

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

—
FIRST SESSION
—

1969 - 1970
—

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 70th 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, 9TH FEBRUARY, 1970

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, Q.C., Minister of Home
Affairs
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour
and Social Security
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of
Education (Leader of the House)
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Trade
The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Housing and
Reconstruction
Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister of Health

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

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

(iii) Other Members

Mr. O.E. Clarke, Deputy Speaker
 Mr. J.N. Aaron
 Miss M.M. Ackman
 Mr. K. Bancroft
 Mr. N.J. Bissember
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue
 Mr. E.F. Correia
 Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
 Mrs. P.A. Limerick
 Mr. S.M. Saffee
 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. 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
 Mrs. E. DaSilva
 Mr. M.F. Singh

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

Absent:

The Hon. S.S. Ramphal, Kt., C.M.G., Q.C.,
 Attorney-General and Minister of State
 The Honourable M.W. Carter, Minister of
 Information and Culture
 The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works,
 Hydraulics and Supply
 The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister without
 Portfolio
 Mr. M. Corrica - on leave
 Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P. - on leave
 Mr. J.A. Sutton - on leave
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Sutton for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Speaker:

Report by the Speaker on the advice given by the Committee appointed to advise him on the arrangements to be made for the Special Sitting of the National Assembly to be held on Republic Day, Monday, 23rd February, 1970.

(PARL: 1/4/1)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1970 (No. 2), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 10th of January, 1970, and published in the Gazette on the 17th of January, 1970.

(Cex. 22⁽⁴⁾)(Circulated)

- (b) Financial Paper No. 1/1970 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates, totalling \$347,331.

(2/5 III)(Circulated)

- (c) Financial Paper No. 2/1970 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current Estimates for the period ending 31st January, 1970, totalling \$35.

(2/5 III)(Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 68(i), the Minister of Finance named Friday, 13th February, 1970, as the day for consideration of Financial Papers Nos. 1 and 2 of 1970.

(3) By the Minister of Education (Leader of the House)
on behalf of the Minister without Portfolio:

Report by the Amerindian Lands Commission - August, 1969.

(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERSStatement by the Minister of Home Affairs on the Coat-of-Arms, the Seal of the Republic of Guyana and the Presidential Arms and Standard

The Minister of Home Affairs made a statement on the Coat-of-Arms on Guyana becoming a republic, the redesigning of Canja Pheasant which appears on the Coat-of-Arms, the acquisition of a Seal for the authentication of public documents and the designing of the President's Arms and Standard.

(Photographic copies of the drawings were circulated for the information of the Members of the Assembly.)

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

His Honour the Speaker granted the request by the Leader of the Opposition to seek leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing the action of the Police in connection with the picketing of the opening of the Conference of Amerindian Leaders on 6th February, 1970.

The leave of the Assembly was not given.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

- (i) MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1970
Bill No. 3/1970 published 31.1.70
- (ii) INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1970 - Bill No. 4/1970
published 7.2.70.

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bills which were read the first time:

- (i) A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.
- (ii) A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ORDINANCE
- (iii) RENT RESTRICTION (RESOLUTION) BILL, 1970
Bill No. 5/1970 published 9. 2. 70

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

- A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO THE RENT RESTRICTION ORDINANCE.

PUBLIC BUSINESSBILL - Second and Third ReadingsITEM 1 - RENT RESTRICTION (RESOLUTION) BILL, 1970 -
Bill No. 5/1970 published 9.2.70

On a motion by the Minister of Housing and Reconstruction, Standing Order No. 46, paragraphs (2) and (3), was suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with this item.

The Minister of Housing and Reconstruction then moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A
RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO THE RENT
RESTRICTION ORDINANCE.

Mr. Chandisingh, Mr. Lall and Mr. Wilson spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Housing and Reconstruction replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

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

MOTIONSITEM 2 - MOTION RE CONTINUANCE OF MISCELLANEOUS ENACTMENTS
(AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) ACT, 1969 (NO. 33)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Miscellaneous Enactments (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 1969 (No. 33), was passed by the National Assembly on the 22nd of December, 1969;

AND WHEREAS it is stated in section 1(2) of the abovementioned Act that "this Act shall come into operation with respect to and from the year commencing 1st January, 1970 and shall not remain in force after the expiration of the 15th February, 1970 unless, before the expiration of the last-mentioned date, the National Assembly resolves that this Act or any provision thereof shall continue in force":

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve that the Miscellaneous Enactments (Amendment)(No. 2) Act, 1969 (No. 33), shall remain in force after the expiration of 15th February, 1970.

Mr. Ram Karran, the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Balchand Persaud spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 3 - MOTION RE CONTINUANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1969 (NO. 34)

The following motion by the Minister of Finance was put and carried:

WHEREAS the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 1969 (No. 34), was passed by the National Assembly on the 22nd of December, 1969;

AND WHEREAS it is stated in section 1(2) of the abovementioned Act that "this Act shall come into operation with respect to and from the year commencing 1st January, 1970 and shall remain in force after the expiration of the 15th February, 1970 unless, before the expiration of the last-mentioned date, the National Assembly resolves that this Act or any provision thereof shall continue in force":

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve that the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 1969 (No. 34), shall remain in force after the expiration of 15th February, 1970.

ITEM 4 - MOTION TO CONFIRM CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1970 (NO. 2)

The following motion by the Minister of Finance was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirm Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1970 (No. 2), which was made on the 10th of January, 1970, and published in the Gazette on the 17th of January, 1970.

ITEM 5 - MOTION TO EXEMPT THE BANK OF GUYANA FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROPERTY TAX ORDINANCE

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Bank of Guyana is ~~not~~ exempt from the provisions of the Property Tax Ordinance, 1962 (No. 19);

AND WHEREAS it is provided under Part III, section 6(w) of the Property Tax Ordinance, 1962,

that any person or authority may be exempted from the provisions of the said Ordinance by resolution of the National Assembly:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the Bank of Guyana being exempted from the provisions of the Property Tax Ordinance, 1962 (No. 19).

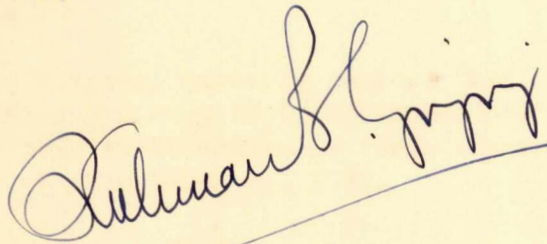
Dr. Ramsahoye spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.56 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Education (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 13th February, 1970.



RAHMAN B. GAJRAJ

Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

12th February, 1970.