

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1969

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

THURSDAY, 28TH AUGUST, 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 Honourable 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
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and
Social Security
Mrs. the Honourable S.M. Patterson, Minister of Education
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Housing and
Reconstruction
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, C.M.G., Q.C., Attorney-
General and Minister of State
The Honourable M.W. Carter, Minister of Information
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works and Hydraulics
Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister of Health

(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. E.H.A. Fowler
 Mrs. P.A. Limerick
 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

Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition
 Mr. Ram Karran
 Mr. R. Chandisingh
 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. M.Y. Ally
 Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.
 Mr. E.M. Stoby
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. Balchand Persaud
 Mr. Bholu Persaud
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye
 Mr. V. Teekah
 Mr. M.F. Singh
 Mrs. E. DaSilva
 Mr. J.A. Sutton
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks

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

Absent

The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister
 without Portfolio

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.By the Minister of Labour and Social Security

- (a) National Insurance and Social Security (Classification) Regulations, 1969 (No. 18), made under sections 11, 12 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1969 (No. 15), on the 26th of August, 1969.
(68/12 TJ. (2)).
- (b) National Insurance and Social Security (Insurance Stamps) Regulations, 1969 (No. 19), made under sections 17 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1969 (No. 15), on the 26th of August, 1969.
(68/12 TJ.(2)).
- (c) National Insurance and Social Security (Persons Abroad and Voluntary Contributors) Regulations, 1969 (No. 20), made under sections 11, 15, 48 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1969 (No. 15), on the 26th of August, 1969.
(68/12 TJ.(2)).
- (d) National Insurance and Social Security (Contributions) Regulations, 1969 (No. 21), made under sections 14, 17 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1969 (No. 15), on the 26th of August, 1969.
(68/12 TJ. (2)).
- (e) National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions) Regulations, 1969 (No. 22), made under sections 13, 16, 17, 18 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1969 (No. 15), on the 26th of August, 1969.
(68/12 TJ. (2)).

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQUESTION NO. 5

Mr. Ram Karran asked the Minister of Health the following question:

- Question:
- (i) Is the Honourable Minister aware that the freezing equipment at the New Amsterdam Mortuary failed, resulting in the decomposition of the remains of B. Singh?
- (ii) Will the Honourable Minister indicate the reasons for this?
- (iii) Will the Honourable Minister say what action, if any has been taken to -
- (a) discipline those responsible; and
- (b) apologise to the relatives?

The Minister of Health gave the following reply:

- Answer:
- (i) Yes - the Minister is aware of the incident.
 - (ii) The reason is that the fuse controlling the electricity supply for the Refrigeration Unit had blown.
 - (iii) (a) The Hospital Administrator, New Amsterdam, has taken all necessary action;
 - (b) a letter of regret has been sent to the relatives of the deceased.

Supplementary questions were asked by Mr. Ram Karran.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

- (i) TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 1969.
(Bill No. 19/1969 published 26.8.69)
- (ii) RICE MARKETING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969.
(Bill No. 20/1969 published 28.8.69)

The Minister of Finance presented the following Bills which were read the first time:

- (i) A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE.
- (ii) A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE RICE MARKETING ORDINANCE, TO DISSOLVE THE GUYANA RICE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, AND TO MAKE MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE GUYANA RICE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION ORDINANCE.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - FIRE PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969 - Bill No. 16/1969 published 16.8.69

On a motion moved by the Minister of Home Affairs the following Bill was read a second time, and thereafter, taken through the remaining stages and passed as printed:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE FIRE PREVENTION ORDINANCE, 1954.

ITEM 2 - MUSIC AND DANCING LICENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969 - Bill No. 17/1969 published 16.8.69

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE MUSIC AND DANCING LICENCES ORDINANCE.

Mr. D. Jagan, spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the question was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time, and thereafter, taken through the remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969 -
Bill No. 18/1969 published 16.8.69.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the following Bill was read a second time, and thereafter, was taken through the remaining stages and passed as printed:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE WIDOWS
AND ORPHANS PENSION ORDINANCE.

MOTION

ITEM 4 - MOTION ON GUYANA BECOMING A REPUBLIC

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana makes provision in paragraph (5) of article 73 thereof whereby Guyana may become a Republic and accordingly cease to be part of Her Majesty's dominions pursuant to alterations to the Constitution set out in the Second Schedule thereto;

AND WHEREAS such provision requires a resolution of the National Assembly, upon a motion introduced by the Prime Minister, that Guyana shall become a Republic and that the said alterations to the Constitution shall have effect on such day after the passing of the resolution as may be specified therein;

AND WHEREAS by virtue of such provision notice of such a motion may be given on or after 1st January, 1969, but not less than three months before the National Assembly proceeds upon the motion;

AND WHEREAS in fulfilment of the processes of National Independence it is fitting that Guyana should become a Republic pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the twenty-third day of February in each year commemorates the revolt of enslaved peoples on that day in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three in the then Colony of Berbice - being the first significant blow struck for freedom in the territory now comprised in the State of Guyana:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this National Assembly in pursuance of paragraph (5) of article 73 of the Constitution of Guyana that on the twenty-third day of February in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventy Guyana shall become a Republic and accordingly cease to be part of Her Majesty's dominions and that for that purpose the alterations to the Constitution of Guyana set out in the Second Schedule to the said Constitution shall have effect.

The Leader of the Opposition was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

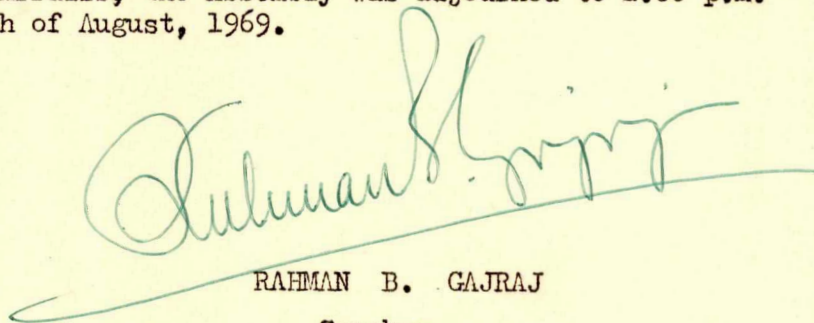
At 4.32 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Leader of the Opposition concluded his speech.

Mr. Cheeks, Mrs. DaSilva, Mr. Lall, Dr. Ramsahoye and Mr. Wilson spoke to the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.47 p.m. on a motion by the Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 29th of August, 1969.



RAHMAN B. GAJRAJ

Speaker.

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

29th August, 1969.