

FIRST SESSION

1973

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 1st Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.
ON

THURSDAY, 26TH JULY, 1973

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (49)

Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister (2)

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (7)

- The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Works and Communications
- # The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (Absent)
- # The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilization
- # The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
- # The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance
- # Dr. the Honourable K.F.S. King, Minister of Economic Development
- # The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Housing (Absent)

Ministers (5)

- The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour
- The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information and Culture
- The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House
- # The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education
- # Dr. the Honourable O.M.R. Harper, Minister of Health

Ministers of State (9)

- The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State (Agriculture)
- The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of State (East Berbice/Corentyne)
- The Honourable P. Duncan, J.P., Minister of State (Rupununi)
- The Honourable C.A. Nascimento, Minister of State (Office of the Prime Minister)
- The Honourable M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., Minister of State (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)

Non elected Minister

- # The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of State (Internal Security)
- # The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State (Mazaruni/Potaro)
- # The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of State (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
- # The Honourable F.U.A. Carmichael, Minister of State (North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (8)

- Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing
- Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Communications
- Miss M.M. Ackman, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
- Mr. E.L. Ambrose, Parliamentary Secretary (Agriculture), Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
- Mr. K.B. Bancroft, Parliamentary Secretary (Hinterland), Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
- Mr. S. Prashad, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilization
- Mr. J.P. Chowritmootoo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education (Absent)
- ✓ Mr. R.H.O. Corbin, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilization (Absent)

Other Members (18)

- Mr. J.N. Aaron
- Mrs. L.M. Branco
- Mr. M. Corrica
- Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
- Miss J. Gill
- Mr. W. Hussain
- Miss S. Jaiserrisingh
- Mr. K.M.E. Jonas
- Mr. M. Nissar
- Dr. L.E. Ramsahoye
- Mr. J.G. Ramson
- Mrs. P. Rayman
- Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
- Mr. S.H. Sukhu
- Mr. C. Sukul
- Mr. H.A. Taylor
- Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
- Mrs. L.E. Willems

Members of the Opposition - Liberator Party (2)

- Dr. G. Kumar (Absent)
- Mr. M.F. Singh, Deputy Speaker

OFFICERS

- Mr. F.A. Narain, Clerk of the National Assembly
- Mr. M.B. Henry, AMBIM, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

~~The Clerk reads Prayers.~~

PROCLAMATION SUMMONING THE SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

The Clerk read the Proclamation made by the President and published in an extraordinary issue of the Gazette on the 24th of July, 1973, proclaiming that a session of Parliament shall be held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Guyana, and shall begin at 2.00 o'clock in the afternoon on Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of July, 1973.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The Clerk called the following names of the persons declared elected as Members of the National Assembly, in the order of their extraction from the Lists of Candidates:-

People's National Congress

Joseph Nathaniel Aaron
 Margaret Mathilda Ackman
 Lealand Edgar Ambrose
 Kenneth Berkeley Bancroft
 Lilian Maud Branco
 Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham
 Winslow George Carrington
 Joshua P. Chowritmootoo
 Oscar Eleazer Clarke
 Robert Herman D. Corbin
 Malcolm Corrica
 Philip Duncan
 Shirley, Merle Field-Ridley
 Eugene Hugh Allan Fowler
 Joyce Gill
 Hugh Desmond Hoyte
 Wahid Hussain
 Satti Jaiserrisingh
 Keith Maurice E. Jonas
 Mohamed Kasim
 Christopher A. Nascimento
 Mohamed Nissar
 Seeram Prashad
 Lyttleton Estil Ramsahoye
 Bishwaishwar Ramsaroop
 Joseph Ganga Ramson
 Philomena Rayman
 Ptolemy Alexander Reid
 Eugene Martin Stoby
 Sydney Hansel Sukhu
 Chandricka Sukul
 Hugh Anthony Taylor
 Jeffrey Ronald Thomas
 Ralph C. Van Sluytman
 Lola Eileen Willems
 Conrad Egerton Wrights
 M. Zaheeruddeen

Liberator Party

Ganraj Kumar
 Marcellus Feilden Singh

As their names were called, the Members answered, with the exception of the following who were absent:-

Mr. J.P. Chowritmootoo
 Mr. R.H.O. Corbin
 Dr. P.A. Reid
 Dr. G. Kumar

The Clerk then called the following names of those Ministers who were not elected Members of the National Assembly but who had by virtue of their appointments as Ministers become Members of the Assembly:-

