

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1969

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 54th 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, 18TH DECEMBER, 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 W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour
and Social Security

Mrs. the Honourable S.M. Patterson, Minister of
Education

The Honourable B. Ramsarcoop, 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

(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 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. O.E. Clarke, Deputy Speaker
 Mr. J.N. Aaron
 Miss M.M. Ackman
 Mr. K. Bancroft
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue
 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

Mr. Ram Karran
 Mr. R. Chandisingh
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye
 Mr. D.C. Jagan
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson
 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
 Mrs. E. DaSilva
 Mr. M.F. Singh
 Mr. J.A. Sutton
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks

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

Absent:

The Honourable N.J. Bissember, Minister
 of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs - on leave
 The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister
 without Portfolio
 The Honourable H. Green, Minister of
 Works and Hydraulics
 Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot,
 Minister of Health
 Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition - on leave
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P. - on leave

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Mr. Bissember from 17th to 24th December, and that his duties as Leader of the House would be carried out by the Minister of Education; and
- (b) Mr. Lall for two weeks from the 11th of December, 1969.

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

- (a) Customs Duties (Amendment)(No. 7) Order, 1969 (No. 54), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 27th of November, 1969, and published in the Gazette on the 6th of December, 1969.
- (b) Report on the operation of the Guyana Credit Corporation for the years ended 30th June, 1966, and 30th June, 1967.
(G. 359/54)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources:

- Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations, 1969 (No. 31), made under section 33 of the Fisheries Ordinance, 1956 (No. 30), on the 2nd of December, 1969, and published in the Gazette on the 6th of December, 1969.
(AGR: 201/17/1^{II})(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Education on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Social Security:

- (a) National Insurance and Social Security (Benefit) Regulations, 1969, made under sections 14, 20, 21, 39 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1969 (No. 15), on the 15th of December, 1969.
(68/5 III)
- (b) National Insurance and Social Security (Industrial Benefit) Regulations, 1969, made under sections 12, 14, 20, 21, 23, 24, 39 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1969 (No. 15), on the 15th of December, 1969.
(68/5 III)
- (c) National Insurance and Social Security (Industrial Benefit Medical Care) Regulations, 1969, made under sections 19, 20, 21, 24 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1969 (No. 51), on the 15th of December, 1969. (58/5 III)

- (d) National Insurance and Social Security (Medical Certification) Regulations, 1969, made under section 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1969 (No. 15), on the 15th of December, 1969.

(68/5 III)

- (e) National Insurance and Social Security (Collection of Contributions). (Amendment) Regulations, 1969, made under sections 13, 16, 17, 18 and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, 1969 (No. 15), on the 15th of December, 1969.

(68/5 III)

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

Trial of Guyanese students charged

Dr. Ramsahoye sought leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the question of a speedy trial for the Guyanese students who were charged criminally in Canada in connection with student unrest arising out of allegations of racial discrimination at Sir George Williams University.

The Speaker refused to allow the claim as he was satisfied that the matter was not definite, urgent and of public importance to be properly raised on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

GEORGETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969 -
(Bill No. 29/1969 published 29.11.69, 6.12.69 & 13.12.69)

Leave having been granted by the Assembly on the 20th of November, 1969, for the Promoters to proceed with the Private Bill intituled AN ACT FURTHER TO AMEND THE GEORGETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ORDINANCE, Mr. D.A. Singh formally presented the Bill to the Assembly.

The question that the Bill be read the first time was put and carried.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second Reading

ITEM 1 - PENSIONS (GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PARLIAMENTARY AND SPECIAL OFFICES) BILL, 1969 - Bill No. 31/1969 published 11.12.69

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified the Cabinet's recommendation and moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE PAYMENT OF SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS IN RESPECT OF SERVICE IN THE OFFICES OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND PRIME MINISTER AND IN OTHER PARLIAMENTARY AND SPECIAL OFFICES.

Mr. Ram Karran, Mr. Lall, Mr. Wilson, Mr. M.F. Singh, Mr. M.Y. Ally, Dr. Ramsahoye and the Attorney-General and Minister of State spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried. The Bill was then read a second time.

Further consideration was deferred.

MOTIONS

ITEM 2 - MOTION TO APPROVE OF RAISING OF LOAN FROM GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified the Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

WHEREAS for the purposes of the Development Programme of Guyana for the period 1966 to 1972, as amended, the sum of \$1,700,000 (Canada) is required for the acquisition of two aircraft, together with certain services, materials and equipment, for the Guyana Airways Corporation;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to raise a loan in the sum of \$1,700,000 (Canada) for the purpose aforesaid;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada is willing to make available a loan for the purpose aforesaid in the sum of \$1,700,000 (Canada) equivalent approximately to \$3,100,000 (Guyana) free from interest and repayable in eighty semi-annual instalments of \$21,250 (Canada) each due and payable on the last day of March and September in each year commencing on 31st March, 1980 and ending on 30th September, 2019:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in pursuance of section 4 of the Public Loan Ordinance, 1966, as it has effect by virtue of section 5 of the Guyana Independence Order 1966, approve of the raising, from the Government of Canada, for the acquisition of two aircraft together with certain services, materials, and equipment for the Guyana Airways Corporation, of a loan in the sum of \$1,700,000 (Canada) free from interest, commitment or service charges and repayable in eighty semi-annual instalments of \$21,250 (Canada) each due and payable on the last day of March and September in each year commencing on 31st March, 1980, and ending on 30th September, 2019.

