

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1976

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 104th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 9TH DECEMBER, 1976

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

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

Prime Minister (1)

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

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development

Senior Ministers (9)

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

* Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation

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

* Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance

* Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Minister of Works and Housing

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

* Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture

* Cde. C.L. Baird, M.P., Minister of Education and Social Development

* Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice

Ministers (5)

Cde. W.G. Carrington, M.P., Minister of Labour

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

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

* Cde. O.M.R. Harper, M.P., Minister of Health

* Cde. C.V. Mingo, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Minister of State (9)

- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., M.P., Minister of State for Agriculture
Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/
Corentyne)
Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional
(Rupununi) (Absent - on leave)
Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the
Prime Minister
Cde. K.B. Bancroft, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/
Potaro) (Absent - on leave)
Cde. J.P. Chowrimootoo, M.P., Minister of State - Regional
(Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
* Cde. W. Haynes, M.P., Minister of State for Consumer Protection (Absent)
* Cde. A. Salim, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/
West Coast Berbice)
* Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional
(North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (6)

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

Other Members (19)

- Cde. L.M. Branco, M.P.
Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P.
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
Cde. S. Jaiserrisingh, M.P.
Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P.
Cde. M. Nissar, M.P.
Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye, M.P.
Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P.
Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P.
Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P., M.P.
Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P.
Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P.
Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., M.P.

Members of the Opposition (16)

(i) People's Progressive Party (14)

Leader of the Opposition (1)

- Cde. C. Jagan, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.

Cde. C. Collymore, M.P.

Cde. S.F. Mohamad, M.P.

Cde. L. Lalbahadur, M.P.

Cde. B. James, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

Cde. R. Ally, M.P.

Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.

Cde. Dindayal, M.P.

Cde. H. Nokta, M.P. (Absent)

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, M.P.

Mrs. E. Da Silva, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain)

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (A. Knight)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Visit to Cuba

The Speaker informed the Assembly that since the last sitting thereof, three Members, Cdes. Nokta, Thomas and himself, recently visited Cuba and participated in the inauguration of the People's Power National Assembly, on the invitation of the Government of Cuba.

The Speaker placed on record the very deep appreciation of the hospitality extended to the Members during their visit.

He also conveyed to the Members of the Assembly the greetings sent by the President of the National Assembly of Cuba.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Cde. Duncan
- (ii) Cde. Bancroft, and
- (iii) Cde. Nokta,

for that sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister:

Public Corporations (No. 3) Order 1976 (No. 114),
made under section 5(4) of the Public Corporations
Act, Chapter 19:05, on the 8th of November, 1976,
and published in the Gazette on the 4th of
December, 1976.

(GSC: 1/101/1)(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) RENT CONTROL SPECIAL PROVISIONS AMENDMENT
BILL 1976 - Bill No 17 1976 published 4 12 76

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND
THE RENT CONTROL (SPECIAL PRO-
VISIONS) ACT 1974.

- (2) FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT AMENDMENT
BILL 1976 - Bill No 18/1976 published 4 12.76

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT
ACT.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 - Bill No 7/1976 published
24.3.76

The Deputy Prime Minister moved the second reading of the
following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PENSIONS ACT.

The following spoke to the motion:

Cde, Ram Karran

Mr, M.F. Singh

The Deputy Prime Minister replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Clause 3 The following amendment by Mr. Singh was put and negatived:

The deletion of the clause and the substitution thereof of the following:

Section 4(3) of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition thereafter of the words "provided that this subsection shall not apply to the head of a department not under the control of a minister."

Clause 3 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 4 - 8 were passed as printed

Clause 9 The following amendments by the Deputy Prime Minister to Clause 9 (d) were put and carried:

- (a) In the proposed paragraph (2) (a) (i) of regulation 7, the words "or the Director of Public Prosecutions" were inserted immediately after the word "Judicature";
- (b) In the proposed paragraph (2) (a) (ii) of regulation 7, the words ", the Director of Public Prosecutions," were deleted.

Clause 9 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Deputy Prime Minister the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.05 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

MOTIONS

ITEM 2 CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3)
ORDER 1976 (No. 83)

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)(No. 3) Order 1976 (No. 83) which was made on the 20th of September, 1976, and published in the Gazette on the 20th of September, 1976.

Cde. N. Persaud spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 3 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (EXEMPTION) ORDER 1976
(NO.84)

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accordance with section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Exemption) Order 1976 (No. 84), which was made on the 20th of September, 1976, and published in the Gazette on the 20th of September, 1976.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 4 POST AND TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 - Bill No. 14/1976
published 20.11.76

The Minister of Works and Housing moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE POST AND TELEGRAPH ACT IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POST OFFICE AS A PUBLIC CORPORATION UNDER THE PUBLIC CORPORATIONS ACT TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED BY THE POST AND TELEGRAPH ACT AND TO MAKE CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO OTHER WRITTEN LAWS.

Mrs. Da Silva spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Works and Housing replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 - 6 were passed as printed.

Clause 7 - The following amendment by the Minister of Works and Housing was put and carried:

The words "Guyana Telecommunication" were inserted between the words "the" and "Corporation" in the sixth line.

Clause 7 was then passed as amended.

First Schedule - The following amendments to the proposed new section 91 (1), by the Minister of Works and Housing, were put and carried:

- (i) Deletion of the words "contents of a postal order, or telegraphic message or telegram,"
- (ii) Substitution therefor of the words "contents of a postal packet, post office money order, postal order, or post office telegraphic message or telegram,"

The First Schedule was then passed as amended.

Second Schedule - was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Works and Housing, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 5 REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 -
Bill No. 15/1976 published 20.11.76

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS ACT.

The following spoke to the motion:-

Cde. Collymore
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud
Mr. M.F. Singh
Cde. Janet Jagan

The Minister of Home Affairs replied

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Clause 3 The following amendments to the new proposed section 65A, by the Minister of Home Affairs, were put and carried:

- (i) Insertion of the words "the Registrar General or by" immediately before the word "Consular" in paragraph (a);
- (ii) Insertion of the words "by the Registrar General or" immediately after the word "registered" in paragraph (b).

Clause 3 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.30 p.m. the Sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.00 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

ITEM 6 DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1976 Bill No. 16/1976
published 24.11.76

The Minister of Agriculture moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION ACT.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Agriculture replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 4 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture the Bill was read the third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 7 NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF BAHAI'S OF GUYANA
INCORPORATION OF TRUSTEES BILL 1976 - Bill
No 13 1976 published 16.10.76, 23.10.76 and
30.10.76

Cde. Van Sluytman moved the second reading of the following Private Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO INCORPORATE
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NATIONAL
SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF BAHAI'S.


Cde. Ramson seconded the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.23 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, 13th December, 1976.


S. NARAIN
Speaker 13/12/76

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
13th December, 1976.