September and the fourth batch by the end of November.

Important for me to mention is the fact that the Guyana National Engineering Corporations will benefit from the construction of at least five of these trawlers. This exercise will provide useful experience for Guyana National Engineering Corporation and place Guyana National Engineering Corporation in a position whereby in future it can compete with other construction shipyards in the construction of trawlers.

18:00 hrs

(Cde. Williams continues)

We are assured by what we have seen coming from Guynec that they have the capability, they have the resources and they have the will to do the job.

The Cde. President made mention of a number of agreements involving the Government of Guyana directly in one case, and in a few other cases Guyana Fisheries Limited, a state agency. I propose for the benefit of Members this Assembly to outline what is expected out of some of these agreements. Before doing so, let me inform the Members of the Minority who on the last occasion sought to ascertain whether or not there are private investors involved in the operations of the Guyana Fisheries Limited, or shares being taken out by private investors, that from the time of merging until now 95 per cent of the operations of Guyana Fisheries Limited is fully Government owned. The remaining 5 per cent is as a result of shares taken out by a Company from Japan known as the South American Marine Company. In relation to the agreements, it was mentioned in the press that we have had discussions with representatives from the Government of Jamaica and have had discussions with representatives from the Government have been able to initially agree on proposals which are to be ratified by the respective Governments. It is expected out of that agreement when ratified that ten trawlers owned by the Government of Jamaica will be allowed to utilize our exclusive economic zone. Here we will have a manifestation of regional integration which, according to the Leader of the Minority in his presentation, we have not been pursuing. Again, the facts are so many, the achievements have been so much.

The processing of the catch from these trawlers will be done by the Guyana Fisheries Limited, thus enabling the Guyana Fisheries Limited to make more use of its processing facilities. My Government would be the first to accept and admit that we have not fully utilised the processing facilities. That has been as a result of not having the required number of trawlers to operate and bring in the necessary . . .

There are a number of other benefits to be derived from that arrangement. One which readily comes to mind is the fact that a quantity of bycatch will be made available for the Guyanese population, hence increasing the supply to be available to the people of this country.

It is known, as has been told to this honourable Assembly before, that there is

a company known as the Guyana Lybia Fishing Company of which Guyana has 51 per cent of the shares and it is expected that during 1983 we will witness the acquisition of 10 new trawlers by this Company. At the moment, the tenders are being evaluated and as soon as that exercise is completed that company will proceed to award the necessary contract and within the shortest possible time, but within this year, we will see a reality in trawlers being managed by that Company. That again is an indication of the efforts to increase the landings of bycatch to satisfy the country's population and at the same time to provide prawns for export, thus yielding foreign exchange.

I spoke of the additional twenty-two trawlers to Guyana Fisheries Limited bringing its fleet to 32 by the end of this year. Of these trawlers, 20 will be fully utilised in the shrimping operations and 10 will be utilised for the fish production in order, again, to increase the supply for the population. There are two private companies which responded to Government's call earlier in late 1981 and early 1982, that the Government of Guyana has no objection to private trawling companies operating within our exclusive economic zone once they operate within the Maritime Boundaries Act and in accordance with the regulations governing the operations of fishing and shrimping within the economic zone.

The two companies that have signed agreements with Guyana Fisheries Limited and have received the blessings of the Ministry of Agriculture are the Singleton Fleets Associates and the Guyana-American Sea Foods Company. It is interesting to note that the President of the Guyana-American Sea Foods Company is a Guyanese who was once employed in the very Guyana Fisheries Limited. Again, confidence is placed in the leadership of this country and the stability which is expected from its leadership because the people have come to realise that there is no other political party in this country capable of leading this nation to its economic recovery.

As a colleague mentioned earlier, the Minority Party is beginning to give token acceptance of this fact. These companies referred to will also have as a requirement, to land a quantity no less than two tons of fish per month in order to increase the supply of this much needed protein. In order to deal with the quantity of bycatch that is expected through the IDB loan, Guyana Fisheries Limited will be acquiring within another month two refrigerated trucks costing \$US99,000. It is expected that with the acquisition of these two refrigerated trucks coming from Mercedes Benz in Brazil, a more reliable distribution system will be put into place and Guyanese will be more assured of having cheap fish as outlined by the Cde. President.

It takes me to the next point since there have been a number of complaints and a number of queries made about the distribution of fish and the prices at which fish is distributed in keeping with the Cde. President's directives. Before doing that I need to indicate to this honourable Assembly that the fish distribution has been going on for some time. With the scarcity of other types of foodstuff such as chicken and beef, and the decision by the President that fish would be made available at a dollar per pound, the demand for this commodity almost trebled while at the same time the supply coming in was not in comparison. So it is not, in our view, that fish is not sold at a dollar per pound. I will go on outlining, but we need to agree that the agencies which have been set up to ensure that fish is sold at a dollar a pound need to be supplied with much more of the commodity since more and more people are beginning to like, as many of us do, cheap fish, a beautiful source of protein for us all. The Vice President, Agriculture, earlier indicate that great faith was placed in a number of trawling companies in this country, granting certain concessions, in order that at least two tons of fish per trip, which is about a month and five days, would be landed for sale to the population.

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(Cde. Williams continues)

This faith was not kept by all the trawling companies in this country and the Vice President has clearly indicated that we are moving towards administrative and legislative actions in order to guarantee the supply of this fish, because for us the Cde. President has clearly indicated that we are on an economic war footing and in such a situation the Government of Guyana, the People's National Congress Government cannot be held to ransom for its obligation to the people in this country and we as the guiding agency will have to seek to protect the people's interest and the people's benefit. We have done our part and we are calling – we have had several meetings, we have implored and now we are moving a stage further.

Cde. Speaker, there are outlets in Georgetown and outside of Georgetown that are supplying fish to the population at a dollar per pound. In Georgetown, there is an outlet to the population at a dollar per pound. In Georgetown, there is an outlet at Reagent Street, between Cummings and Light. That is considered as one of the main outlets for the supply of cheap fish at a dollar per pound. We have in Smyth Street, opposite Central High School. We have in Campbellville above the KSI outlet. We have in Gordon Street, Kitty. We have in Cummings and Sixth Street. We have in Region four at Grove. We have at Lot 12 North Road. We have at our McDoom outlet. Cde. Speaker, all these outlets supply fish at one dollar per pound and we will be happy at our management level to be informed if that is not so but we are certain this is so.

