

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FOURTH SESSION

1972 - 1973

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 35th Sitting of the National Assembly under the Constitution of Guyana, held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 4TH JUNE, 1973

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Saso Narain, J.P.

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (37)

Elected Ministers (12)

- The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister (Absent)  
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture (Absent)  
The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture  
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Works and Communications  
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and Social Security  
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information, Culture and Youth  
The Honourable B. Ramsgroop, Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House  
The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Health  
The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs  
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of State for the Public Service  
The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of Co-operatives and Community Development (Absent)  
The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of Local Government

Appointed Ministers (7)

- The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General  
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Public Affairs  
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Mines and Forests  
The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education  
The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance and Trade  
Dr. the Honourable K.F.S. King, Minister of Economic Development  
The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Housing and Reconstruction (Absent)

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Trade  
 Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Development and Agriculture  
 Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth  
 Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Communications

Other Members (14)

- Mr. J.N. Aaron  
 Miss M.M. Ackman, Government Whip  
 Mr. K. Bancroft  
 Mr. N.J. Bissember  
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.  
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue  
 Mr. M. Corrice  
 Mr. E.H.A. Fowler  
 Mr. R.J. Jordan  
 Mr. S.M. Saffee  
 Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman  
 Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.  
 Mrs. L.E. Willems  
 Mr. J.G. Ramson

Members of the Opposition (23)People's Progressive Party (15)

- Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition  
 Mr. Ram Karran  
 Mr. R. Chandisingh  
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mr. J.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker  
 Mr. G.M.G. Wilson  
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P., Opposition Whip  
 Mr. G.H. Lall, J.P.  
 Mr. M.Y. Ally  
 Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P. ✓  
 Mr. Balchand Persaud  
 Mr. R. Ally  
 Mr. Bholu Persaud  
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. V. Teekah (Absent)

United Force (3)

- Mr. M.F. Singh  
 Mrs. E. DeSilva  
 Mr. J.A. Sutton

Independents (3)

- Mr. R.E. Cheeks  
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose  
 Mrs. L.M. Branco  
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.  
 Mr. L.A. Durant

OFFICERS

- Mr. F.A. Narain, Clerk of the National Assembly  
 Mr. M.B. Henry, AMBIM, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House on behalf of the Minister of Works and Communications:

Annual Report of the Transport and Harbours  
Department for the year 1971.

(C-12/4/7 III) (Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Finance and Trade:

Loan Agreement between the Government of  
Guyana and a consortium of Banks (Dated  
21st May, 1973)

(4/2/8)(Circulated)

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONSBy the Leader of the Opposition

With the leave of the Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition made a statement concerning remarks made by the Minister of Home Affairs during the debate on the 30th of May, 1973, on the second reading of the Representation of the People (Adaptation and Modification of Laws) Bill 1973.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

- (1) MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1973  
Bill No. 11/1973 published 2.6.73

The Minister of Local Government, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL AND  
DISTRICT COUNCILS ACT 1969.

- (2) CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY BILL 1973 - Bill No. 12/1973  
published 4.6.73

The Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE  
FULFILMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA OF ITS  
OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GEORGETOWN ACCORD AND THE  
TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS TO BE CONCLUDED THERE-  
UNDER.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1      MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/1973

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider Financial Paper No. 4/1973.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance and Trade 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. 4/1973 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates for the period ending 31st May, 1973, totalling \$3,528,765.

The following correction was made to the Schedule to the Financial Paper:

Substitution of "1 - Maintenance of Public Buildings" for "19 - Maintenance of Public Buildings" under the Subhead column at item 10.

Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud moved the following amendment to the Schedule to the Financial Paper:

Reduction of item 18 by \$1.00.

The amendment was put and negatived on the following division:

FOR	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Sutton	Mr. Durant
Mr. M.F. Singh	Mr. Stoby
Mrs. DaSilva	Mrs. Branco
Mr. Bhola Persaud	Mr. Ambrose
Mr. R. Ally	Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Balchand Persaud	Mr. Ramson
Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud	Mrs. Willems
Mr. M.Y. Ally	Mr. Zaheeruddeen
Mr. Lall	Mr. Van Sluytman
Mr. Hamid	Mr. Saffee
Mr. Wilson	Mr. Jordan
Mr. Chandisingh	Mr. Fowler
Mr. Ram Karran	Mr. Corrica

Carried

Forward:      13

AGAINST

Brought  
Forward: 13

13

Mr. Chan-A-Sue  
Mr. Budhoo  
Mr. Bissember  
Mr. Bancroft  
Miss Ackman  
Mr. Aaron  
Mr. Wrights  
Mr. Thomas  
Mr. Duncan  
Mr. Joaquin  
Mr. Salim  
Mr. Mingo  
Mr. Clarke  
Mr. D.A. Singh  
Mr. Ramsaroop  
Miss Field-Ridley  
Mr. Carrington  
Mr. Hoyte  
Mr. Kasim

13

32

After consideration of the Schedule to the Financial Paper, the motion was put and carried:

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance and Trade, 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. 4/1973 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates for the period ending 31st May, 1973, totalling \$3,528,765."

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

ITEM 2 - MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

The Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That -

(1) Paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order No. 46 be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed forthwith with the second reading and the remaining stages of the following Bills:

(a) INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1973  
(Bill No. 10/1973)

(b) MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL 1973  
(Bill No. 11/1973)

(c) CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY BILL 1973  
(Bill No. 12/1973)

(2) Paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 23 be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed forthwith with the

MOTION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS DEPARTMENT FOR 1967.

Mr. Ram Karran and Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1973 - Bill No. 10/1973  
published 1.6.73

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ORDINANCE.

Mr. Ram Karran, Mr. M.F. Singh and Mr. Sutton spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The Motion was then put and carried.

His Honour the Speaker requested him to make a report at the resumption at 8.00 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.35 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.06 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

PRESS RELEASE ON THE PROCEEDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH BILL NO. 9/1973

His Honour the Speaker informed the Assembly that he had checked the records of the Assembly and was satisfied that the details of the press release concerning the divisions taken on the clauses of Bill No. 9/1973 were inaccurate.

He then called upon Mr. M.F. Singh to make a statement on the release alleged to have been made by him.

Mr. Singh informed the Speaker that he was not prepared to make a statement.

The Speaker thereupon called upon the Press to correct the published statement and to disclose the source of its information.

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF BILL NO. 11/1973

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1973, clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government, the Bill was read the third time and passed as printed.

ITEM 5 - CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY BILL 1973 - Bill No. 12/1973  
published 4.6.73

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE FULFILMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GEORGETOWN ACCORD AND THE TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS TO BE CONCLUDED THEREUNDER.

Mr. Ram Karran and Mr. Sutton spoke to the motion.

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.

MOTION

ITEM 6      MOTION ON THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
THE ACCOUNTS OF THE TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS DEPART-  
FOR 1967

Mr. Ram Karran, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, moved and Mr. Sutton seconded the following motion which put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly on the Accounts of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year 1967 be referred to the Government for its consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.40 p.m., on a motion by the Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 6th of June, 1967.7

S. NARAIN  
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

6th June, 1973.