Mr. Balchand Persaud spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

ITEM 3 - MOTION TO AMEND THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD 1966 to 1972

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Development Programme of Guyana for the period 1966 to 1972 was approved by Resolution No. LXXIV of the House of Assembly of 25th April, 1966;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 3 of the Public Loan Ordinance, 1966; as it has effect by virtue of section 5 of the Guyana Independence Order 1966, that any modification, amendment, or extension of, and substitution for, the said Development Programme may be approved by the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the said Development Programme so as to provide for additional capital expenditure as detailed as follows:

\$8.3 million to implement a programme of aid to Civil Aviation in Guyana:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in pursuance of section 3 of the Public Loan Ordinance, 1966, approve of the amendment of the Development Programme for the period 1966 to 1972 as aforesaid.

Mr. Ram Karran spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.
The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 4 - MOTION TO CONFIRM CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 7) ORDER, 1969 (NO. 54)

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified the Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion, which 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)(No. 7) Order, 1969 (No. 54), which was made on the 27th of November, 1969, and published in the Gazette on the 6th of December, 1969.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.03 p.m. the sitting was suspended for tea.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.39 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

ITEM 5 - MOTION TO CONFIRM FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1969 (No. 31)

The following motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in terms of section 33(3) of the Fisheries Ordinance, 1956, (No. 30), confirm the Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations, 1969 (No. 31), which were made on the 2nd of December, 1969, and published in the Gazette on the 6th of December, 1969.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 23(1)

On a motion by the Minister of Education, Standing Order No. 23(1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to consider the motions published that day on Notice Papers Nos. 80, 81 and 82.

ITEM 6 - MOTION TO AUTHORISE THE GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE OVER-DRAFT FACILITIES OF \$2M. FOR THE GUYANA ELECTRICITY CORPORATION

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified the Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Guyana Electricity Corporation, the Commonwealth Development Corporation, and the Government have agreed that the present Management Agreement between the Guyana Electricity Corporation and the Commonwealth Development Corporation, should come to an end;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary, as a preliminary, to pay off the existing loan of approximately \$2 m. owed by the G.E.C. to the C.D.C.:

AND WHEREAS it is projected to do this with funds provided by Barclays Bank D.C.O., subject to a Government guarantee of repayment:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly do authorise the Government to guarantee overdraft facilities up to a limit of \$2 m. to be provided by Barclays Bank for the Guyana Electricity Corporation.

Mr. Ram Karran spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 7 - MOTION TO AUTHORISE THE GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND ITS
GUARANTEE OF OVERDRAFT OF \$1.5M IN RELATION TO THE
TRADES UNION COUNCIL CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY
LIMITED

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS by Resolution XI of 11th October, 1966, this National Assembly approved that Government should guarantee overdraft facilities to a limit of 1 million dollars for the purpose of interim financing of the housing project undertaken by the Trades Union Council Co-operative Housing Society Limited, for a period of two years from the first advance to the Society;

AND WHEREAS by Resolution XLII of 12th July, 1968, this Assembly authorised an increase in the overdraft limit to 1.5 million dollars;

AND WHEREAS the guarantee period has expired;

AND WHEREAS the Bank is prepared to continue the existing overdraft facilities until completion of the project, provided that Government extends its guarantee for a like period:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly do authorise the Government to extend its guarantee of overdraft facilities to a limit of 1.5 million dollars in relation to the aforementioned housing project until such time as the project is completed.

Mr. Chandisingh and Mr. Lall spoke to the motion:

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 8 - MOTION TO EXTEND THE NEW AMSTERDAM ELECTRIC LIGHTING
ORDER, 1900

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

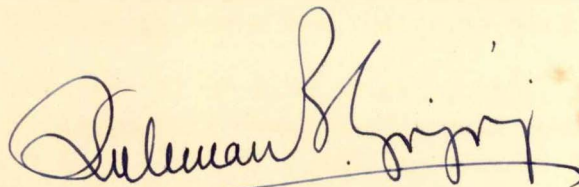
That the New Amsterdam Electric Lighting Order, 1900, as amended from time to time be extended for a period of one (1) year up to and including 31st December, 1970.

Mr. Lall spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.35 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Education, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 22nd December, 1969.



RAHMAN B. GAJRAJ

Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

19th December, 1969.