

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 168th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

FRIDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 1978

Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S. - In the Chair

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (62)

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (45)

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 (12)

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

Cde. C.V. Mingo, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

* 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. 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 (Absent)

* 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

Ministers (2)

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

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

* Non elected Minister

Ministers of State (10)

Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi)
 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)
 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. 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)

Parliamentary Secretaries (5)

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. 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 (14)

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. J.G. Ramson, M.P.
 Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
 Cde. A. Salim, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 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 (Absent - on leave)

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
 (Absent - on leave)

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

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P. (Absent)

OFFICERS

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

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO PRESIDE AT THE SITTING

The Clerk announced that both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were unavoidably absent, and invited nominations for a Member to preside at the sitting.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud was nominated by Cde. J. Jagan, and seconded by Cde. N. Persaud.

Cde. S.H. Sukhu was nominated by Cde. Ramsaroop, and seconded by Cde. Ackman.

The proposal was carried in favour of Cde. Sukhu.

The sitting of the Assembly was, thereafter, convened with Cde. Sukhu in the Chair.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER

(i) Leave

The Presiding Member announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cdes. Clarke and Salim for that sitting;
- (b) Cde. C. Jagan for a period of one month from 15th November, 1978, and
- (c) Cde. Ram Karran for a period of one month from 3rd November, 1978.

(ii) Acting Leader of the Opposition

The Presiding Member stated that the Leader of the Opposition had informed the Speaker that during his absence Cde. J. Jagan would be acting as Leader of the Opposition.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development, on behalf of the Prime Minister:

Review of the Operations of the Sugar Industry
Labour Welfare Fund for the year 1977.

(PM: 20/2/78^(XIV))(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Incidents concerning the Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ Church

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development made a statement concerning the deaths of United States of America Congressman Leo Ryan, and several other persons at Port Kaituma, at the the Peoples Temple Settlement at Jonestown in the North West Region, and at the Temple's Headquarters in Georgetown.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE -

Incidents concerning the Peoples Temple of the Disciples of Christ Church

Cde. J. Jagan sought leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing the deaths of several persons at Port Kaituma, at the Peoples Temple Settlement at Jonestown in the North West Region, and at the Temple's Headquarters in Georgetown.

The Presiding Member was unable to allow the claim as Cde. Jagan had submitted a substantive motion on the matter, notice of which had already been published that day on Notice Paper No. 180.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) LABOUR (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 23/1978
published 22.11.78

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 THE LABOUR ACT TO CONFER ADDITIONAL POWERS ON THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR MATTERS RELATING TO LABOUR IN REGULATING THE WAGES OF EMPLOYED PERSONS.

(2) WAGES COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 24/1978
published 22.11.78

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 THE WAGES COUNCILS ACT TO CONFER ADDITIONAL POWERS ON THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR MATTERS RELATING TO LABOUR IN THE MAKING OF WAGES REGULATION ORDERS.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

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 Friday, 24th November, 1978, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the following Bills:-

(i) Labour (Amendment) Bill 1978
(Bill No. 23/1978)

(ii) Wages Councils (Amendment) Bill 1978
(Bill No. 24/1978).

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

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

FOR	AGAINST
Cde. Zaheeruddeen	Cde. Sukhai
Cde. Willems	Cde. Nokta
Cde. Taylor	Cde. Dalchand
Cde. Sukul	Cde. Belgrave
Cde. Stoby	Cde. Mohamed
Cde. Rayman	Cde. Collymore
Cde. Ramson	Cde. N. Persaud
Cde. Hussain	Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud
Cde. Gill	Cde. J. Jagan
Cde. Fowler	
Cde. Carrington	
Cde. Wrights	
Cde. Bynoe	

Carried
Forward: 13

9

	FOR	AGAINST
Brought F Forward:	13	9
	Cde. Ambrose Cde. Ackman Cde. Durant Cde. Van Sluytman Cde. Prashad Cde. Thomas Cde. Chowritmootoo Cde. Duncan Cde. Carmichael Cde. Field-Ridley Cde. Mingo Cde. Ramsaroop	
	25	9

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 2 - LABOUR (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 23/1978 published 22.11.78

The Minister of Health, Housing and Labour moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE LABOUR ACT TO CONFER ADDITIONAL POWERS ON THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR MATTERS RELATING TO LABOUR IN REGULATING THE WAGES OF EMPLOYED PERSONS.

Cdes. J. Jagan and Belgrave spoke to the motion.

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 4.00 p.m.

The Minister of Health, Housing and Labour 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.

ITEM 3 - WAGES COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 24/1978 published 22.11.78

The Minister of Health, Housing and Labour moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE WAGES COUNCILS ACT TO CONFER ADDITIONAL POWERS ON THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR MATTERS RELATING TO LABOUR IN THE MAKING OF WAGES REGULATION ORDERS.

7.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.13 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 Wednesday, 29th November, 1978.


S.H. SUKHU
Presiding Member

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