

T H E
P A R L I A M E N T A R Y D E B A T E S
O F F I C I A L R E P O R T S

/VOLUME 10/

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE THIRD SESSION (1983) OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

9th Sitting

14:00 hrs • Friday, 1983 - 04 - 08

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., - (Absent - on Leave)
Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

- Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., - (Absent)
Vice-President, Works, Transport and Housing
- Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P.,
Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance
- Cde. H. Green, M.P., - (Absent)
Vice-President, Agriculture
- Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., - (Absent - on Leave)
Vice-President, Party and State Matters

Senior Ministers (7)

- Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P. - (Absent)
Minister of Education
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., - (Absent)
Minister of National and Regional
Development
- * Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., - (Absent)
Minister of Internal Trade and
Consumer Protection
- * Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., - (Absent)
Minister of Energy and Mines
- * Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., - (Absent)
Attorney General and Minister of Justice
- * Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., - (Absent)
Minister of Foreign Affairs
- * Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.,
Minister of Home Affairs

* Non-elected Member

Ministers (6)

- Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P.,
Minister of Co-operatives
- Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., - (Absent)
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., - (Absent)
Minister, in the Office of the President
- * Cde. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., - (Absent - on Leave)
Minister of Health
- * Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P., - (Absent - on Leave)
Minister of Labour, Manufacturing
and Industrial Development

Ministers of State (2)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P.,
Minister of State in the Ministry of
Internal Trade and Consumer Protection
- Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P.,
Minister of State for Youth and 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.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., - (Absent)
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Education
- Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

* Non-elected Member

Other Members (27)

Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.
Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.
Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
Cde. J. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P. - (Absent - on Leave)
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. Fredericks, M.P.
Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P. - (Absent)
Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P.
Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
Cde. E. Melville, 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)
Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., 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. - (Absent)

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

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

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (9)

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) (Absent - on leave)
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 No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent - on leave)
Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

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

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P.,
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. (Absent)
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
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

PRAYERS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

14:05 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to the Prime Minister, Cde. Ramsaroop and Cde. Van West Charles for today's sitting, to Cde. Denny up to 1983-04-17, to Cde. Bipat for six weeks from 1983-04-05, to Cde. Chowritmootoo for one month from 1983-04-02 and to Cde. De. Abraham to the end of April, 1983.

Thirtieth anniversary of the Establishment of the Parliament Office.

Comrades, I am advised that today would mark thirty years since the present Parliament is constituted as it now is. Prior to that it formed part of the colonial office of those years and since that time we have had two officers with us: The Clerk, Frank Narain, who has been with us continuously and Cde. King, the Sergeant-at-Arms who has been here and was promoted elsewhere and has now returned. /Applause/ During that period the Clerk and Cde. King served under Sir Eustace Woolford, Sir Donald Jackson, R.B. Gajraj, A.P. Alleyne and myself. I am sure you all would wish me to congratulate them and extend to them our best wishes and trust they will be with us for a very long period of time. /Applause/ Of course I say a long period because the Clerk will be here until he is sixty-five years and he is a very young man.

Deaths

Comrades, since we last met we have had the deaths of three members. Two who were former members and one member, Cde. Abel Dorrick who was member elected to the Assembly by the Regional Democratic Council for Region 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo. I understand a motion of condolence on Cde. Dorrick's death will be moved at the next sitting of the Assembly. We also lost two members who served previously as legislators: Cde. Percival Augustus Cummings and Cde. Wellesley Trevelyan Lord. Cde. Cummings was one of the Governor's nominee to the Upper House, i.e., the State Council of 1953 the legislature. He served from 26th of May, 1953 and up to the time of the suspension of the Constitution in December, 1953. He was also nominated to the Interim Legislative Council which followed and served there from December, 1953 to September, 1957. During this time he was assigned responsibility for Labour, Health and Housing.

Cde. Lord was a nominated Member of the Interim Legislative Council and served there from January, 1954 to June, 1957.

Both of these persons made their respective contributions to the Legislature.

I am sure the Members of the Assembly would wish us to record our regret at their passing and to extend our sympathy to their bereaved families. I should therefore with your concurrence request the Clerk to convey our condolences to Cde. Cummings's and Cde. Lord's families.

14:10 hrs

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following Reports were laid:

- (1) Report of the Commissioner of Insurance for the years ended 31st December, 1971 to 31st December, 1980. /The Vice President, Economic Planning and Finance./
- (2) Annual Report of the Ministry of Co-operatives for the year 1981. /The Minister of Co-operatives./

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS - FIRST READING

The following Bills were introduced and read the First time:

- (1) National Data Management Authority Bill 1983 - Bill No. 9/1983 /The Vice President, Economic Planning and Finance./
- (2) Prison (Amendment) Bill 1983 - Bill No. 10/1983 /The Minister of Home Affairs./
- (3) Fiscal Enactments (Amendment) Bill 1983 - Bill No. 11/1983 /The Vice President, Economic Planning and Finance./

PUBLIC BUSINESSBILL - SECOND AND THIRD READINGSGUYANA MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE BILL 1983

A Bill intituled:

"An Act to provide for the establishment and administration of the Guyana Management Institute and for matters connected therewith." /The Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister./

The Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister (Cde. Harewood-Benn): Cde.

Speaker, this Bill, the Guyana Management Institute Bill seeks to establish the institute as a legal entity enabling it to deal with international agencies connected with technical assistance for management development. It is a pretty straightforward Bill in that it seeks to remedy a situation which needs to be remedied urgently. There is general agreement as to the fact that our management training capability is inadequate, and with the urgent need for managers at all levels it is necessary that this institute be organised as a statutory body.

