

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1974

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 30th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2:00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1974

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (50)

Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister (2)

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

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

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 Mobilisation

# 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

Ministers (6)

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 (Absent)

# The Honourable G.A. King, Minister of Trade

Ministers of State (9)

The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture

The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

The Honourable P. Duncan, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi)(Absent)

The Honourable C.A. Nascimento, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister

# Non elected Minister

- The Honourable M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., Minister of State - Regional  
(Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- # The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of State for Home Affairs (Absent -  
on leave)
- # The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/  
Potaro)(Absent)
- # The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/  
West Coast Berbice) (Absent)
- # The Honourable F.U.A. Carmichael, Minister of State - Regional  
(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 (Absent - on leave)
- 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 Mobilisation
- Mr. J.P. Chowritmootoo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of  
Education
- Mr. R.H.O. Corbin, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of  
Co-operatives and National Mobilisation (Absent - on leave)

Deputy Speaker (1)

- Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman, Deputy Speaker

Other Members (17)

- Mr. J.N. Aaron
- Mrs. L.M. Branco
- Mr. M. Corricea
- 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.A. Rayman
- Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
- Mr. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P.
- Mr. C. Sukul, J.P.
- Mr. H.A. Taylor
- Mrs. L.E. Willems

Members of the Opposition - Liberator Party (2)

- Mr. M.F. Singh, Leader of the Opposition
- Mrs. E. DaSilva (Absent - on leave)

OFFICERS

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

# Non elected Minister

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(1) Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Mr. Burnham, Mr. Mingo and Mr. Corbin for that day's sitting, and
- (ii) Miss Ackman for one month from 24th March, 1974.

His Honour also announced that an extension of leave had been granted to Mrs. DaSilva up to the end of April, 1974.

(2) Resignation of the Deputy Speaker

His Honour informed the Assembly that he had received on the 15th of March, a letter dated 13th March from Mr. M.F. Singh, resigning the Office of Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly with effect from the 14th of March, 1974, and that, consequently, the Assembly would be required to elect another Member to fill the vacant Office of Deputy Speaker.

(3) Appointment of Leader of the Opposition

His Honour informed the Assembly that he had been advised that by an Instrument given by His Excellency the President on the 14th of March, 1974, Mr. Marcellus Feilden Singh had been appointed to be Leader of the Opposition.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

On a proposal by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, seconded by Mrs. Willems, Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman was elected to be Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

Congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition and to the Deputy Speaker

His Honour the Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Mr. M.F. Singh on his appointment as Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman on his election as Deputy Speaker.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Private Bills

The Clerk read the following Petitions presented by -

- (i) Mr. Corrica, on behalf of Evangelist Alfred McCurchin of 200 Almond Street, Queenstown, Georgetown, seeking to have introduced in the Assembly, a Private Bill to incorporate the Church of Christ.

(PARL: 3/2/2(1/1973))

- (ii) Dr. Ramsahoye, on behalf of the Guyana Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, seeking to have introduced in the Assembly, a Private Bill to incorporate a Board of Trustees of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Guyana.

(PARL: 3/2/2(3/1974))

The question that the Promoters be allowed to proceed was put and carried.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Customs Duties Order 1974 (No. 40), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on the 4th of March, 1974, and published in the Gazette on the 18th of March, 1974.  
(G.669 11)(Circulated)
- (b) Consumption Tax Order 1974 (No. 41), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, on the 4th of March, 1974, and published in the Gazette on the 18th of March, 1974.  
(G.669 11)(Circulated)
- (c) The Public Accounts of the Government of Guyana for the year ended 31st December, 1968, together with the Report thereon by the Director of Audit.  
(T6c)(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 - Bill No. 10/1974  
published 30.3.74

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture, on behalf of the Prime Minister, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND  
THE DEFENCE ACT.

- (2) CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION BILL 1974 -  
Bill No. 9/1974 published 23.3.74

The Minister of Works and Communications, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR  
THE IMPLEMENTATION BY GUYANA OF THE  
AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN  
METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION AND FOR  
PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ITEM 1 - COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

On a proposal by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, seconded by Mrs. Willems, Mr. M.F. Singh was nominated to be an additional Member of the Committee of Selection.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 2 - RICE FARMERS (SECURITY OF TENURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 - Bill No. 6/1974 published 2.2.74

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE RICE FARMERS (SECURITY OF TENURE) ACT.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - HOUSING OF LABOUR WORKERS ON SUGAR ESTATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 - Bill No. 8/1974 published 6.2.74

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE HOUSING OF LABOUR WORKERS ON SUGAR ESTATES ACT.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

Thereafter, the Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2 - The following amendment by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture was put and carried:

Insertion immediately after the words "Deeds Registry Act", appearing at the end of the clause, of the following words -

" , save however, that notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law the failure to file such a **lease**, surrender, assignment or transfer, made prior to the coming into operation of this section, shall not affect the validity of such lease, surrender, assignment or transfer".

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clause 3 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

MOTION

ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2)  
ORDER 1974 (No. 18)

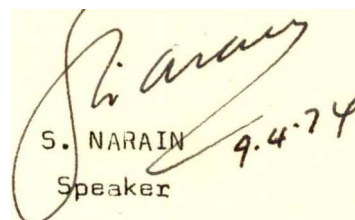
The Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment)(No. 2) Order 1974 (No. 18), which was made on the 30th January, 1974, and published in the Gazette on the 31st January, 1974.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.40 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



S. NARAIN  
Speaker  
9.4.74

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.  
9th April, 1974.