

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1969

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 25th 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

THURSDAY, 19TH JUNE, 1969

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj, C.B.E., J.P.

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C., Prime Minister
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Finance
The Honourable R.J. Jordan, Minister of Agriculture
and Natural Resources
The Honourable M. Kasim, Minister of Communications
The Hon. H.D. Hoyte, Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable N.J. Bissember, Minister of Trade
and Parliamentary Affairs
The Honourable C.M.L. John, Minister of Local Government
Mrs. the Honourable S.M. Patterson, Minister of Education
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Housing and
Reconstruction
The Honourable M.W. Carter, Minister of Information

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. P. Duncan, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. J.G. Joaquin, O.B.E., J.P., Parliamentary
Secretary, Ministry of Finance
Mr. W. Haynes, Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of Works and Hydraulics
Mr. A. Salim, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister

(iii) Other Members

Mr. J.N. Aaron
 Miss M.M. Ackman
 Mr. K. Bancroft
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue
 Mr. O.E. Clarke, Deputy Speaker
 Mr. E.F. Correia
 Mr. M. Corrica
 Mr. S.M. Saffee
 Mr. D.A. Singh
 Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
 Mr. C.E. Wrights
 Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.

(b) Members of the Opposition

Mr. Ram Karan
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye
 Mr. D.C. Jagan
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P.
 Mr. G.H. Lall
 Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. Balchand Persaud
 Mr. Bhola Persaud
 Mr. V. Teekah
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks
 Mrs. E. DaSilva
 Mr. J.A. Sutton

Clerk of the National Assembly (Ag.) - Mr. M.B. Henry
 Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (Ag.) - Mr. R.H. Fraser

Absent

The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister
 of Labour and Social Security - on leave
 The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, C.M.G., Q.C.,
 Attorney-General and Minister of
 State
 The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works
 Works and Hydraulics
 The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister
 without Portfolio
 Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister
 of Health
 Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
 Mrs. P.A. Limerick - on leave
 Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition - on leave
 Mr. R. Chandisingh - on leave
 Mr. M.Y. Ally - on leave
 Mr. E.M. Stoby
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye - on leave
 Mr. M.F. Singh - on leave

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

His Honour the Speaker announced -

(i) Leave

That leave had been granted to -

- (a) Mr. Carrington for the period 6th to 30th June, 1969;
- (b) Mrs. Limerick for the period 11th to 20th June, 1969;
- (c) Mr. Chandisingh for the period 27th May to the end of June, 1969;
- (d) Mrs. Sahoye for 6 weeks from 9th June, 1969;
- (e) Mr. M.Y. Ally for 6 weeks from 16th June, 1969; and
- (f) Mr. M.F. Singh from 19th to 25th June, 1969;

(ii) Return of Members from the United Kingdom Parliamentary Course

That Mr. O.E. Clarke, Deputy Speaker, and Mr. D.C. Jagan returned from the Eighteenth Course on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure held in the United Kingdom from the 22nd April to the 20th of May, 1969, and he extended a warm welcome to the two members on behalf of the Members of the Assembly.

(iii) Receipt of letter from the Clerk of the National Assembly

That he received a letter from the Clerk of the National Assembly who has been on an attachment at the House of Commons, London, in which he requested that his respects be conveyed to the Members of the National Assembly.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Minister of Finance

- (a) Financial Paper No. 3 of 1969 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Capital Estimates for the period ending 31st May, 1969, totalling \$3,182,250.

(2/4 II)(Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 69(1), the Minister named Tuesday, 24th June, 1969, as the day for consideration of the Financial Paper.

- (b) Report of the Director of Audit, Guyana, on the Accounts of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year ending 31st December, 1967.

(T. 68 II)(Circulated)

- (c) Report of the Director of the New Widows and Orphans' Fund on the working of the Fund for the year 1963.

(G: 105/54 II)(Circulated)

- (d) Financial Paper No. 4 of 1969 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates, totalling \$146,330.00, for the period ending 31st December, 1968.

