

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1975

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 83rd Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

FRIDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 1975

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, J.P., Speaker

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

Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister (2)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister (Absent)

Cde. P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development (Absent)

Senior Ministers (9)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C, Minister of Economic Development

Cde. H. Green, Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation (Absent)

Cde. H.O. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

Cde. F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Works and Housing (Absent)

Cde. G.A. King, Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent)

Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., Minister of Agriculture (Absent)

Cde. C.L. Baird, Minister of Education and Social Development (Absent)

Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (Absent)

Ministers (5)

Cde. W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour

Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information and Culture

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House

Cde. O.M.R. Harper, Minister of Health (Absent)

Cde. C.V. Mingo, Minister of Home Affairs

Ministers of State (9)

Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture

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

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

Cde. C.A. Nascimento, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister

Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara) (Absent)

Non elected Minister

- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)(Absent)
 # Cde. W. Haynes, Minister of State for Consumer Protection (Absent - on leave)
 # Cde. A. Salim, Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast
 Berbice (Absent)
 # Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, Minister of State - Regional (North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (8)

- Cde. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National
 Development (Absent)
 Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
 Works and Housing
 Cde. M.M. Ackman, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime
 Minister, and Government Chief Whip
 Cde. E.L. Ambrose, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
 Cde. S. Prashad, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives
 and National Mobilisation
 Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
 Education and Social Development(Absent- on leave)
 Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime
 Minister (Absent)
 Cde. M. Corrica, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and
 Housing

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (16)

- Cde. J.N. Aaron
 Cde. L.M. Branco
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler
 Cde. J. Gill
 Cde. W. Hussain
 Cde. S. Jaiserrisingh (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. K.M.E. Jonas (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. M. Nissar
 Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye
 Cde. J.G. Ramson
 Cde. P.A. Rayman
 Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
 Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P.
 Cde. C. Sukul, J.P.
 Cde. H.A. Taylor
 Cde. L.E. Willems

Members of the Opposition - Liberator Party (2)

- Mr. M.F. Singh, Leader of the Opposition
 Mr. E. Da Silva

OFFICERS

- Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narsain)
 Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (M.B. Henry, AMBIM)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERSBy the Minister of Economic Development

The Minister of Economic Development made a statement on the question of the pricing policy of Guyana National Trading Corporation with respect to text books.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONAPPROVAL OF ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1976

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply and resumed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1976, totalling \$552,203,022.

In Committee of Supply

HEAD 31	- MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	...	\$2,057,160
DIVISION XIX	- MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	...	\$27,490,000
HEAD 76	- MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY was passed as printed at	...	\$ 1,117,264
HEAD 77	- MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY - EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE SERVICE was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	...	\$ 99,761
HEAD 78	- MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY - SOCIAL ASSISTANCE was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	...	\$ 5,414,646
DIVISION XXXII	- MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	...	\$ 80,000
HEAD 5	- AUDIT was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at...	...	\$ 781,070
DIVISION IV	- OTHER SERVICES NOT UNDER MINISTERIAL CONTROL was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	...	\$ 30,000
HEAD 80	- MINISTRY OF FINANCE was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	...	\$ 699,044
HEAD 81	- MINISTRY OF FINANCE - ACCOUNTANT GENERAL was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	...	\$ 2,557,662
HEAD 82	- MINISTRY OF FINANCE - CUSTOMS AND EXCISE was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	...	\$ 2,873,036
HEAD 83	- MINISTRY OF FINANCE - INLAND REVENUE was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	...	\$ 3,929,361

Assembly resumed.SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.20 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.40 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply and resumed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1976.

HEAD 84	- MINISTRY OF FINANCE - PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	... \$ 2,401,931
HEAD 85	- MINISTRY OF FINANCE - PUBLIC DEBT was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	... \$ 486,999
HEAD 86	- MINISTRY OF FINANCE - REVISION OF WAGES, SALARIES AND RELATED PAYMENTS was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	... \$ 20,100
HEAD 87	- MINISTRY OF FINANCE - POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	... \$ 7
DIVISION XXXIV	- MINISTRY OF FINANCE was <u>passed</u> as <u>printed</u> at	... \$ 8,900,000

Assembly resumed

The Minister of Finance reported to the Assembly that the Committee of Supply had concluded consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1976.

Thereafter, the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1976 was put and carried.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO.12

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, and with the leave of the Speaker, Standing Order No. 12 was suspended to enable the Minister of Finance to introduce the APPROPRIATION BILL 1975 at that sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First ReadingAPPROPRIATION BILL 1975 - Bill No. 33/1975 published 5.12.75

The Minister of Finance on behalf of the Government, presented the following which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND OF THE SUM NECESSARY TO MEET THE EXPENDITURE (NOT OTHERWISE LAWFULLY CHARGED ON THE CONSOLIDATED FUND) OF GUYANA FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1976, ESTIMATES WHEREOF HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF THAT SUM FOR SPECIFIED PURPOSES, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CONSTITUTION.

BILL, - Second and Third ReadingsITEM 2 - APPROPRIATION BILL 1975 - Bill No. 33/1975 published 5.12.75

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance, signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUE FROM THE CONSOLIDATED FUND OF THE SUM NECESSARY TO MEET THE EXPENDITURE (NOT OTHERWISE LAWFULLY CHARGED ON THE CONSOLIDATED FUND) OF GUYANA FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1976, ESTIMATES WHEREOF HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF THAT SUM FOR SPECIFIED PURPOSES, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CONSTITUTION.

The Bill was read a second time and the third time and was, thereafter, passed as printed.

MOTIONITEM 3 - GUARANTEE TO CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR LOAN TO LIAT (1974)

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

WHEREAS Leeward Islands Air Transport Limited 1974 (Otherwise known as Liat (1974)) is a company incorporated in Antigua, the shareholders being the Governments of the territories of the Caribbean Community, with Guyana holding 5% of the equity in the share capital;

AND WHEREAS Liat (1974) requires monies to repay the sum of Five million, five hundred and nine thousand, six hundred and forty United States dollars (\$5,509,640(U.S.)) to the Industrial Bank of Venezuela, representing the proceeds of a loan made by that Bank to Liat(1974);

AND WHEREAS the Caribbean Development Bank is willing to make available the said sum of Five million, five hundred and nine thousand, six hundred and forty United States dollars (\$5,509,640(U.S.)) to Liat (1974) as a loan by way of repayment of that sum to the Industrial Bank of Venezuela on a guarantee being given by Guyana and the other shareholders of Liat (1974) to the extent of their respective equity holdings in Liat (1974);

AND WHEREAS the Caribbean Development Bank and Liat (1974) are a lending agency and a regional institution, respectively, within the meaning of the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly authorises the Minister of Finance or such other person duly authorised by him, acting on behalf of the Government of Guyana, to give for the aforesaid purpose in accordance with the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974 a guarantee to the Caribbean Development Bank in the sum of one hundred and ninety-two thousand, eight hundred and thirty seven United States dollars (\$192,837(U.S.)) being the equivalent value of the equity held by Guyana in Liat (1974).

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.00 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

PARLIAMENT OFFICE
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
9th December, 1975