

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 140th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1978

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 (49)

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.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 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. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice

Ministers (5)

Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P., Minister of Information (Absent - on leave)

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
- * Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

* Non elected Minister

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- 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)

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.
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P.
- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., 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., 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., (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.
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, A.A.)
Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (A. Knight)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

OATHS

The Speaker informed the Assembly that he had been informed that Cde. Mohamed Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., and Cde. Rashleigh Esmond Jackson had been appointed Ministers with effect from 13th February, 1978. Although the two Ministers were not elected Members of the National Assembly at the time of their appointments, they had, nevertheless, under paragraph (6) of Article 34 of the Constitution, by virtue of holding the office of Minister, become members of the Assembly.

He stated that before Cdes. Shahabuddeen and Jackson could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, they would have to make and subscribe the Oath of Office as required by Article 76 of the Constitution,

Cdes. Shahabuddeen and Jackson thereupon made and subscribe the Oath of Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to-

- (a) Cde. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information, for the period 19th February to 3rd March, 1978, and
- (b) Cde. Janet Jagan, for the period 14th February to 5th March, 1978.

(ii) Resignation of Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C.,

The Speaker stated that on account of ill health, Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C., had resigned as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice, with effect from 13th February, 1978. Cde. Wills, therefore, had ceased to be a Member of the National Assembly. On behalf of the Members of the Assembly, he extended best wishes to Cde. Wills, for a speedy recovery. (iii) Congratulations to New Ministers

The Speaker stated that the new Ministers, Cdes. Shahabuddeen and Jackson had been designated Attorney General and Minister of Justice, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, respectively. Cde. Shahabuddeen had also been designated a Senior Minister. On behalf of the Members of the Assembly the Speaker congratulated Cdes. Shahabuddeen and Jackson on their appointments, welcomed them to the Assembly, and extended best wishes to them on their assignments of responsibilities.

(iv) Republic Greetings from Cuba and Yugoslavia

The Speaker stated that he had received cables from Cuba and Yugoslavia. The cable from Cuba was from the President of the National Assembly for Popular Power, and stated as follows:-

"On the occasion of the celebration of the national anniversary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, we send to you and the Members of the National Assembly our warm and sincere congratulations and also express our wishes for the strengthening of relations between our respective parliamentary institutions."

The cable from Yugoslavia was from the President of the Assembly, and stated as follows:-

"On the occasion of the Anniversary of the proclamation of your Republic I convey to you, on behalf of the Assembly of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in my own name, our warmest greetings and sincere wishes for the well-being and prosperity of the friendly people of Guyana. I am convinced that the relations existing between our two friendly non-aligned countries will continue to strengthen and to contribute to the cause of peace and progress in the world."

(v) Congratulations to Clerk of the National Assembly

The Speaker stated that in the recent announcement of appointments to and awards within the Orders of Guyana, made by His Excellency the President on the occasion of the Eighth Anniversary of the Republic of Guyana, Cde. Frank Narain, the Clerk of the National Assembly, had been awarded the Golden Arrow of Achievement, for long and dedicated service of a consistently high standard.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly, the Speaker extended congratulations and best wishes to Cde. Narain on the award made to him.

The Clerk then stood and bowed in acknowledgement to the Speaker and to Members.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Annual Report and Account of the Guyana Co-operative Insurance Service for the period ended 31st December, 1976.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure for the financial year 1978.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Works and Transport:

- (i) Telex and Telephone (Overseas Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 1978 (No. 3), made under section 97 of the Post and Telegraph Act, Chapter 47:01, on the 1st of February, 1978, and published in the Gazette on the 4th of February, 1978.

(C-21/9 TJ)(Circulated)

- (ii) Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Regulations 1978 (No. 4), made under section 63 of the Post and Telegraph Act, Chapter 47:01 on the 1st of February, 1978, and published in the Gazette on the 4th of February, 1978.

(C-21/9 TJ)(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY
AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

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 enable the sitting to continue without being suspended at 4.00 o'clock so as to permit the Minister of Finance to complete his Budget Speech.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (i) MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT
BILL 1978 - Bill No. 5 1978 published 27.2.78

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
MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT.

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(ii) TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 6/1978 published 27.2.78

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 TAX ACT.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONBUDGET FOR 1978

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified that Cabinet had recommended that the Assembly should proceed upon the motion for the approval of the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1978, of a total sum of \$476,515,775, net of appropriation-in-aid, and excluding \$167,458,340, which is chargeable by law. (See Appendix)

The Minister of Finance then moved the motion for the approval of the estimates of expenditure for 1978, and read the Budget Speech.