It is going to assume responsibility for management training at all levels. It will also be taking over all the functions that are now carried out by what is known as the Guyana Management Development Training Corporation and it will take over responsibility for all the management training that is now done by the Public Service Training Division. This does not mean that the P.S.M. will no longer

be responsible for training. It will continue to deliver those basic and technical training programmes which it now carries out for personnel in the Ministries and Government Departments in and out of town. Some of these include orientation programmes for new entrants, records management, accountancy and so on.

I must note that the University of Guyana has a Department of Management and the establishment of the Guyana Management Institute will in no way conflict with the running and with the organisation of the Department of Management of the University of Guyana. They are concerned with management education. The Guyana Management Institute will seek to emphasise management training and development. There is no conflict. In fact, there is complete complementarity.

The plan is for the Institute to work with managers themselves in a kind of laboratory situation where they will get very practical knowledge as far as the management training and development programmes are concerned. I may add that this is not any new arrangement. It occurs quite well in many other parts of the world and in seeking to remedy our situation we see the establishment of the Institute as the first step in a necessary series of steps to ensure that our management capability is as it should be. I ask that this Bill be read a Second time.

Question proposed.

Cde. Ram Karran: Sir, the hon. pretty lady Minister has done a little more than what is recorded in the Bill, although I think she failed to tell us what are the reasons for this new addition to this very poor economy of Guyana. This is the time for the P.N.C. to pack up and go. Now they are starting to train. Train who and train for what? The whole country is ready to move them out and now they come and tell us after so many years that they will start training and that this is not going to conflict with the several training facilities that they have got. Why a new one? The lady Minister did not tell us why.

They are telling us that the managers need training. I would think, sir, that other categories of people higher than the managers need training because what we have succeeded to do in this country is chase out all the competent managers so far and now we have got a dearth of managers and we need to train them they say. I am asking why is it that the facilities at the University of

Guyana, for instance, cannot be expanded. We have the Civil Service Training facilities on which we have spent so much money, and not so very long ago we have had a new Ministry set up to look after the Public Service and Training and so on. In days gone by - and in fact I understand that the same system exists in the United Kingdom, where you have such a large Civil Service, where the Exchequer is responsible for training and Public Service. We do not seem to recognise nor have we recognised all these years that we are a poor country. At least they say so.

I am astounded by the fact that the Minister said we must look and see what is happening in/ ^{other} places, where countries have benefited from a scheme like this when, in our own country, we are told we must not worry with what the people outside eat, we must make our own colonial basket, we must not worry with flour although the people all over the country in a democratic manner are saying we want wheaten flour. They are telling us we must eat rice flour and at the same time she is telling us do not worry with the training we have here, we must go outside and see. Unfortunately she did not call the name of the country where this sort of training is done. It is only because she is a nice lady that I do not want to say what I really want to say.

I think it is farcical. I think the Government would have to see. They have taken a long time, they have come to this Chamber. All the people's grievances are aired in the street, they are not brought here. We have come here to do a nonsense piece of thing, expanding another thing, make more bureaucracy.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(Cde. Ram Karran continues)

Let us go back Sir, you were referring to thirty years ago when this Chamber was in colonial times. Go through the papers in the archives and see if the number of thefts and hold-ups and murders and so on was going on at this rate today has been taking place at that time. We talk about colonial past, we talk about foreign this and foreign that and we are not making any progress at all. We are just white-washing the rascality that is going on.

Interruption by the Speaker.

Cde. Ram Karran continues: Forty years ago you had colonial establishment and I am saying that more honest people prevailed in those days both in the legislature and outside of the legislature than prevail today outside of the Parliament and in this British Parliament. The thing is stinking Cde. Chairman, something must be done about it and this kind of white wash that is going on is not going to solve the problem.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Assembly in Committee.

Bill considered and approved.

Assembly resumed.

Bill reported without Amendment, read the third time and passed.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 12

Cde. Hoyte: Cde. Speaker, I beg to seek your leave to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 12 to enable the Assembly to revert to the item 'Oath' on today's order of business.

The Speaker: Leave is granted.

Cde. Hoyte: Cde. Speaker, I beg to move that the Assembly revert to the item 'Oath of a New Member' to enable the member Cde. Edwina Melville to take the oath of office. She was unfortunately and unavoidably delayed and therefore was not in the Assembly at the time when we reached this item.

Question put, and agreed to.

OATHS

The Speaker: Comrades and honourable members, following the resignation of Cde. Jean Maitland Singh and my call upon the representatives of the People's National Congress list of candidates, the name of Cde. Edwina Melville was extracted from the said list and Cde. Melville was accordingly on the 11th march, 1983 declared to be an elected member of the National Assembly. As Cde. Melville is now present the oath will be administered to her.

The Oath of office was made and subscribed by Cde. Edwina Melville.

1983-04-08

14:30 hrs.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

14:30 hrs

The Speaker: Comrades and hon. Members, I wish on behalf of the Assembly of Members and myself to congratulate Cde. Edwina Melville on her election to the National Assembly. We welcome her here and we extend our good wishes to her.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, "That this Assembly do now adjourn until Thursday 14th April, 1983, at 14:00 hrs." (Vice-President, Economic Development and Finance (Cde. Hoyte))

Adjourned accordingly at 14:30 hrs.