In Region Three, the Regional Administration has taken full control of the distribution system and I am assured – I have not received any reports that fish is not being sold at a dollar per pound, by the Regional Administration Authorities in Region Three. What has happened Cde. Speaker, in many of the regions is that the private vendors to whom we have been supplying this commodity have not geared themselves in order to be able to supply the fish at very cheap prices, at a dollar per pound. They have been incurring expenses which have been making it practically impossible for them to supply fish at one dollar per pound. When such vendors find themselves forced to utilise certain

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types of transportation then they cannot sell the fish at dollar per pound. As a result, at great pains we have had to be reducing the number of vendors and concentration on those who have the capability, the facilities available to sell fish at one dollar per pound.

The Speaker: Cde. Williams, you will have to reduce your speed, because you only have four minutes more.

Cde. Williams: Cde. Speaker, in concluding, I need to make the point that Government will be seriously examining what is happening on the high seas. The cost of operations of our fishing vessels and shrimping vessels are tremendous and unless there is a guaranteed return of the product the operations cannot be successful.

Already the Ministry of Finance, Customs Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and other agencies, the security agencies are engaged and will continue to engage in patrolling our high seas in order to stamp out the irregularities which have been taking place in that area.

I, therefore, Cde. Speaker, joint with my colleagues in commending to this honourable House this motion standing in the name of Cde. Patricia Fredericks and to seek full co-operation from the Minority party because it is my view and it is the view of the members of this House that by now that Party has been exposed to a tremendous learning exercise of facts related to decision.

The Speaker: Cde. Tiwari.

Cde. Tiwari: Cde. Speaker, it is for me a privilege and honour to be given the opportunity to make a contribution on the presentation by the Cde. President in Parliament on Monday 7th February, 1983.

In his address, the President identified agriculture as the major thrust for 1983 and as a main strategy for the economic recovery of the country.

In his address the President said on Page 13 and I quote "If agriculture is to represent the area of concentration and priority, all Government Ministries, agencies and Corporations as well as the Local Government Organs like the Regions and Sub Regions must be intimately involved."

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Cde. Speaker, it is in the Regions and Sub Regions that agricultural production and other such related agricultural activities will be pursued. Some of these activities relate not only to the production of food crops, but the utilisation of these crops as part of our basic diet, as well as to ensure that the surplus production is processed.

The agricultural production drive is an integral part of the programme for self sufficiency in food. The agricultural production drive is an important aspect of the self reliant philosophy of the People's National Congress.

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(Cde. Tiwari continues)

To achieve the goal of increased involvement in the agricultural drive will require the participation of every citizen who is old enough to plant a tree and who is not too aged to participate in the agricultural production programme. Every citizen could be involved in the planting of simple crops such as pigeon peas and fruits as well as ground provisions and vegetables. The contribution of every able-bodied citizen to this drive will bring about an awareness of the wisdom of depending upon ourselves for our own good needs.

Due to the economic crisis facing all developing countries, Guyana has been forced to adopt certain measures for its survival. Restrictions have been placed on the importation of certain commodities and wheaten flour is one such. Our colonial heritage has had responsibility for our eating habits and we have always looked overseas for what we were taught to be the place where the best would come from. We only make use of these local products when we really cannot get the foreign ones. With this in view, the W.R.S.M. has taken on the task of spreading the word of the uses of the various vegetable flours, all grown here. Since rice is grown on a very large scale in Guyana we thought of experimenting with rice flour. But the W.R.S.M. did not go about this task blindly. The movement found out if there were any nations who used 'rice flour' and we discovered that there are many, such as the Koreans, Iraqis and Indians, just to name a few.

In the early '70s, this Government embarked on a programme of banning a number of imported food items. This was a deliberate policy to ensure that Guyanese farmers were justly rewarded for their labour, as well as to allow Guyanese to take pride in valuing what is local.

At the present time Guyanese are participating in programmes and sharing experiences in a variety of ways in preparing our local foods. One of the food items, rice, which forms a staple diet, has taken 'pride of place' on our tables and we are learning new and exciting ways of preparing these dishes. Even in this area, simple technical support is forthcoming from friendly countries and we are able to learn how we can fully utilise this food item. Carambola has taken pride of place as a foreign exchange earner and

this fruit which was previously under-utilized is now processed in fruits for local use, for export, for making a variety of local condiments and other such food supplements. The use of these food items has secured employment for thousands of Guyanese.

In 1977, the Cde. Prime Minister at the 72nd Conference of the Guyana Association of Local Authorities held in Linden gave an analysis of the mis-orientation of Guyanese because of our colonial heritage. He outlines the constraints which a poor developing country like Guyana faced when it sought to embark on a self-reliant course in food. He said – and I quote:

"Some of the social constraints arise from imported attitudes not relevant or supportive of our society and national goals. Altogether, more people need to understand that we are now a free people, and that we need no longer to look to any metropolitan power or overseas influence for our norms of thought, dress, work, development or living style. We need to appreciate also and use the things that we produce, as an aid to development. Too many Guyanese still prefer the foreign made things, even when there are local replacements. This is no way to develop a country. Any country that has a good local market for its agricultural, industrial and other products is in a favourable position with reference to its day to day business and for its development schemes."

The call for self-reliance was made then and it is being reiterated now.

The involvement in the agricultural production drive will preserve and create employment opportunities for Guyanese, which previously were denied them. Before Government's policy of banning foreign food items and placing emphasis on local food consumption, Guyanese worked to spend their earnings on food items to ensure that people who were not Guyanese secured jobs.

With the thrust for self-sufficiency and the policy of self-reliance in food, Guyanese are given full opportunity to use their creativity, skills and potential in the quest of feeding the nation. The Government of Guyana has established special processing unit at the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation to harness and process excess agricultural produce. In addition, there are several other such supportive agencies in the co-operative as well as the private sectors which are involved in processing local foods.

In Region 2, the Regional Democratic Council, in conjunction with agencies like the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation will be establishing a Fruit Processing Factory, which will process carambola.

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At the informal level, groups of women, organised in vibrant women's groups such as C.A.S.W.I.G., the Guyana Federation of Women's Institutes and the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement, are involved in programmes which teach people in several regions of the country how to process food. This is an area, Cde. Speaker, in which thousands of Guyanese women are earning a living.

The W.R.S.M. is presently involved in a country-wide programme aimed at making Guyanese aware of the ways of preparing rice flour. This programme is educational and has made several Guyanese recognise that rice flour could be utilized in several ways as rice flour and could make tastier and more creative dishes. Demonstrations have been held showing how to make dosa (or roti), cookies, steamed and baked bread, sponge cake, pancakes, noodles and rice crispies, just to mention a few. The participation and response at these sessions have been good.

