

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 153rd Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 20TH MARCH, 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 (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
- * 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 (Absent)
- * Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- * 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

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 (Absent - on leave)

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

* Non elected Minister

- Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)
- 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 (Absent)
- * Cde. A. Salim, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)(Absent)
- * 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. (Absent)
- 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)
- 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. (Absent - on leave)
- 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. (Absent)

Members of the Opposition (15)

(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

* Non elected Minister

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. 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.
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) Liberator Party (1)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Cde. Clarke for that day's sitting; and
- (ii) Cde. Ramsahoye from 19th to 23rd March, 1978.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1 - APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/1978

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider Financial Paper No. 1/1978.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1978 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund in 1977) for the period ended 31st December, 1977, totalling \$13,159,040.

After consideration of the Financial Paper, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1978 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund in 1977) for the period ended 31st December, 1977, totalling \$13,159,040."

ITEM 2 - INCREASE IN LIABILITY OF GOVERNMENT IN RESPECT OF GUARANTEES

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS in accordance with section 3(1) of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, Chapter 77:01, the Government may in such manner and such terms and subject to such conditions as may be agreed between it and a lending agency -

- (a) guarantee the discharge by a Corporation of its obligations under any agreement which may be entered into by the Corporation with a lending agency in respect of any borrowing by that Corporation that is authorised by the Government;
- (b) assume such other obligations as may be agreed between the Government and a lending agency in relation to or pursuant to any such agreement;
- (c) undertake the repayment to a lending agency of such sums as the lending agency may have advanced to or for the benefit of the Government;

AND WHEREAS it is provided under section 4(1) of the aforesaid Act, that the aggregate amount of the liability of the Government in respect of guarantees given under section 3 of the Act shall not at any time exceed the sum of two hundred million dollars or such greater sum as may from time to time be specified by the Resolution of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it has become necessary to specify in accordance with the said section 4(1) a greater sum for the purpose of enabling the aggregate amount of liability of the Government in respect of guarantees to be increased due to the 1978-1981 Development Programme for those incorporated bodies to which the Act applied:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve that the aggregate amount of the liability of the Government under section 4 (1) of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, in respect of guarantees given under section 3 of the Act, shall not at any time exceed the sum of five hundred million dollars.

Cdes. Ram Karrera and N. Persaud spoke to the motion

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.25 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT BILL 1978 -
Bill No. 5 1978 published 27.2 78

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND
THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD
TRAFFIC ACT.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, Mr. Singh and Cde. Ally spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Finance replied.

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.

ITEM 4 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 6/1978 published 27.2.78

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
TAX ACT.

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.

MOTIONSITEM 5 CONFIRMATION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES ORDER 1978 (No. 26)

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accordance with section 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs Duties Order 1978 (No. 26), which was made and published in the Gazette on the 27th of February, 1978.

ITEM 6 CONFIRMATION OF CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1978 (No. 29)

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 (Amendment) Order 1978 (No. 29), which was made on the 25th of February, 1978, and published in the Gazette on the 27th of February, 1978.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.17 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
S. NARAIN
Speaker 28/3/78

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
28th March, 1978