(2/5 II)(Circulated)

- (e) Financial Paper No. 5 of 1969 - Statement of Expenditure authorised under Article 112(3) of the Constitution totalling \$400,360.00.

(2/4 II)(Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 69(1), the Minister named Tuweday, 24th June, 1969, as the day for consideration of the Financial Papers.

- (f) Amendatory Agreement among the Government of Guyana, the Bank of Guyana, the Guyana Development Corporation and the United States of America, acting through the Agency for International Development.

(G. 304 M/58 III)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

National Registration (Residents)(Revision of Registers) Regulations, 1969 (No. 9), made under section 19 of the National Registration Act, 1967 (No. 24), on the 12th of June, 1969, and published in the Gazette on the 14th of June, 1969.

(HA: C. 30/7)(Circulated).

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Newspaper article on the annulment motion concerning the duty allowance paid to Members of the Assembly

Mr. Ram Karran drew the Speaker's attention to an article by 'Lucian' in that day's issue of the Guyana Graphic, concerning his notice of a motion to annul the Order (Order No. 17 of 1969) made by the Minister of Finance. He objected to the language used in the article and contended that it violated the privileges of the Assembly.

Dr. Ramsahoye supported the views expressed by Mr. Ram Karran.

His Honour the Speaker agreed that the comments in the penultimate paragraph of the article was contemptuous of the privileges of the Assembly, not only in the way it was written but also having regard to the fact that it contained the word "hypocrisy" - an unparliamentary expression. He expressed the hope that 'Lucian' would acknowledge his error and in a subsequent article make an apology to the Assembly.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -

- (i) LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 1969
Bill No. 12/1969 published 31.5.69

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE.

- (ii) CONSUMPTION TAX BILL, 1969 - Bill No. 13/1969

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A CONSUMPTION TAX ON GOODS IMPORTED INTO GUYANA OR MANUFACTURED THEREIN; FOR THE COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF SUCH TAX, AND FOR MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO OR CONNECTED THEREWITH.

PUBLIC BUSINESSBILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - VALUATION FOR RATING PURPOSES BILL, 1969 - Bill No 9/1969
published 17.5.69

The Minister of Local Government moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE VALUATION OF PROPERTY FOR RATING PURPOSES AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THERETWITH.

Mr. Ram Karran, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hamid and Mr. Sutton spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.35 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Dr. Ramsahoye spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government replied.

The question was then put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 26 were passed as printed.

Clause 27

The following amendment by Dr. Ramsahoye was put and negatived:

Deletion of the words "on any question of law" from subsection (9).

Clause 27 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 28 to 45 were passed as printed.

Clause 46

The following amendment by the Minister of Local Government was put and carried:

Deletion of the words "as if it were a valuation list made under this Act" from subsections (1), (2) and (3).

Clause 46 was then passed as amended.

Clause 47 was passed as printed.

The First and Second Schedules 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 amended in Committee.

ITEM 2 - MOTION TO ADOPT THE REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

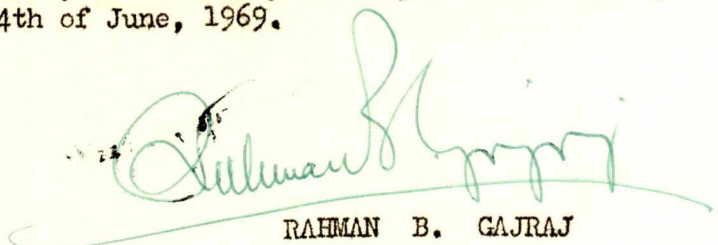
That the Report of the Standing Orders Committee on the revision of the Standing Orders as in force in the previous House of Assembly prior to the 26th of May, 1966, and which are still in force as the rules of procedure of the present National Assembly, be adopted.

Mr. Hamid spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the question was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.08 p.m. on a motion by the Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 24th of June, 1969.



RAHMAN B. GAJRAJ

Speaker.