It is useful to know that the local replacements of rice and legumes are as nutritious as the wheaten flour and other such items we had been accustomed to. What is more important is that Guyanese now have a chance to conduct more research and experimentation on our local foods. The self-reliance call is being intensified at a time when we face a serious economic crisis and when we need to utilise all our resources affectively to win. Guyana will have to take the call for involvement in agricultural production seriously. We will have to apply our talents and skills if we are to survive. We will have to be self-reliant if our country is to experience development.

Cde. Speaker, I know that there are dissidents in the society who always try to impede progress in Guyana but on more than one occasion the Guyanese nation has had the resilience never to submit or yield and certainly we shall survive and tell the tale of success. Therefore, I have no hesitation in commending this Motion to the House.

/Applause/

The Speaker: Comrades, the following comrades will be on tonight – Cde. McRae, Denny, Rashid and Jack in that order.

Sitting suspended at 18:30 hrs.

National Assembly

20:00 hrs

On Resumption –

The Speaker: Comrades, the sitting of the Assembly is now resumed. Cde. Mc Rae please proceed.

Cde. Mc Rae: Cde. Speaker, I rise to support the motion laid in this Assembly under the name of Cde. Patricia Fredericks which seeks to adopt the address given by His Excellency Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, Executive President of Guyana. I also would like to make out of this opportunity to join in the praise and well wishes for the reaching of the milestone in his life and activities which are laudable efforts. Efforts that have moved this country from the period of chaos, division, dissention and disruption into the quiet period in which we can now progress towards development. Development not only of resources but of the people of Guyana. /Applause/

Cde. Speaker, permit me to quote from the address of the President:

"The exploration of our forestry resources is also included in the programme for 1983. This will provide not only an important input for housing our citizens but it will also be the source of commodities and products for which there are already markets in the Caribbean and beyond."

Speaking of our forest, Cde. Speaker, Guyana's forest covers over 75 percent of its total land space. Of this vast quantity of renewable resources, over 1,000 species have been identified. Of these species just 30 odd have been commercially exploited from which exports accounted for only 1.5 percent of Guyana's export earnings today. The consumption of our timbers has been designed by tradition and custom which developed feelings and influences that favoured those species that are: (a) Traditionally well known and (b) internationally acceptable. These attributes have made green heart, purple heart and wallaba species, the mainstay of the timber industry in Guyana with regards to utilisation, thus causing to develop by custom and practice over three decades, the type of forest extraction and utilisation which resulted in selective timber felling. This consequently removed from our forest the cream of the forest timber known as green heart, purple heart and wallaba. The results of this miniscule and unimaginative use of our resources

are that out of an area of 7.6 million hectares of accessible forest with a volume of 560 million cubic metres, presently only 0.78 million cubic metres were removed which by proportion is equal to about 1/700 of the total. Only that proportion of wood was removed from an area of 1.5 million hectares. At this rate, Cde. Speaker, it will take 700 years to completely exploit our forest resources assuming, of course, that there is no regeneration and with regard to the fact that Guyana is a substantial net importer of wood and wood products that the Guyana Forestry Commission is in the process currently of putting together a forestry programme aimed at primarily (1) improving the general management and utilisation practices through the industry's development with a view to making it more efficient and (2) drafting and implementing a long term plan to improve significantly the industry's contribution to the country's need.

In dealing with the foreign export earnings, that has been reducing over a period of time our wood and wood product imports as well as expanding our exports of wood and wood production. The increased earnings in hard currency. The third point is that scope should be provided for moving the timber industry away from the normal sawmilling stage and to provide backward and forward linkage as the industry is integrated virtually. All this is to ensure in the very words of our leader and Executive President:

"The fullest and the most imaginative use of our resources."

The fourth point is that we must effect an efficient system of marketing intelligence which would form the basis of aggressive marketing initiatives aimed at doubling our export sales in the short term and by the end of the first five years programmes increasing export sales by as much as four times. In this regard the projected sales revenues for the year ending December, 31st 1983, are expected to be some \$20 million Guyana Dollars, a \$60 million improvement on the 1982 figure.

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(Cde. McRae continues)

The setting up of the Guyana Timber Export Board in 1973 had an immediate effect, that is export sales and revenue shows a steady increase. For export earnings from wood and wood products moved from G\$3.7 million in 1972 to G\$8.2 million in 1975 which doubled the 1972 earnings. By 1979 this figure increased to G\$14 million and by 1981 had doubled the 1975 figure reaching \$16 million. Of these exports greenheart, purpleheart and wallaba accounted for 80 percent of total export earnings. For 1983 and the following years the Commission would be increasing emphasis on the marketing of the lesser known species at home and abroad. Since 1981 our exports have been as follows: to the Caribbean – 45 percent, U.K. – 35 percent, U.S. and Canada – 14.2 percent, Portugal – 9 percent, Middle East – 4 percent, and to others – 2.6 percent. This year efforts will be made to consolidate and expand these positions. The efforts to increase the utilisation of local wood includes the revival of the local building and construction industry with a overall emphasis on using our hard woods bearing in mind the cement shortage. The building industry will be exposed to many practical uses of the various species for construction purposes and their ecstatic characteristics.

The Guyana Forestry Commission in pursuing the aforementioned developed has set in train two important instruments, namely the New Marketing Advisory Committee and Forestry Industry Development Unit, F.I.D.U. The F.I.D.U. is a committee comprising a number of relevant producers and agencies within the industry to advise on the eventual new marketing policies and mechanism for its implementation. This is aimed at getting both private producers and government to pool efforts so as to maximise the export potential of all forestry products and to disseminate information on desired practices of marketing our timbers locally. F.I.D.U. will comprise a specialist arm of the Commission which will be action-oriented and which will be ultimately responsible for agitating a development programme to a successful realisation. Analysis and evaluation of forest products will be one of the major services rendered by the Unit.

Cde. Speaker, as Guyana seeks to achieve independent development based on the concept of self reliance the importance of our forestry and produce cannot be denied. Despite the many constraints suffered by this industry and I dare say others, foreign exchange unavailability and its far reaching effect on imports, Guyana's forest, by virtue of its vastness and being a renewable source must be given the opportunity to make the substantial contribution which it is capable of at this point in time. It has limitless potentials that are appreciated by the Commission and the producers who are strong in will to tackle with determination and achieving the set goals. For example, revival of the charcoal industry in Guyana is one. This will provide an alternative energy source and for the export earnings it is capable of. Production of fire wood and charcoal has increased considerably over the past years. For instance, in 1978 fuel wood accounted for 12 percent of annual wood production. By 1981 it accounted for 23 percent, an increase due mainly to the establishment of a more viable charcoal industry and an increase in fire wood consumption in the coastal areas. Figures in charcoal production over the years indicate a significant drop from 1970 when 1.047 tons were produced to 1978 when only 570 tons were realised. In 1981 however, some 269,135 metric tons were achieved. As the revival programmed gathers momentum output is projected to reach and surpass 1,000,000 metric tons by the year 1984.