Thereafter, the Minister named Thursday, 2nd March, 1978, as the day for the resumption of the debate on the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.25 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, 2nd March, 1978.

S. Narain
S. NARAIN
Speaker 1/3/78

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
1st March, 1978.

APPENDIX

MOTION BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that estimates of the revenue and expenditure of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly not later than sixty days after the commencement of that year;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution also provides that when the estimates of expenditure have been approved by the Assembly an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in the Assembly providing for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure;

AND WHEREAS estimates of revenue and expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 1978 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 27th February, 1978:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1978, of a total sum of four hundred and seventy-six million, five hundred and fifteen thousand, seven hundred and seventy-five dollars, net of appropriation-in-aid, and excluding one hundred and sixty-seven million, four hundred and fifty-eight thousand, three hundred and forty dollars, which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarized in the undermentioned schedule, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance.

Division No. (Capital)	Head No (Current)		AMOUNT	
			Capital \$	Current \$
	1	Office of the President	-	186,828
I		President	-	-
	2	Supreme Court of Judicature	-	996,221
	3	Magistrates	-	1,324,406
II		Judiciary	-	-
	4	Parliament Office	-	202,196
III		Parliament	-	-
	5	Audit	-	901,238
	6	Ombudsman	-	37,426
	7	Public and Police Service Commissions	-	573,418
	8	Teaching Service Commission	-	75,564
	9	Public Prosecutions	-	257,909
IV		Other Services not under Ministerial Control	-	-
	10	Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	-	1,243,080
	11	Guyana Defence Force	-	35,627,219
	12	Internal Security	-	-
V		Prime Minister	9,000,000	-
	13	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	-	25,753
VI		Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	-	-
	14	Ministry of Public Corporations	-	17,568
VII		Ministry of Public Corporations	-	-
	15	Public Service Ministry	-	1,606,926
VIII		Public Service Ministry	11,500,000	-
	16	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	-	11,923,418
IX		Ministry of Foreign Affairs	200,000	-
	17	Attorney General	-	554,772

Division No.	Head No.		AMOUNT	
			Capital \$	Current \$
(Capital)	(Current)			
	18	Attorney General - Official Receiver	-	137,182
	19	Attorney General - Deeds Registry	-	240,432
X		Attorney General	-	-
	20	Ministry of Information	-	3,281,909
XI		Ministry of Information	208,000	-
	21	Ministry of Home Affairs	-	1,055,470
	22	Ministry of Home Affairs - Police	-	21,942,723
	23	Ministry of Home Affairs - Prisons	-	2,629,278
	24	Ministry of Home Affairs - Fire Protection Services	-	2,103,506
	25	Ministry of Home Affairs - Registration Elections	-	839,837
	26	Ministry of Home Affairs - Registration, Immigration, Births, etc.	-	213,230
XII		Ministry of Home Affairs	559,330	-
	27	Ministry of Agriculture	-	2,130,713
	28	Ministry of Agriculture - Agriculture	-	7,785,574
	29	Ministry of Agriculture - Lands and Surveys	-	2,785,817
	30	Ministry of Agriculture - Hydraulics	-	3,675,738
XIII		Ministry of Agriculture	22,692,000	-
XIV		Ministry of Agriculture IBRD/IDA Projects Livestock Development	1,000,000	-
XV		Ministry of Agriculture IBRD/IDA Projects Second Sea Defence Project	-	-
XVI		Ministry of Agriculture IBRD/IDA Projects Tapakuma Irrigation Project	21,720,000	-
XVII A		Ministry of Agriculture Tapakuma Irrigation Project	6,580,000	-
	31	Ministry of National Development	-	6,175,589