Hon. S.S. Ramphal, S.C.
 Hon. H. Green
 Hon. H.O. Jack
 Hon. F.E. Hope
 Dr. the Hon. K.F.S. King
 Hon. S.S. Naraine, A.A.
 Hon. Miss C.L. Baird
 Dr. the Hon. O.M.R. Harper
 Hon. C.V. Mingo
 Hon. W. Haynes
 Hon. A. Salim
 Hon. F.U.A. Carmichael

As their names were called, the Ministers answered, with the exception of the following who were absent:-

Hon. S.S. Ramphal, S.C.
 Hon. S.S. Naraine, A.A.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk invited Members to elect the Speaker of the National Assembly in accordance with article 62 of the Constitution and Standing Order No. 2.

Mr. Ramsaroop proposed and Miss Field-Ridley seconded Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

As there was no other nomination, the Clerk declared Mr. Sase Narain, J.P., duly elected Speaker of the National Assembly.

Mr. Sase Narain who was present was escorted by his proposer and seconder to the Chair.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

In accordance with article 62(3) of the Constitution and Standing Order No. 3(2), His Honour the Speaker invited Members to make nominations for the office of Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Ramsaroop proposed and Miss Field-Ridley seconded Mr. M.F. Singh.

As there was no other nomination, His Honour the Speaker declared Mr. M.F. Singh duly elected Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

OATHS

The oath of office was made and subscribed by

- His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.
 Mr. M.F. Singh, Deputy Speaker
 The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister
 The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Works and Communications
 The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilization
 The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
 The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance
 Dr. the Honourable K.F.S. King, Minister of Economic Development
 The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour
 The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information and Culture
 The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House
 The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education
 ✓ Dr. the Honourable O.M.R. Harper, Minister of Health
 The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State (Agriculture)
 The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of State (East Berbice/Corentyne)
 The Honourable P. Duncan, J.P., Minister of State (Rupununi)
 The Honourable C.A. Nascimento, Minister of State (Office of the Prime Minister)
 The Honourable M. Zaheerudeen, J.P., Minister of State (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
 The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of State (Internal Security)
 The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State (Mazaruni/Potaro)
 The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of State (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
 The Honourable F.U.A. Carmichael, Minister of State (North West)
 Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing
 Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Communications
 Miss M.M. Ackman, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose, Parliamentary Secretary (Agriculture), Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
 Mr. K.B. Bancroft, Parliamentary Secretary (Hinterland), Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
 Mr. S. Prashad, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilization
 Mr. J.N. Aaron
 Mrs. L.M. Branco ✓
 Mr. M. Corrica
 ✓ Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
 Miss J. Gill
 Mr. W. Hussain
 Miss S. Jaiserrisingh
 Mr. K.M.E. ✓ Jonas

Mr. M. Nissar
 Dr. L.E. Ramsahoye
 Mr. J.G. Ramson
 Mrs. P. Rayman
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
 Mr. S.H. Sukhu
 Mr. C. Sukul
 Mr. H.A. Taylor
 Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
 Mrs. L.E. Willems

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Members of the Government, congratulated Mr. Sase Narain on his re-election as Speaker and wished him a successful term of office. The Prime Minister also extended congratulations to Mr. M.F. Singh on his election as Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Singh thanked the Prime Minister for the congratulations and also the Members for electing him as Deputy Speaker.

His Honour the Speaker thanked the Members for re-electing him and reciprocated the congratulations and good wishes to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Speaker and to all the Members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Appointment of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries

His Honour the Speaker announced that he had been advised of the following appointments:

Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister (2)

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P.,
 Prime Minister

Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister
 and Minister of National Development and Agriculture

Senior Ministers (7)

The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P.,
 Minister of Works and Communications

The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., M.P.,
 Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice

The Honourable H. Green, M.P., Minister of
 Co-operatives and National Mobilization

The Honourable H.O. Jack, M.P.,
 Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

The Honourable F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance

Dr. the Honourable K.F.S. King, M.P.,
 Minister of Economic Development

The Honourable S.S. Narzine, A.A., M.P.,
 Minister of Housing

Non elected Minister

Ministers (5)

