

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1977

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 128th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER, 1977

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 (48)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

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

Senior Ministers (8)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives

- * Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour
- * Cde. H.D. 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 Transport
- * Cde. G.A. King, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection
- * Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent)
- * Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice

Ministers (4)

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

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

- * Cde. C.V. Mingo, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
- * Cde. V.R. Teekah, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture

Ministers of State (9)

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

Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives

/...

- Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Health, Housing and Labour
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of National Development
- * 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) (Absent)

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
- Cde. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture

Other Members (21)

- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P.
- Cde. W.G. Carrington, M.P.
- Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
- Cde. S. Jaiserrisingh, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P.
- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. M. Nissar, M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye, M.P. (Absent)
- 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., M.P.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, 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. (Absent)
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.
 Cde. L. Lalbahadur, M.P.
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Cde. R. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Dindayal, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P. (Absent)

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. E. Da Silva, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain)
 Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (A. Knight)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Cde. Jaiserrisingh from 1st September to 30th November, 1977
- (ii) Cde. Kasim from 31st August to 13th September, 1977
- (iii) Cde. N. Persaud from 22nd July to 21st September, 1977
- (iv) Mr. Singh for that sitting.

Congratulations

On behalf of all Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to Cde. George King, Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection, for the conferment on him of an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Sarasota, Florida, U.S.A., for his dedicated work and leadership in the forums of the world. Cde. King had been presented with the Certificate of Honour.

Cde. King thanked the Speaker and Members for the congratulations extended to him.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Prime Minister:

Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Guyana Rice Marketing Board for the year ended 30th September, 1973.

(GSC: 6/404/2)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Health, Housing and Labour:

(a) National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) (Amendment) Regulations, 1977 (No. 7), made under sections 14, 20, 21, 39 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, Chapter 36:01, on the 22nd of July, 1977, and published in the Gazette on the 30th of July, 1977. (68/34 II)(Circulated)

(b) National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions)(Amendment) Regulations, 1977 (No. 8), made under sections 13, 16, 17, 18 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, Chapter 36:01, on the 22nd of July, 1977, and published in the Gazette on the 30th of July, 1977.

(68/34 II)(Circulated)

(c) National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions - Self-employed Persons)(Amendment) Regulations, 1977 (No. 9), made under section 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, Chapter 36:01, on the 22nd of July, 1977, and published in the Gazette on the 30th of July, 1977.

(68/34 II)(Circulated)

(d) Annual Reports (3) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security for the years 1972, 1973 and 1974.

(34/811 XV)(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance:

(a) Reports (2) of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Transport and Harbours Department for the years ended 31st December, 1971, and 31st December, 1972.

(T. 6^A T.J.)(Circulated)

(b) Loan Agreement (Feeder Roads) dated 3rd May, 1977, between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Guyana. (Loan No. 3/BR-GU).

(S. 53/5)(Circulated)

- (c) Loan Agreement (dated July 13, 1977) between the Government of Guyana and the United States of America through the Agency for International Development, for Public Sector Manpower Training - A.I.D. Loan No. 504-V-012.

(304 MM)(Circulated)

- (d) 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 quarter ended 30th June, 1977.

(G: 692 III)(Circulated)

- (4) By the Minister of Works and Transport:

Report of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year ended 31st December, 1974.

(C-12/4/7 IV)(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 -
Bill No. 16/1977 published 13.8.77

The Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION ACT.

- (2) UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 -
Bill No. 17/1977 published 13.8.77

The Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read a first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA ACT FOR THE
PURPOSE OF CHANGING THE NAME OF THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF GUYANA, TO CONFER CERTAIN FUNCTIONS
ON THE PRO-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY
AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

- (3) MISCELLANEOUS ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977
Bill No. 18/1977 published 13.8.77

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND
CERTAIN ENACTMENTS.

(4) NATIONAL SECURITY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)(AMENDMENT)
BILL 1977 - Bill No. 19/1977 published 31.8.77

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL SECURITY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RE-ENACTING THE PROVISIONS OF PART II THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

(5) SUMMARY JURISDICTION (APPEALS)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 -
Bill No. 20/1977 published 31.8.77

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE SUMMARY JURISDICTION (APPEALS) ACT.