Division No. (Capital)	Head No. (Current)		AMOUNT	
			Capital \$	Current \$
XVII		Ministry of National Development	-	-
	32	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources	-	2,592,739
XVIII		Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources	3,840,000	-
	33	Ministry of Economic Development	-	2,046,382
XIX		Ministry of Economic Development	16,680,000	-
	34	Ministry of Regional Development	-	5,673,969
XX		Ministry of Regional Development	2,800,000	-
	35	Ministry of Housing	-	1,547,924
XXI		Ministry of Housing	1,450,000	-
	36	Ministry of Works and Transport (Works)	-	28,227,681
XXII		Ministry of Works and Transport (Works)	25,898,000	-
XXIII		Ministry of Works and Transport (Works) - IBRD/IDA Projects West Coast Demerara Road Project	8,025,000	-
	37	Ministry of Works and Transport (Transport)	-	827,867
	38	Ministry of Works and Transport (Transport) - Post Office	-	40
	39	Ministry of Works and Transport (Transport) - Transport and Harbours	-	3,000,000
	40	Ministry of Works and Transport (Transport) - Civil Aviation	-	1,685,923
XXIV		Ministry of Works and Transport (Transport)	9,950,000	-
	41	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture	-	14,515,942
	42	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Culture	-	1,046,608
	43	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - In Service Teacher Training Programme	-	354,749

Division No. (Capital)	Head No. (Current)		AMOUNT	
			Capital \$	Current \$
44		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Primary and Secondary Schools	-	45,390,53
45		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Nursery Schools	-	7,845,58
46		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Practical Instruction Centres	-	3,080,56
47		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Cyril Potter College of Education	-	1,085,32
48		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Technical Institute Georgetown	-	1,002,84
49		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Carnegie School of Home Economics	-	192,83
50		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Queen's College	-	547,620
51		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Bishops' High School	-	441,729
52		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Anna Regina Secondary School	-	16
53		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Berbice High School	-	271,650
54		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - New Amsterdam Technical Institute	-	735,507
55		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Lilian Dewar College of Education	-	315,079
56		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Curriculum Development Unit	-	945,966
57		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Guyana Industrial Training Centre	-	216,003
58		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Probation and Welfare Service	-	840,463

Division No (Capital)	Head No. (Current)		AMOUNT	
			Capital \$	Current \$
	59	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Bygeval/Mahaica Secondary School - Multilateral	-	507,800
	60	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Anna Reginal Secondary School - Multilateral	-	722,036
	61	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Bladenhall Secondary School - Multilateral	-	571,506
	62	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - New Amsterdam Secondary School - Multilateral	-	511,537
	63	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Christianburg/Wismar Secondary School - Multilateral	-	480,308
	64	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Ruimveldt Secondary School - Multilateral	-	531,040
	65	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Port Kaituma Community High School (Residential)	-	637,232
	66	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Kwakwani Residential Secondary School	-	12
	67	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Mabaruma Residential Secondary School	-	12
	68	Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - St. Ignatius Residential Secondary School	-	12
XXV		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture	3,105,000	-
XXVI		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - IBRD/IDA Projects First Education Project	-	-

Division No. (Capital)	Head No. (Current)		AMOUNT	
			Capital \$	Current \$
XXVII		Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - IBRD/IDA Projects Second Education Project	7,000,000	-
	69	Ministry of Health	-	1,702,12
	70	Ministry of Health - Medical	-	6,218,81
	71	Ministry of Health - Pathological	-	1,053,59
	72	Ministry of Health - Radiological	-	412,01
	73	Ministry of Health - Hospitals and Dispensaries	-	23,136,91
	74	Ministry of Health - Analyst	-	343,47
	75	Ministry of Health - Palms	-	990,49
XXVIII		Ministry of Health	2,100,000	-
	76	Ministry of Labour	-	1,045,93
	77	Ministry of Labour - Employment Exchange Service	-	118,46
	78	Ministry of Labour - Social Assistance	-	5,844,02
XXIX		Ministry of Labour	-	-
	79	Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection	-	543,54
XXX		Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection	-	-
	80	Ministry of Finance	-	847,73
	81	Ministry of Finance - Accountant General	-	3,144,67
	82	Ministry of Finance - Customs and Excise	-	3,006,23
	83	Ministry of Finance - Inland Revenue	-	4,341,42
	84	Ministry of Finance - Pensions and Gratuities	-	3,136,79

Division No. (Capital)	Head No. (Current)	AMOUNT		
		Capital \$	Current \$	
	85	Ministry of Finance - Public Debt	-	160,144
	86	Ministry of Finance - Revision of Wages, Salaries and Related Payments	-	300
	87	Ministry of Finance - Post Office Savings Bank	-	7
XXXI		Ministry of Finance	27,217,768	-
		TOTAL	<u>181,525,098</u>	<u>294,990,677</u>