

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1976

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 88th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY, 1976

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

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

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 (Absent)

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 (Absent)

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 (Absent)

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

Cde. K.B. Bancroft, Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro) (Absent)

Non elected Minister

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

Parliamentary Secretaries (8)

- Cde. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Development
- 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
- 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
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas
- Cde. M. Nissar (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye
- Cde. J.G. Ramson
- Cde. P.A. Rayman
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P. (Absent)
- 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
- Mrs. E. Da Silva (Absent)

OFFICERS

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERElection of President

The Speaker informed the Assembly that the President had by an Order, in accordance with article 30(5) of the Constitution, determined that a meeting of the Assembly should commence on Friday 12th March, 1976 at 2.00 p.m. for the purpose of electing a President. After setting out the procedure and the timetable concerning the election, he advised Members that nomination papers could be obtained from his Office.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the Prime Minister

Annual Reports of the Public Service Commission and the Police Service Commission for the period June 1974 - May 1975.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Finance

- (a) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1976 (No. 7), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on the 2nd of February, 1976, and published in the Gazette on the 2nd of February, 1976.

(CEX 22 TJ)(Circulated)

- (b) Statement of Guarantees given by the Minister of Finance under section 3 of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, Chapter 77:01, for the quarter ended 31st December, 1975.

(G:692 III)(Circulated)

- (c) Statement of Guarantees given by the Minister of Finance under section 3 of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, Chapter 77:01, and remained in force at 31st December, 1975.

(G:692 III)(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

- (1) SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN GUYANA (INCORPORATION OF TRUSTEES) BILL 1976 - Bill No. 3/1976 published 17.1.76, 24.1.76 and 31.1.76

Cde. Ramsahoye presented the following Private Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO INCORPORATE TRUSTEES TO HOLD THE PROPERTY IN GUYANA OF THE GUYANA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

PUBLIC CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 - Bill No. 5/1976 published 2.2.76

The Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection, on behalf of the Prime Minister, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC CORPORATIONS ACT AND TO MAKE A CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE RICE MARKETING ACT.

- (3) AMERINDIAN (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 - Bill No. 6/1976 published 11.2.76

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE AMERINDIAN ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF GIVING EFFECT TO THE VESTING OF LANDS SETTLED BY AMERINDIAN CITIZENS OF GUYANA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE AMERINDIAN LANDS COMMISSION AND FOR PURPOSES INCIDENTAL THERETO.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSSUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER N°. 23(3)

With the Leave of the Speaker, a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House to suspend Standing Order No. 23(3) to enable the Assembly to proceed with a motion on the death of Cde. H.J.M. Hubbard, was put and Carried.

CONDOLLENCE ON DEATH OF CDE, H.J.M. HUBBARD

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House moved the following motion which was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Henry Jocelyn Makepeace Hubbard, and pays tribute to the service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing relatives.

The motion was put and carried with Members Standing.

ITEM 2 CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT)
ORDER 1976 (NO.7)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accordance with section 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1976 (No. 7), which was made on the 2nd of February, 1976, and published in the Gazette on the 2nd of February, 1976.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

ITEM 3 GUARANTEE FOR PAYMENT OF AIRCRAFT

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Guyana Airways Corporation which is fully owned by the Government of Guyana is engaged in air transportation in and out of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the Guyana State Corporation, a public corporation, which holds the equity in the Guyana Airways Corporation for and on behalf of the Government, considers it necessary for the efficient functioning of the Guyana Airways Corporation that purchase be made of two Hawker Siddeley aircraft, the price of which will be reflected in the Government's contribution to its equity holding in the Guyana Airways Corporation;

AND WHEREAS for the purpose of concluding the said purchase the sum of fourteen million, six hundred and sixty thousand, nine hundred and fifty-four Guyana dollars (G\$14,660,954) would become due and payable in instalments to the suppliers of the said aircraft subsequent to their delivery in 1977;

AND WHEREAS the suppliers have requested that the Government of Guyana guarantee the due payment of the said sum of fourteen million, six hundred and sixty thousand, nine hundred and fifty-four Guyana dollars (G\$14,660,954) by the Guyana State Corporation:

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 the guarantee to the suppliers of the said aircraft in the sum of fourteen million, six hundred and sixty thousand nine hundred and fifty-four Guyana dollars or the equivalent of two million, eight hundred thousand, eight hundred and eighty-five pounds sterling.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.50 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 Thursday, the 26th February, 1976.

S. Narain
S. Narain
Speaker 25.2.76

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
25th February, 1976.