- The Honourable W.G. Carrington, M.P.,
Minister of Labour
- The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P.,
Minister of Information and Culture
- The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Minister of
Parliamentary Affairs, and Leader of the House
- # The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, M.P.,
Minister of Education
- # Dr. the Honourable O.M.R. Harper, M.P., Minister of Health

Ministers of State (9)

- The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., M.P.,
Minister of State (Agriculture)
- The Honourable O.E. Clarke, M.P.,
Minister of State (East Berbice/Corentyne)
- The Honourable P. Duncan, J.P., M.P.,
Minister of State (Rupununi)
- The Honourable C.A. Nascimento, M.P.,
Minister of State (Office of the Prime Minister)
- The Honourable M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., M.P.
Minister of State (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- # The Honourable C.V. Mingo, M.P.,
Minister of State (Internal Security)
- # The Honourable W. Haynes, M.P.,
Minister of State (Mazaruni/Potaro)
- # The Honourable A. Salim, M.P.,
Minister of State (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
- # The Honourable F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P.,
Minister of State (North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (8)

- Mr. J.R. Thomas, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing
- Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Works and Communications
- Miss M.M. Ackman, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister, and Government
Chief Whip
- Mr. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary (Agriculture),
Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
- Mr. K.B. Bancroft, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary (Hinterland),
Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
- Mr. J.P. Chowritmootoo, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Education
- Mr. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilization
- Mr. S. Prashad, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilization

(ii) Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Dr. Reid for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Prime Minister:

- (a) Report on the Operation of the Guyana Credit Corporation for the year ended 30th June, 1971.

(GSC:3/8/1)(Circulated)

- (b) National Registration (Residents)(Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1973 (No. 15), made under section 19 of the National Registration Act, 1967 (No. 24 of 1967), on the 16th of July, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 21st of July, 1973.

(HAC: 30/1/3)

- (c) Election (Amendment)(No. 2) Regulations 1973 (No. 9), made under section 3 of the Representation of the People (Adaptation and Modification of Laws) Act, 1968 (No. 16 of 1968), on the 7th of June, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 11th of June, 1973.

(HAC: 30/1/3)

- (d) Election (Amendment)(No. 3) Regulations 1973 (No. 13), made under the Representation of the People (Adaptation and Modification of Laws) Act 1968 (No. 16 of 1968), on the 12th of July, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 12th of July, 1973.

(HAC: 30/1/3)

- (e) Election (Amendment)(No. 4) Regulations 1973 (No. 14), made under the Representation of the People (Adaptation and Modification of Laws) Act 1968 (No. 16 of 1968), on the 14th of July, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 14th of July, 1973.

(HAC: 30/1/3)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Travel Voucher Tax Order 1973 (No. 58), made under the Travel Voucher Tax Act 1973 (No. 10 of 1973) on the 13th of June, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 14th of June, 1973.

(IT. 47 II)(Circulated)

- (b) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders)
Order 1973 (No. 70), made under the Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Ordinance 1962 (No. 26 of 1962), on the 10th of July, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 21st of July, 1973.

8/5)(Circulated)

- (c) Constitutional Offices (Holders' Allowances)
Order 1973 (No. 71), made under the Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Ordinance 1962 (No. 26 of 1962), on the 10th of July, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 21st of July, 1973.

(8/5)(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1973 - Bill No. 13/1973 - published 28.7.73

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 73 THEREOF FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE AGE OF MAJORITY FOR ELECTORAL AND OTHER PURPOSES, AND FOR ABOLISHING APPEALS AND REFERENCES TO THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

On a proposal by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, seconded by the Minister of Labour, the Assembly nominated the following to be Members of the Committee of Selection, with His Honour the Speaker as Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 70(1):

The Honourable B. Ramsaroop,
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. and Leader of House
Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing
Miss M.M. Ackman, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
Miss S. Jaiserrisingh
Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
Mrs. L.E. Willems

BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT SITTING

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House informed the Assembly that at the next sitting the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1973 would be taken through all its remaining stages.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.05 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, the 30th of July, 1973.

Aravind
1.73
S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
30th July, 1973.

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973

ORDER PAPER

2ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 30TH JULY, 1973

AT 2.00 P.M.

PRAYERS -

OATHS -

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER -

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS -

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC. -

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS -

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS -

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS -

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE -

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY
AND MOVED BY A MINISTER -

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

1. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 46 be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed, at its sitting on the 30th of July, 1973, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1973.

(Notice Paper No. 2 published 27th July, 1973)