The Forestry Commission will be moving during this year to ensure greater recovery from charcoal with the installation of a charcoal briquetting Plant which will utilise charcoal fines along with starch additives and produce charcoal briquette. There we see in the production of charcoal the production lends itself to the agricultural drive in that an agricultural product started from cassava will be provided with a greater market for this commodity. It has been estimated that the replacement of Bunker C oil in the bauxite industry with charcoal will take about 250 tons of charcoal per year and moves are in change to effect gradually this transformation which will save the country millions of foreign exchange. This industry would however, need support. With the special priority allocated to agriculture...

The Speaker: Two minutes more.

Cde. McRae: For the 1983 programme it is appropriate that some emphasis be placed in the forestry development programme on agro-forestry and its production on a large scale. At present some producers mainly of the Essequibo and Berbice rivers have established agricultural plantations in clearing made for that purpose. Citrus, ground provisions and other root crops have been established and in some cases areas of plantains and bananas have been cultivated as a means of making the particular establishment self sufficient in certain basic food crops. This idea will be further promoted to include intercropping of short and medium cycle crops with new forest plantation and in cases where clay felling is done whole plantations could be established, providing the soil type is adequate. These, Cde. Speaker, are some of the projects with which the Forestry Commission will be concerned with in this year and ... The problems are many and acute but with the will and support system, bold imaginative action the year of 1983 will see forestry bidding strongly to take its place alongside the major pillars of our economy.

Cde. Speaker, it is with these plans, these objectives of production and utilisation of forestry products support is given to the motion moved to implement and adopt the advice and guidance given in the President's address to this House. /Applause/

Minister of Labour, Manufacturing and Industrial Development (Cde. K. Denny): Cde. Speaker, I consider it a very honourable task for me to speak at this juncture on the address delivered by Cde. President on Monday, 7th February, 1983. In the colonial days when we studied British Constitution which has little relevance today, today in the context of independent Guyana we have the People's New Constitution, when we spoke of the monarch we used to use Latinism which went like this primus inter pares which means chief among equals.

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(Cde. Denny continues)

If I should transpose that to the Cde. Leader of the People's National Congress and President of the Co-operative Republic, I would say that is not applicable because in these circumstances the Cde. Leader and President is unequal, he is unparalleled and in truth and in fact he can be said, in the circumstances of the world, and particularly in the context of the region, to have no equal. /Applause/

Having said that, it has to be understood quite clearly that when the President does give an address of that importance it has to be examined in the context of our decision to implement what he has guided and to implement what he has advised. I want to quote from the last page of the Leader's address when he said "I do not promise you Elysium in 1983." As I understand the term "Elysium" it means paradise, a place where there will be total smoothness, where there will not be vicissitudes and ups and downs. So the Cde. President in his traditional style of honesty and frankness has said to us years ago, I promise you nothing but hard work. In that strain and trend he has again said to us, "I do not promise you Elysium in 1983." Going on he says: "This must be a year of supreme effort and higher production." Supreme effort would imply that in all sectors of the economy production has got to be increased, productivity has got to rise; it would mean that in the traditional areas of export we have got to do more.

My concentration this evening would not be on the traditional areas which can be said to be given but I shall concentrate on the non-traditional areas of export. But one has to understand that before one can export commodities one has got to produce the commodities. In the first instance one must be able to produce and one must be able to ensure that one's marketing strategies are such that we can ensure that we have markets not merely for local consumption, which would not include exports, but for overseas consumption. And when you speak of overseas consumption you are obviously talking about the question of export. The traditional areas of export in this country have been sugar, rice, bauxite, timber, etc. Then one can categorise all of that in two areas. One, in the area of

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limited agriculture and two, in the area of mining. But what this Government, through its foresight, through its imagination, through its capacity and ability to think in the interest of the working people has done is not to tie itself to the traditional areas, but to involve itself in the non-traditional areas. That is why the Government did formalise and set up a Ministry in 1981 which dealt with manufacturing, the Ministry of Manufacturing and which in 1983 became part and parcel of the Ministry of labour, now known as the Ministry of Labour, Manufacturing and Industrial Development. It will appear to me therefore, Cde. Chairman, that one has to understand that we are not merely concerned with export in the area of bauxite, sugar and rice, areas which are pivotal to our growth and our development thrust, but also in the area, as I said earlier, of these non-traditional areas.

Having said that I should indicate that the Government has set up two organisations, two entities, one known as the Export Promotion Council and the other known as the Industrial Development Council. The Export Promotion Council has been set up in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance while the Industrial Development Council has been set up within the Ministry of Labour, Manufacturing and Industrial Development falls within a cluster headed by the Vice President, Economic Planning and Finance, and since in physical terms the two Ministries are housed in the same building, the collaboration, the co-ordination and the togetherness are easily achievable and easily achieved.

One has to understand that if we are talking about export we must have an Export Promotion Council whose responsibility will be to give guidance to manufactures, whose responsibility would be to give guidance to industrialist in order to ensure that they produce to a certain level in quantitative terms, and not merely to produce to a certain level in quantitative terms but also in qualitative terms so that your quality is assured and your quality is ensured and therefore you can satisfy market demands overseas. If you are not able to keep a certain level of product your quality control is not in order and you will never be able to sustain and to maintain your marketability. That is very important in terms of the type of products that we are involved in. So one has to understand that this Export Promotion Council will have to be able to identify certain products which manufacturers

need to produce, will have to recognise what is the marketing potential, will have to have capacity to assist in marketing surveys, will have to ensure the development of a capability for studying the characteristics of export market and that type of thing.

When one looks at the Industrial Development Council, that will be designed to ensure that industry grows, that industry develops, that you do not stay at the point of small industries, but that you expand and that sometimes mergers will have to occur so that the advantages of large-scale production can accrue. If the advantages of large-scale production do accrue it will mean that certain benefits will be gained.

