

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1979

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 189th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 14TH MAY, 1979

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (63)

Speaker

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (46)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P., Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development (Absent - on leave)

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 (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)

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

* 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)

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

Ministers (2)

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

Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister, Office of the Prime Minister

* 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 (Absent - on leave)
- 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, Office of the Prime Minister
- 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) (Absent)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of State for Information, Ministry of National Development

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 (15)

- Cde. W.G. Carrington, C.C.H., M.P.
- Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, 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. (Absent)
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. A. Salim, 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. (Absent)
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, M.P. (Absent)

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)

* 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.
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. (Absent)
Cde. P. Sukhai, M.P.

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

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

(i) Death of wife of past Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson, C.C.H.

The Speaker informed the Assembly of the recent death of the wife of a past Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson, C.C.H., recorded the Assembly's condolence, and requested the Clerk to send a letter to Sir Donald Jackson extending to him the deep sympathy of the Assembly on his loss.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

(a) Cdes. Burnham, Reid, Clarke, Duncan and Ackman
for that sitting; and

(b) Cde. Jackson from 4th to 17th May, 1979.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Prime Minister:

Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Insurance Scheme for the year ended 31st December, 1977.

(GSC: 11/404/2)(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Finance:

(a) Finance Contract between Guyana and European Investment Bank - Upper Demerara Forestry Project - (Conditional Loan on Risk Capital Resources) - Luxembourg, 16th November, 1978. (ST: 35/36)

(b) State Pension (WILLIAM CARMICHAEL) Order 1979 (No. 39), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on the 28th of March, 1979, and published in the Gazette on the 5th of May, 1979.

(ST: 4/24)(Circulated)

(c) State Pension (AUGUSTUS HINDS) Order 1979 (No. 40), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on the 28th of March, 1979, and published in the Gazette on the 5th of May, 1979.

(ST: 4/24)(Circulated)

(d) State Pension (DOROTHY KING)(No. 2) Order 1979 (No. 41), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on the 17th of February, 1979, and published in the Gazette on the 5th of May, 1979.

(ST: 4/24)(Circulated)

(e) State Pension (EDWARD SPENCER) Order 1979 (No. 42), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on the 17th of February, 1979, and published in the Gazette on the 5th of May, 1979.

(ST: 4/24)(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

By the Attorney General and Minister of Justice - Re Remarks on Appointment of Ombudsman

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice made a statement in which he referred to the suggestion made by the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly at the last sitting on 30th March, 1979, that remarks made by him on 28th March, 1979, on the subject of the appointment of the Ombudsman were erroneous and inaccurate.

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice, in his statement, submitted that every single element in his remarks on the subject, made in the Assembly on 28th March, 1979, was accurate and correct.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (i) GUYANA METHODIST TRUST CORPORATION BILL 1979 -
Bill No. 7/1979 published 7.4.79, 14.4.79 and
21.4.79

Cde. Fowler presented the following Private Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO INCORPORATE
THE GUYANA METHODIST TRUST CORPORATION
TO HOLD THE PROPERTY IN GUYANA OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND
AMERICAS AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED
THEREWITH.

- (ii) PUBLIC CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1979 -
Bill No. 8/1979

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Prime Minister, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PUBLIC CORPORATIONS ACT TO MAKE
PROVISION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF
AN EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND
MORE THAN ONE VICE PRESIDENT.

- (iii) GUYANA PETROLEUM CORPORATION BILL 1978 -
Bill No. 25/1978 published 2.12.78

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO ESTABLISH
THE GUYANA PETROLEUM CORPORATION
AND TO MAKE PROVISION WITH RESPECT
TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CORPORATION
AND OTHER MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 GUYANA MINING COMMISSION BILL 1979 - Bill No. 3/1979
published 10.2.79

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE FUNCTIONS OF THE GUYANA MINING COMMISSION AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

In Committee

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources moved the following amendments which were put and carried:

Substitution of the words "Guyana Geology and Mines Commission" for the words "Guyana Mining Commission" in -

- (i) The Long title, and Clauses 1, 2 and 3 (including the heading before Clause 3 and the marginal note thereto)
- (ii) The Second Schedule -
 - (a) the proposed amendment of section 2 of the Mining Act;
 - (b) the proposed amendment of regulation 2 of the Bauxite Mining Regulations;
 - (c) the proposed amendment of section 3 of the Petroleum (Production) Act;
 - (d) the proposed amendment of section 3(1) of the Minerals Act.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were passed as amended.

