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FIRST SESSION
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1973 - 1977
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MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 130th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 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 (Absent)

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 (Absent)
- * Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent)
- * 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
- * Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (Absent)

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 (Absent - on leave)

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

Ministers of State (9)

- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/ Corentyne) (Absent - on leave)
- 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. Chowritnootoo, 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 (Absent - on leave)
- * 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. Hussian, 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)
- 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. (Absent)
- 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 (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

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Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip
 Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P.
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.
 Cde. L. Lalbahadur, M.P.
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 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.

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.
 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) Cdes. Ramsaroop, Clarke and Corbin for that day's sitting, and
- (ii) Cde. J. Jagan from 2nd to 25th November, 1977.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

Financial Paper No. 3/1977 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates for the period ended 31st October, 1977, totalling \$32,781,435.

(2/5^{XIII})(Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 68, the Minister of Finance named Wednesday, 9th November, 1977, as the day for the consideration of the Financial Paper.

QUESTION TO MINISTERSQuestion No. 19

Cde. Ally asked the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives say why the kokers of No. 47 and No. 48 main trench, Corentyne, have been allowed to be in a state of disrepair for years, so much so that salt water now affects the last remaining part of the rice cultivation of the two villages?

The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives gave the following reply:

ANSWER: It is a fact that the koker in the No. 47/48 main trench is defective. Several efforts were made from time to time to repair it but these have proved unsuccessful because of the nature of the problem.

However, the area never suffered from salt water seeping to such an extent as to affect the cultivation areas, as alleged. In fact, the trench was "blinded" by a stop-off in 1976 and has been maintained and regulated to prevent the passage of salt water into the cultivation areas.

The Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives made a loan of \$8,000 to the No. 51/Good Hope Village District to help to construct a new koker, the estimated cost of which is \$9,000. The Council is providing the sum of \$1,000 from its own resources, and I am happy to inform this House that work has already begun on the repairing of the koker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

- (i) NATIONAL PARKS COMMISSION BILL 1977 - Bill No. 23/1977
published 29.10.77

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL PARKS COMMISSION, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC PARKS.

- (ii) STATE PLANNING COMMISSION BILL 1977 - Bill No. 24/1977

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STATE PLANNING COMMISSION AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONITEM 1 - GUARANTEE OF LOAN TO GUYANA RICE BOARD

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Guyana Rice Board, a Public Corporation, requires overdraft facilities of approximately twenty-eight million Guyana dollars (G\$28,000,000);

AND WHEREAS the Royal Bank of Canada, Barclays Bank International Limited and the Guyana National Co-operative Bank, lending agencies within the meaning of the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act, Chapter 77:03, are willing to provide the said sum of money on a guarantee given by the Government of Guyana:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly do hereby authorise the Minister of Finance, or such other person duly authorised by him, acting on behalf of the Government of Guyana, to enter into agreements as guarantor for the Public Corporation with the abovementioned lending agencies (including the authority to sign any promissory notes or other related documents in pursuance of the said agreements) for the purpose of guaranteeing the said sum of approximately twenty-eight million Guyana dollars (G\$28,000,000) in accordance with the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act, Chapter 77:03.

(Notice Paper No. 132 published 1.11.77)

Cdes. N. Persaud and Reepu Daman Persaud and Mrs. Da Silva, the Minister of Agriculture and Cde. Dalchand spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.57 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Information, the Assembly was adjourned to Wednesday, 9th November, 1977.

S. Narain
7.11.77
S. NARAIN
Speaker