Cde. Speaker, as I understand it therefore, this Industrial Development Council will have to create an awareness. It will have to sensitize the manufacturers. It will have to sensitize the industrialists so they can recognise the vital role the industrial sectors have to play in this economy. They have got to understand the emphasis has to be on local raw material in the main and that you need to rely also on bringing certain things from outside but that the emphasis must not be on bringing certain things from outside but that the emphasis must not be on bringing things from outside. The emphasis must not be on exotic circumstances, but as far as possible the technology that you employ will be indigenous to Guyana.

(Cde. Denny continues):

And that is why the Government has established the National Science Research Council together with the Institute of Applied Science and Technology. It means that the National Science Research Council - they will be responsible for what I call the theorising, the conceptualising of things, that will be their function but the actual research that is going to be done in the area of mineral sciences, the actual research that is going to be done in the area of natural products, the natural research that will be done in the area of food technology - those will be the responsibilities of the Institute of Applied Science and Technology and in close and side by side or in close position Cde. Speaker, you have to have a documentation centre that will be able to have the type of information and they have started to set it up, have the type of information for research and so that the information is collated - the data is collated and not merely collated but that by having a documentation centre the information will be easily retrievable.

That is the type of thing that we are establishing, so I want it to be clearly understood Cde. Speaker, that there is a inter-relationship, a smooth correlation between (a) manufacturing and industrial development as a Ministry. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, the Export Promotion Council, the Industrial Development Council collaborating heavily with National Science Research Council and the Institute of Applied Science and Technology in this researching area of chilly peppers. All of that will be the responsibility of an institute like Institute of Applied Science and Technology. It means then that the Government is moving to a position where, not that organisations like Guysuco and G.P.C. will not do research, but they will not do the research in vacuum. They will not do the research by themselves, rather collaboratively. Together G.P.C., Guysuco, I.A.S.T. they all may be doing the research in different areas at some time, but of course there must be co-ordination among themselves and there will be a free exchange of information on the results of the research carried out by one institution visaby another.

That is the type of thing Cde. Chairman, that we are establishing as the Government in this country emphasising manufacturing and industrial development and emphasising export in non-traditional areas. Cde. Chairman, I wanted to be clearly understood that so far as the Ministry is concerned we are looking as clearly that on agriculture repeated not only by

members of the Party and supporters of the Government and the nation as a whole, but clearly adumbrated by the Cde. Leader that the last and major thrust is agriculture, but the Leader pointed out further Cde. Speaker, that that one of our main areas or main plans will be agro-industries and so the Ministry of Manufacturing will have to ensure that that emphasis is placed in this area

..... like the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Co-operatives, these Ministries that are heavily engaged. Co-operatives - there are a number of agricultural co-operative producers, co-operative marketing, co-operatives and the area of agricultural products and so we can set up in place those agro industries as the Leader has indicated in his address to this August National Assembly. What we want to do Cde. Speaker, is to ensure that there is a

..... as this is happening now, but we want to do it on a much larger scale. careful to ensure that you are trying to get maximum results or maximum returns from your inputs and so not only Cde. Chairman, are we concentrating on agro industry but we are concentrating on

products in the area of the setting up of pre-fabricated houses like that which is needed by certain people in the private sector. Let me say that this Government involves the private sector to the extent that we have not only have discussions with them but we encourage them to extend in the area of manufacturing and industrial development and so this area of pre-fabricated houses

merely wood and wood products, for example, the area of furniture. Emphasis must be placed in this area of furniture because once the thing is well done you will be able to create employment for a large number of people who might have been unemployed..... at the level of the recruitment and placement division of the Ministry of Labour to try to guide people to get into the areas of agriculture. I am told that in the Caribbean we have passed on supplies that have been carried out by our marketing suppliers. I am told that in the Caribbean we have a ready market for the type of furniture that we produce in this country. As a matter of fact, we all are aware of the high quality of workmanship that the Guyanese cabinet maker can produce and furniture manufacturers.

Also Cde. Speaker, we produce textile and production. It must be noted that Sanata Textiles Limited is producing in the first place codes

..... there may go into the area of active get the type of measurement in place to give them what is called

crushability in the codes and we are told that once we have the codes in place

.....sanata textiles, we will be able to produce the second sheet,
we will create employment for more people, people will acquire skills and more
than that our level of production will increase and not merely that our level
of production will increase but we may be able to produce the type of quality
..... in the immediate areas of Caricom we will
naturally be in a position to develop and obviously to create a better
situation for our people in this country.

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20:40 hrs

(Cde. Denny continues)

I want it to be understood quite clearly that during last year we processed about 18 new applications for different types of manufacturing industries and by doing that we are able to submit them to the Minister of Finance so that fiscal incentives can be granted, for example, duty free entry of equipment, tax holidays, etc. That type of thing. Many of the industries which we see around in the nontraditional areas have been able to get fiscal incentives because in their project documents they expressed to us the whole purpose, the whole rationale, and how they intend to go about things so that they can make a contribution to national development of this country.

It has been noted that those 18 new industries that have come on stream will be able to mobilise about \$30 million overall if they are able to work in such a way that they can effect a certain level of profitability. More than that: we have noted that in frequent visits to manufacturing concerns that our technicians are on the ground and are able to advise them and guide them. That is not to say that our manufacturing industries are situated only in Georgetown, even though Georgetown is the capital city. Our manufacturing industries are situated throughout the length and breadth of this country, in every region. For example, there is at Charity that cassava mill run by Guysuco which has to be re-energised obviously because of our deep and abiding concern for the people of this country.

The Speaker: I don't want to re-energise you but you only have five minutes more.

Cde. Denny: Thank you, Cde. Speaker, I agree with that because if you were to re-energise me you would have to tell me to take my seat.

The Speaker: I am subtly telling you that.

Cde. Denny: In conclusion, I want it to be clearly understood that when the Leader speaks of higher production we must not think only of production in direct terms, but we must think of production in all spheres of activity, direct production and indirect production, because those services which are sometimes called supportive services are vital services and if you did not have the supportive services, the actuality of the thing would not have been realised.

We all have to recognise, we all have to understand, that if we are to change our circumstances, if we are to ensure that the international economic crisis which bedevils the entire world, irrespective of the ideological stance, if we are to ensure that things change in this country, we ourselves have to lift ourselves by our own bootstraps. No godfathers are going to do it for us, as the Leader pointed out. Those are not his exact words but a paraphrase. It is based on our own effort.

When I used to go school I learned:

"Where there is a will there is a way.
Where there is no will there is no way."