Clauses 4 to 36 were passed as printed.

FIRST SCHEDULE was passed as printed.

SECOND SCHEDULE was passed as amended.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

MOTIONS

ITEM 2 SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS

The Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the conditions governing the payment of superannuation benefits to non-pensionable employees of the Government as authorised by Resolutions of the Legislature provide for the payment of annual allowances and gratuities to employees of the Government who were not holding pensionable offices at the time of their retirement;

AND WHEREAS the Government considers it desirable that similar treatment should be accorded to teachers in the employment of the Government who do not qualify for the grant of a pension or gratuity under the Teachers' Pensions Act, Chapter 39:05, on their retirement as teachers:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of the conditions governing the payment of superannuation benefits to non-pensionable employees of the Government being applied mutatis mutandis for the purpose of granting superannuation benefits to teachers in the employment of the Government who do not qualify for the grant of a pension or gratuity under the Teachers' Pensions Act, Chapter 39:05, on their retirement as teachers.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 3 AGREEMENT WITH ORION BANK LIMITED

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS by Resolution No. XXXII passed on 17th April, 1974, as amended by Resolution No. LXVI passed on 11th July, 1976, this National Assembly authorised the Minister of Finance as guarantor acting on behalf of the Government of Guyana, to sign agreements with international financial institutions in respect of loans made by those institutions to Guyana Bauxite Company Limited now renamed Guyana Mining Enterprise Limited amounting in the aggregate to G\$85 million or the equivalent amount of US\$42.5 million;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to refinance the loans so taken and to replace the existing floating rate loan facilities from the several financing institutions (being commercial banks and commercial banking syndicates) by a new credit facility in the aggregate amount of US\$31 million on more favourable terms of repayment;

AND WHEREAS Bauxite Industry Development Company Limited the holding company of which Guyana Mining Enterprise Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary has arranged with Orion Bank Limited in association with several participating banks and financial institutions satisfactory terms of an Agreement for the refinancing of the aforesaid amount of US\$31 million:

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 an agreement with Orion Bank Limited in association with the several banks and financial institutions including the authority to sign any promissory notes and other related documents for the purpose of guaranteeing the obligations of the said Bauxite Industry Development Company Limited as Borrower and Guyana Mining Enterprise Limited under the terms of the Credit Agreement in the aggregate amount of US\$31 million with the aforementioned Bank and Financial Institutions executed on the 12th day of March, 1979, and to sign any agreements supplemental to the guarantee in favour of Export-Import Bank of the United States and Export Development Corporation of Canada signed on behalf of the Government of Guyana under the authority of the Resolution of this National Assembly No. XXXII passed on 17th April, 1974.

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 4.32 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Cde. N. Persaud concluded his speech.

The Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 4 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 46(2)

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, with the leave of the Speaker, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 46 be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Monday, 14th May, 1979, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the GUYANA METHODIST TRUST CORPORATION BILL 1979 (Bill No. 7/1979 published 7.4.79, 14.4.79 and 21.4.79).

The motion was put and carried.

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 5 - GUYANA METHODIST TRUST CORPORATION BILL 1979 -
Bill No. 7/1979 published 7.4.79, 14.4.79 and 21.4.79

Cde. Fowler moved the second reading of the following Private Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE GUYANA METHODIST TRUST CORPORATION TO HOLD THE PROPERTY IN GUYANA OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND AMERICAS AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

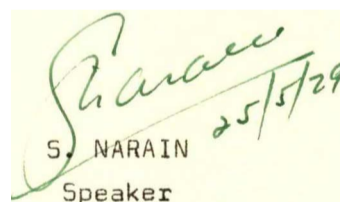
Cde. Carrington seconded the motion.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.10 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
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
25th May, 1979