

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 164th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 24TH AUGUST, 1978

With the Deputy Speaker in the Chair

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (64)

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly  
(Absent - on leave)  
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (47)

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 (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (7)

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

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

\* Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour (Absent)

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

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

\* Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)

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

Ministers (6)

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

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

\* Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

\* Non elected Minister

Ministers of State (11)

- 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 (Absent)
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional Mazaruni/Potaro) (Absent)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara) (Absent - on leave)
- 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. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/ West Coast Berbice)
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West)
- \* Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi)

Parliamentary Secretaries (5)

- 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. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture
- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives

Other Members (16)

- Cde. W.G. Carrington, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, 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. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- 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. L.E. Willems, 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

\* Non elected Minister

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent)  
 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. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent)  
 Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P. (Absent)  
 Cde. R. Ally, M.P.  
 Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.  
 Cde. Dindayal, M.P.  
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.  
 Cde. P. Sukhai, M.P. (Absent)

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mr. M.A. Abraham, 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 DEPUTY SPEAKER(i) Illness of the Speaker

The Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that the Speaker was indisposed and was unable to be present at that sitting.

(ii) Change in the National Assembly

The Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that Cde. L.A. Durant had been appointed a Minister and had been designated Minister of State - Regional (North West) with effect from 15th August, 1978.

(iii) Leave

The Deputy Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cdes. Reid, Kennard, Chowritmootoo, Ackman and Mr. Singh for that sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

State Pension (EDWARD SPENCER) Order 1978 (No. 82), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on the 12th of July, 1978, and published in the Gazette on the 22nd of July, 1978.

(ST: 4/24) (Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - DEATH OF REV. A.B. TROTMAN

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Rev. Alex Benjamin Trotman and pays tribute to the distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow and children.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud and Mr. Abraham spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried with Members standing.

ITEM 2 - STAND-BY AGREEMENT

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the duly authorised representatives of the Government of Guyana on 12th June, 1978, signed a Letter of Intent for a Stand-By Agreement with the International Monetary Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Fund, under which the Government of Guyana requested, for a period of one year, the right to purchase from the Fund up to the equivalent of SDR 6.25 million i.e. approximately twenty million Guyana dollars; and

WHEREAS the Board of the Fund approved of the request on 26th July, 1978, and the request was accordingly countersigned by the Fund, thereby constituting a Stand-By Agreement with the Fund; and

WHEREAS a copy of the Stand-By Agreement was duly laid before the National Assembly on 14th August, 1978:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the action taken by the Government of Guyana in relation to the Stand-By Agreement with the Fund signed on 12th June, 1978.

Cde. N. Persaud was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.36 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that it was agreed that the sitting would not be suspended at 6.30 p.m.

Cde. N. Persaud concluded his speech.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives replied.

The motion was then put and carried on the following division:

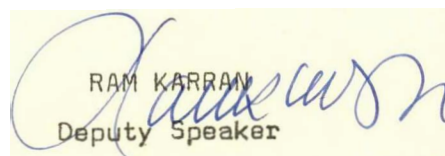
FOR	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Abraham	Cde. Dindoyal
Cde. Zaheeruddeen	Cde. Ally
Cde. Willems	Cde. Collymore
Cde. Taylor	Cde. C. Jagan
Cde. Sukul	
Cde. Stoby	
Cde. Rayman	
Cde. Nissar	
Cde. Jonas	
Cde. Hussain	
Cde. Gill	
Cde. Fowler	
Cde. Carrington	
Cde. Wrights	
Cde. Bynoe	
Cde. Corrica	
Cde. Ambrose	
Cde. Van Sluytman	
Cde. Prashad	
Cde. Corbin	
Cde. Thomas	
Cde. Duncan	
Cde. Ramsaroop	
Cde. Hoyte	

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#### ADJOURNMENT

At 7.53 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.



RAM KARRAN  
Deputy Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

4th September, 1978.