We of the P.N.C. in government are not merely talking about "will." A will is any will. We are talking about "the will" and we have not left "the will" dangling. We have qualified "will." It is "The will to survive." What we have said is that all that we do, all our efforts, must be designed to ensure our survival. The Leader has itemised the areas – food, transportation, housing etc. They are pivotal to our developmental thrust.

It was for me a great opportunity to share these thoughts because, as you are aware, it is the first occasion since I made my debut in this Honourable Assembly that I have had the opportunity of sharing these thoughts at a level like this, discussing and debating the President's Address. In those circumstances, therefore, I hope that the prophets of doom will be mystified. I hope that the minority comrades, visible and invisible, will recognise the importance of working together to satisfy this national thrust. In those circumstances I feel that all to a man, and that includes "woman," should support this Motion as presented here today by Cde. Patricia Fredericks. /Applause/

The Speaker: Cde. Rashid.

The Minister in the Office of the President (Cde. Rashid): Cde. Speaker, the world is living through a very critical period of its history. Fortunately more and more people are beginning to grasp the depth and dimension of the difficulties that threaten the very existence of mankind. Today, when there is a dire need to allocate planetary resources to satisfy the basic needs for mankind, the need to solve the problems of hunger, poverty and disease, we find the rich and powerful countries of the world engaged in an arms race which could only culminate in the annihilation of mankind.

In the world economy, economic plagues continue to ravage nations, developed and developing. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which did a study late last year, put out the following statistics on the unemployment situation in those groups of countries that are members of O.E.C.D. In 1980, the unemployment rate was 21 million. In 1982 it was 31 million. In 1983, it is predicted to be 32 million and the projection for 1985 is 35 million, a steady increase in the levels of unemployment in the rich countries of the world.

The estimates for the Third World countries are even bleaker, according to this same prestigious group. Over 500 million people in the Third World are unemployed; they are without jobs. It is projected that this figure will double itself by the year 2,000. The O.E.C.D. also predicted that for 1982 there would be no growth in the major industrialized countries of the world.

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(Cde. Rashid continues)

And for 1983 a very meagre growth rate of 2.5 percent, a figure which is described as too optimistic by well informed sources is anticipated true, Cde. Speaker, inflation which was at one time regarded as public enemy number one, has now been brought under control in many developed countries. The levels of inflation are now read in single digital figures. True interest rates have shown a tendency to decline, and there has been much talk within recent times, the last few months, of the validity of the Keynesian theory of investment and savings and the inevitability of a package of monetary measures to turn around the economics of the world. It should, however, be recognised, Cde. Speaker, that these so called achievements, those glimmer of hopes have really been obtained at a tremendous social cost in terms of unemployed man power resources and idle capital. I have indicated to you the high levels of unemployment which dominates almost every group of nations, but in the United States of America, the levels of bankruptcy last year was the highest for 30 years. According to the President of the United States of America, Ronald Reagan, United States was in the worse economic mess since the 1930s.

While the effects of economic recession on the wealthy countries of the world could be described as troublesome and demoralizing for the hundreds of millions of people who inhabit the lands of the Third World, the experience is traumatic and many economies are today on the verge of bankruptcy. Caught between the escalating import prices on the one hand and a collapse of commodity prices and shrinkage of markets on the other hand, developing countries are faced with a chronic balance of payment problem and falling living standards. Presently, many are struggling to avert debts default, and jumbo loans are being quickly assembled to protect lenders and recipients from financial ruin.

Many countries of the Third World and many of the more developing countries of the world have begun to announce publicly their inability to repay the principal on loans borrowed countries from both ideological camps. It that the international economic system as presently constituted is operating inefficiently and acting unfairly to the developed countries.

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This must be of no surprise to us since the institutions and the rulers that govern the economic order were established and formulated during the colonial period and just after the Second World War, without involvement, without the recognition of the existence of the developing group of countries. This fallibility in the world economic system was long recognised and in 1974 the General Assembly of the United Nations focused its attention on the difficulties of the economic system and came to the conclusion that there was an urgent need for a new International Economic Order. Since then, several conferences have been convened to discuss this vast issue. We have also had the North-South dialogue, we have had the work of the Brand Commission, we have had most recently, the mini summit at Can-Cun and all those efforts have succeeded in raising the hopes, at least for a short while, of the masses of the world, but only to have these hopes dashed before the ink was dried. It seems to us, Cde. Speaker, that because of the unenlightened self-interest the powerful countries, the developed countries, will not agree to change the present economic system. It is not in their interest and hence they will not agree to carry out not even minor adjustments. So what are the alternatives for the countries of the south – the developing nations? Should we throw up our hands in despair by accepting the status quo and continue to plea for concessions from the North? It is the Government's view and position that we in the South must demonstrate a collective will to change the existing order and to demonstrate in no uncertain manner to the powerful countries that the existing orders will is unacceptable.

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(Cde. Rashid continues)

You may find this a strange position. How can the weak appear to be powerful and to threaten the system which has governed international economic rates for decades? The answer, Cde. Speaker, lies in the unity of the third world countries. We must get together. We in the south must recognise that in unity there is strength and if we in the south strengthen the type of co-operation within our group we will be able to successfully confront the industrialized north. We produce the raw material required by the factories of the north. We control every major raw material, starting from petroleum and it is important for us to recognise this important source of strength and unite around this issue if we are to break out from the vicious circle of poverty. Already there has been several important meeting among developing countries to discuss co-operation and a programme of collective self-reliance was presented to U.N.C.T.A.D. 5. This programme known as the Arusha programme and we expect that with the Non-Aligned conference in New Delhi the Arusha programme will constitute important item on the agenda for discussion and adoption. Already there is an agreement on principle. It is now for the countries of the south to move to implement the agreement.

There is, Cde. Speaker, another recent development which holds some hope for the depressed colonies of the south and this has to do with the establishment of a common fund to provide assistance for the operation of commodity agreements which presently exist between the countries of south. In particular, this fund will be used to help developing countries widen their productive capacity, improve their marketing techniques, trading, distribution and transportation. These are some of the efforts which are being made at international level to ensure that the developing countries break out of this strangulation which faces them today. These initiatives, Cde. Speaker, have been taken by countries which are really concerned with the iniquity in the present international distribution of resources and wealth and we must commend the effort of those countries like Guyana which are in the forefront of the struggle. It is no exaggeration, Cde. Speaker, to say that Guyana can benefit substantially from these initiatives and developments. But if we are to benefit we have to put many things in place.

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We have got the potential to expand our export substantially and my colleague, Cde. Denny has amplified in clear terms of those possibilities that exist in this area for development and expansion of exports. We find, Cde. Speaker, that we like other developing countries have got to export more if we are to continue to maintain even present levels of imports.