(6) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1977 -
Bill No. 21/1977 published 31.8.77

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice, 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 THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 73 THEREOF AND TO MAKE CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO OTHER WRITTEN LAWS.

(7) PUBLIC OFFICERS' PENSIONS BILL 1977 - Bill No. 22/1977
published 31.8.77

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 IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND CONCERNING THE PENSIONS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICERS AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSSUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 23(3)

With the leave of the Speaker, a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, for the suspension of Standing Order No. 23(3), to enable the Assembly to proceed with a motion on the death of Mr. John Archibald Sutton, was put and carried.

CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF MR. JOHN ARCHIBALD SUTTON

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House moved the following motion which was seconded by Cde. Ram Karran.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Mr. John Archibald Sutton 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.

Mrs. Da Silva spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried with Members standing.

ITEM 1 - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 46

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order No. 46 be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday, 1st September, 1977, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the following Bills:-

- (i) National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions)(Amendment) Bill 1977 (Bill No. 19/1977)
- (ii) Summary Jurisdiction (Appeals) (Amendment) Bill 1977 (Bill No. 20/1977).

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, Mrs. Da Silva and the Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion which was put and carried on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Cde. Zaheeruddeen	Mrs. Da Silva
Cde. Wrights	Cde. Dalchand
Cde. Willems	Cde. Ally
Cde. Van Sluytman	Cde. Belgrave
Cde. Taylor	Cde. Lalbahadur
Cde. Sukul	Cde. Mohamed
Cde. Sukhu	Cde. N. Persaud
Cde. Stoby	Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud
Cde. Rayman	Cde. J. Jagan
Cde. Ramson	Cde. Ram Karran
Cde. Nissar	Cde. C. Jagan
Cde. Jonas	
Cde. Hussain	
Cde. Gill	
Cde. Fowler	
Cde. Durant	
Cde. Carrington	
Cde. Bynoe	
Cde. Corrica	
Cde. Prashad	
Cde. Ambrose	
Cde. Ackman	
Cde. Corbin	
Cde. Thomas	
Cde. Chowritmootoo	
Cde. Bancroft	
Cde. Nascimento	
Cde. Duncan	
Cde. Clarke	
Cde. Ramsaroop	
Cde. Field-Ridley	
Cde. Hoyte	
Cde. Reid	
Cde. Burnham	
34	11

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 2 - NATIONAL SECURITY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT)
BILL 1977 - Bill No. 19/1977 published 31.8.77

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
 NATIONAL SECURITY (MISCELLANEOUS
 PROVISIONS) ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF
 RE-ENACTING THE PROVISIONS OF PART II
 THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Cdes. Ram Karran, Mohamed and Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.40 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Cde. Belgrave, Cde. Dalchand, Mrs. Da Silva and the Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9(2)

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, Standing Order No. 9(2) was suspended to permit the sitting to continue without being suspended at 6.30 p.m.

ITEM 3 - SUMMARY JURISDICTION (APPEALS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 - Bill No. 20/1977 published 31.8.77

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice moved the **second** reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
SUMMARY JURISDICTION (APPEALS) ACT.

Cde. Ram Karran, Mrs. Da Silva and the Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice 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

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2 - The Leader of the Opposition moved the following amendments which were put and negatived:

- (i) Deletion of the words "as soon as practicable" occurring at the end of subsection (4) of section 12 and substitution of the words "within forty-eight hours".

(ii) Addition of a new subsection (5) to section 12,
as follows -

"(5) An appellant to whom bail has
been refused under subsection (4)
above shall have his appeal heard
within seven days after the
rejection of his application for
bail."

Clause 2 was then passed as printed.

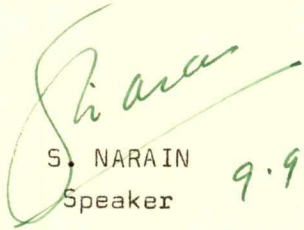
Clauses 3 and 4 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.18 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

9.9.77

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

9th September, 1977