I am confident that we have got the will. I am confident that with the guidance and leadership given by our outstanding revolutionary leader, Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, the Guyanese people will survive. Not only will we survive, we will prosper because we have the combination of natural resources and man-power resources to attain those possibilities. There is another area, Cde. Speaker, which must be of some concern to us and that has to do with the work of the counter-revolutionary elements both at home and abroad. The work of imperialism as seen most recently when they successfully blocked us from obtaining an important commodity which we were accustomed to consuming. They thought that without this commodity the Guyana revolution, the socialist Revolution would have been brought to its knees. In doing this they acted faithfully on the advice of the United States of America's Minister of Agriculture who said and I would like to quote, Cde. Speaker, "Food stock owned by U.S.A. is the greatest weapon to use during the coming twenty years. The real way to use those foodstuffs is to connect the countries with United States in a way to make them fully dependent on U.S.A. to a stage at which they cannot do without us." These were the words of John Block, the Minister responsible for agriculture in the United States of America.

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(Cde. Rashid continues)

But instead of the Guyanese people stood up bravely and applied their physical energies to the land and resources God had given them, to produce the food needed for survival. We must compliment the spirit of our people in responding positively to these criminal efforts.

The Cde. Leader has shown us the way in his speech to Parliament entitled "The Will to Survive." Let us stop fighting among ourselves. Let us work in unity. The time for rhetoric and the time for posturing are long passed. Those of us who subscribe to socialist objectives must decide how serious we are and if we indeed are serious let us make the commitment to unite under the People's National Congress Government under the leadership of Cde. Burnham to thwart the efforts of the imperialist forces as they attempt to turn back the clock. We in the People's National Congress Government are committed firmly behind our Cde. President. We will not waiver, we will not back down, despite the difficulties. We are willing to make the supreme sacrifice for the sake of the Guyanese people and this we will do.

The Speaker: Cde. Jack.

The Minister of Energy and Mines (Cde. Jack): Cde. Speaker, in his address to Parliament last Monday, Cde. President emphasised the need for us to produce and he identified agriculture as the area in which in 1983 our main effort must be directed. No one can gainsay the fact that in our circumstances today it is imperative that we produce in order to survive. We share with a number of other countries of the world which are passing through a serious economic crisis the necessity of producing sufficient so that we can buy the necessities which we must have in order to keep our economy going.

I want to lay some stress this evening not only on the question of production but on the question of saving and conservation. If I may allude very shortly to a story that we have been telling over and over again but which a number of people do not seem yet to understand and therefore which can take some ... is the story of the increase in burden of the importation of oil on our economy. In 1970 our total exports, that is excluding surpluses

etc., amounted to \$268 million and at that time our total imports of fuel, excluding greases and lubricants amounted to a mere \$23 million or 7 percent of our exports. When we included lubricants and greases this figure went up slightly to 9 percent. In 1982 the professional figures which I have shows that a comparable figure in \$734 million but that our importation of fuel, excluding lubricants and greases, again amounted to \$308 million oil percentage or 42 percent of our exports. If we added lubricants and greases the picture becomes even worse. The total importation of fuel including lubricant and greases would amount to \$352 million or 48 percent of our exports.

In other words, Cde. Speaker, almost half of our total exports is eaten up by the cost of the importation of fuel. It is in that context that I say we must not only produce but we must extend every effort to avoid waste. We must conserve. Above all, we must conserve energy. It is within this context that I wish to make some observations of the programme of the Guyana National Energy Authority and what we plan for conservation this year.

When we inaugurated the activities of the National Energy Authority last year – in fact we started from the second quarter of 1982 – we had a target of reducing in quantum the fuel requirements or the fuel importation by 10 percent from what I was in 1981. The figure in 1981 was \$388 million. The professional figure which I have for 1982, that is excluding lubricants and greases, is \$308 million. That is a reduction of \$80 million and significantly more than the 10 percent which we had projected.

(Cde. Jack continues)

However, the picture is not as good as these figures would tend to suggest at first glance. The reason is that our exports drop from 972 million dollars in 1981 to 734 million dollars in 1982, so that the percentage as of the importation and of exports rose from 40% to 42%/as I said if we added gross and reproduction ~~it~~ moved from 43% to 48%.

This year we are targeting a further 5% reduction in imports but we would hope with the effects it would be made in all quarters of the national economy no further decline in our exports in 1983 as against 1982 and that our exports would increase not only as a result of a more such as but also basically as a result of greater production.

Now I am taking this opportunity to speak of the Energy Conservative Programme for 1983 because I am so far aware that in Guyana at present many people are not fully associated with the significance of conserving energy at this time. We have to take note of the fact that throughout the world a great effort has been made to conserve energy, to teach people new ways of doing things, to make people aware of the methods they can use to save on their electricity payments and on their fuel bill. I may take this opportunity of remarking upon the great theory that has been raised as a result of the recent increase in electricity rates and to my mind it makes the problem we face in Guyana today. I would contend and I am sure that with a great degree of confidence that I cannot be contradicted that there is not a single household in this country that can make a boast that they are using the electricity which is supplied to them at 100% efficiency. If they are not and I believe they are not then the question that arise is what percentage of efficiency is realised in the usage of electricity. I will come to that later and if it is found that the percentage of electricity efficiency is only 60% not only the electricity bill to save money by conserving on electricity. To do that of course one would have to have a programme. In other parts of the world there are serious programmes and campaigns to enlighten people on the necessity to conserve on all types of fuel including electricity and we hope that in 1983 the campaign will be launched by the Energy Authority to do just that.

As you know Cde. Chairman, the world is experiencing a fall in crude oil price but the fall in crude oil price benefits those countries which but crude oil, that is countries on this still being finished products and there is not a immediate translocation of a fall in the price of crude oil and a fall in the price of finished products. As a matter of fact, some oil companies must have actually been trying to get increasing prices on their finished products. If we look at what has happened to the big countries we can see that it is a direct result of an exercise of will on the part of the industrialised countries. They have demonstrated the will to conserve energy, not only have they demonstrated the will, they have actually conserved energy in some cases, as much as 10% in one year. They have not only demonstrated the will to conserve energy but they have demonstrated the will to look for alternative sources if energy. What are we going to do and what will^{we}/be doing in 1983 to develop alternative sources of oil. Guyana National Energy Authority proposes this year to produce a national importation budget. We have experienced great difficulty in putting these because of a lack of response from the Foreign Ministry and agencies which have been approached to supply us with the relevant figures. But if we are to have a significant service programme then we need to have a petroleum oil fuel importation budget. We must also develop a National Energy Plan but this could only be done after the relative data and information have been received. It will be the duty of the Energy Authority this year to ensure that other corporations and Ministries prepare a energy budget. Already we have been able to have Corporations like Guymine prepare a energy budget, but we are looking at a situation in which other single corporations prepare a energy budget and is in a position to know what is the level of efficiency that the Corporations has attained to date. Then of course it is necessary for each Corporation to carry out what has been determined a energy audit. It was to the Ministry direct and we hope to proceed other Ministries to establish the energy budget but to appoint someone in the relative Ministry to carry out the function of the Energy Manager.

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(Cde. Jack continues)

This is not what we are talking about. In some Ministries the energy component of their total budget is sufficiently small to allow for an officer, while carrying out other functions, to be charged with the responsibility for energy. It is surprising to know that, despite all that we have been talking about, the tremendous burden of energy importation in our economy, the people who, one would imagine, would have been seized with the importance of conserving energy still ignore energy conservation as if it is something foreign to them. Not only do we propose that Ministries and corporations in the public sector will prepare energy budgets and monitor them, but we would expect the private sector to do likewise. Already there have been indications that some of the more progressive firms have embarked upon energy conservation programmes to their own betterment and benefit and this is something that we would like to see spread throughout the length and breadth of this country.

Going further, we hope to persuade the average Guyanese householder to develop a domestic budget. I am quite certain – not being a betting man I would not bet as I was about to – that there is no one in this Assembly here this evening who has prepared a domestic energy budget. If we do, it is surprising to see what we can achieve. In my own Ministry we have started to monitor the fuel consumption of our vehicles and the fuel consumption of our vehicles moved from 6 miles a gallon to 20 miles a gallon. I do not know how that was done but I can tell you it was done.

We have also ensure that no vehicle in our Ministry will run on the road if the speedometer cable has been accidently or otherwise cut because it has been our experience that while those of us who drive our own vehicles manage to keep our speedometer cables intact for years and years, sometimes 20 years or more, people who drive Government vehicles tend to have an inability to survive for more than about a month without having that delicate piece of equipment destroyed. We have taken a position in our Ministry that the driver will not drive a vehicle that cannot record, for one reason or another, how many miles it has done. If other Ministries will follow suit they will be amazed at the amount of savings that they would make. I remind this Assembly that we are talking of a burden, anything between 42 percent and 43 percent of our total import.

Apart from this, within the context of energy conservation, we will propose an allocation of fuel upon the basis of the priorities set by the Government. That means, of course, that the agricultural sector will get special treatment but in order for the agricultural sector to get special treatment, it is necessary for persons engaged in agriculture – that includes the regional system – to acquaint the Energy Authority with what are their fuel needs. We started a programme last year to get from the various regions and agricultural entities the quantity of fuel they would need for their crops and we have found that in many instances the producers have a very hazy idea of the correlation between the fuel that they use and the amount of crop that they intend to produce.

Later this month the Energy authority, having already sent out letters to the Ministry of Agriculture, the Regional Ministry and the various Regional Chairman, will hold a seminar to acquaint the relevant persons about the kind of information that we require and the ways in which we can help, but we can only help them if we know well beforehand what their requirements will be. Persons who, knowing that we are laying great stress on agriculture, wait until the last moment to call in panic for the supply of fuel may find themselves disappointed. This is the immediate conservation programme that we intend to pursue this year.

Concomitant with this, of course, will be an educational and information campaign to acquaint people with the various types of equipment and the energy that the various types of equipment use to give them an insight into the ways in which they can save on energy, both electricity and fuel. Subsequently, we would hope to be able to go into the second phase of conservation, that is, the adjustments and supplanting of old equipment with new and more energy-saving equipment, but since, in some cases, this will necessitate the use of foreign exchange, we are not proposing that for this year.

One of the problems facing us with respect to conservation is the lack of proper data. We have prepared forms; we have sent them out to the various Ministries and corporations and so far the response has not been satisfactory. We hope to persuade all concerned that it is in their own interest and in the interest of the nation that they cooperate with the Energy Authority in supplying the relevant information so that a proper plan can be made.

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Among the things which the Cde. President mentioned in his speech was the involvement of all of us and of all Ministries in the agricultural thrust and it is in this context that I wish to say something about the Alternative Energy Programme. We have on stream this year a bio-gas development programme. The first phase of that programme will be the production of a film which will be shown in various parts of this country, particularly the villages, to acquaint villagers, farmers, etc., with the benefits to be derived, not only in terms of energy but in terms of fertiliser from the production of bio-gas. The first phase of that programme should be completed by the end of March, that is, the production of a film. Thereafter the programme will continue with the showing of this film in various parts of the country.

Apart from that, we will be accelerating the programme for developing our lime from the shell which we possess to assist in the fertilizer part of the agricultural thrust. We have also embarked on intensification of the study for the utilisation of peat and we will during 1983 be carrying out exploration on the coast where we have noted the incidence of lignum.

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(Cde. Jack Continues)

Apart from this with respect to bagasse, we have received a study which part of the study of alternative energy resources was commenced by us with Sweco, the Swedish consulting firm and funded by the World Bank for alternative energy.

The Chairman: Five minutes more Cde. Jack.

Cde. Jack: This study Cde. Chairman, suggests that we could develop a greater efficiency in the use of our bagasse and I expect tomorrow to be meeting consultants from that company. Along with that course we will be pursuing this year, the further realisation of the Wamukarru Hydro Electric Scheme in the Rupununi district and recent talks which we have had with members of the hydro power division of my Ministry shows that some of the waters which would be conserved by erection of a dam at Wamukarru could be used for erection purposes and thereby strengthening the agricultural productions in the region.

Lastly, I would like to mention the study on Tuma Tumari which is in the process of completion and for which a decision has to be made during the first half of this year. The capital cost of that reached in \$120 million U.S. If we do make a decision to build this scheme then by 1987 we should have the Tuma Tumari Hydro Electric Power with a control capacity of 50 megawatts and this would go a long way to providing the output of the Guyana Electricity Corporation.

Time Cde. Speaker, does not permit me to go into further details on the question of alternative energy but I would propose to expand on this aspect further on in the debate which will take place later on in about two weeks time. /Applause/

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, "That this Assembly do now adjourn until Friday, 11th February, 1983 at 14:00 hrs." /Vice-President, Party and State Matters./

Adjourned accordingly at 21:45 hrs.