

FIRST SESSION

1969

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 49th 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, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1969

PRESENT:

His Honour the Deputy Speaker, Mr. O.E. Clarke - In the Chair

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Finance  
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 M.W. Carter, Minister of Information  
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister without Portfolio

(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. 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. 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. M. Zaheruddeen, J.P.

(b) Members of the Opposition

Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition  
 Mr. Ram Karan  
 Mr. R. Chandisingh  
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye  
 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. Bhola Persaud  
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.  
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye  
 Mr. V. Teekah  
 Mrs. E. DaSilva  
 Mr. J.A. Sutton

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

Absent:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj,  
 C.B.E., J.P. - on leave  
 The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C.,  
 Prime Minister  
 The Honourable R.J. Jordan, Minister of  
 Agriculture and Natural Resources - 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  
 and Hydraulics  
 Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister  
 of Health - on leave  
 Mr. W. Haynes, Parliamentary Secretary,  
 Ministry of Works and Hydraulics  
 Mr. E.F. Correia  
 Mr. C.E. Wrights  
 Mr. D.C. Jagan  
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson  
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P. - on leave  
 Mr. M.F. Singh - on leave  
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

His Honour the Deputy Speaker announced that -

(1) Letters and cable in connection with the death of the Governor-General

A letter and cable had been received from the Rt. Hon. Arthur Bottomley, O.B.E., M.P., Deputy Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in which he expressed the great shock of the United Kingdom Members by the news

of the tragic death of the Governor-General, Sir David Rose, and requested that their deep sympathy be conveyed to Lady Rose and family and to the Members of the Guyana Branch.

- (b) A letter had also been received from the Port Kaituma Community Cooperation Council extending sympathy to the Assembly on the death of Sir David.

(2) Letters in connection with the visit of the United Kingdom Members of Parliament

- (a) The Speaker had received a letter from the Deputy Chairman of the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association requesting that the sincere thanks of the Members of the United Kingdom Branch and himself be conveyed to the Members of the Guyana Branch and to all others for the welcome given to and arrangements made for the Members of the Parliamentary Delegation which had recently visited Guyana.

- (b) He had received from Mr. A.M. Macdonald, Leader of the Delegation, a letter, an extract of which he read.

(3) Acknowledgement from relatives of the late Mr. C.V. Wight

A Card had been received from the relatives of the late Mr. C.V. Wight, thanking Members for the Resolution passed by the Assembly paying tribute to Mr. Wight and extending sympathy to his relatives.

(4) Leave

Leave had been granted to

- (a) Dr. Talbot for the period 17th to 22nd November, 1969, and  
 (b) Mr. M.F. Singh for that day's sitting.

(5) Departure of His Honour the Speaker for the Bahamas

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Gajraj, who had returned to Guyana on account of the death of the Governor-General, left the country on 17th November, for the Bahamas, to attend the Second Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Conference of Presiding Officers and Clerks of the Commonwealth Caribbean from 18th to 20th November.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

By Mr. D. A. Singh

On behalf of Mr. Alfred L. Yhap of 31, High and Hadfield Streets, Georgetown, and Mr. Rabindranauth Beharry of 192, Wellington Street, Georgetown, seeking permission to introduce in the Assembly a Private Bill to amend the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce Ordinance.

After the Petition was read, the question that the promoters be allowed to proceed was put and carried.

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

Financial Paper No. 7/1969 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates for the period ending 30th November, 1969, totalling \$8,404,679.

(Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister named Tuesday, 25th November, 1969, as the day for consideration of the Paper.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQUESTION NO. 7

Mr. Chandisingh asked the Minister of Housing and Reconstruction the following question:

- Question:
- (i) Is Government aware that as a result of its appeal to persons in Berbice to undertake self-help projects, at least three aided self-help housing groups have been formed in New Amsterdam?
  - (ii) How soon will Government be in a position to enable these groups to start building their houses?
  - (iii) Is it a fact that each member of such a group in New Amsterdam must make a down payment of \$350: before work can commence?
  - (iv) If the answer to (iii) is in the affirmative, does Government not consider this sum too large for low-income persons for whom such schemes are intended?
  - (v) Is the price for a house lot to be \$900: as reported?
  - (vi) What type of building materials is proposed to be used in constructing new houses under aided self-help in New Amsterdam?

The Minister gave the following reply:

- Answer:
- (i) The answer is "yes".
  - (ii) A start will be made with the Peal Group in 1970.
  - (iii) The answer is "yes".
  - (iv) Government does not consider a down payment of \$350.00, which includes legal fees, to be too large for low income persons for whom such schemes are intended. Individual savings in co-operative self-help housing groups have been found in many instances to exceed this sum.

- (v) The price of a house lot is based on the cost of land, plus the cost of development plus 5% for overheads. It is therefore not possible at this stage to state what the cost of a house lot will be.
- (vi) The materials to be used would be lumber, concrete blocks, aluminium sheets, local clay blocks, etc.

Supplementary questions were asked by Mr. Chandisingh.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

- (i) INCOME TAX (IN AID OF INDUSTRY) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969  
(Bill No. 27/1969 published 15.11.69)
- (ii) CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AGREEMENT BILL, 1969  
(Bill No. 28/1969 published 17.11.69)

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 INCOME TAX (IN AID OF INDUSTRY) ORDINANCE.
- (ii) A BILL intituled AN ACT TO ENABLE THE IMPLEMENTATION BY GUYANA OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

#### PUBLIC BUSINESS

##### BILL - Second and Third Readings

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969 - Bill No. 26/1969  
published 25. 10. 69

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ORDINANCE.

Mr. Ram Karran spoke to the motion.


Thereafter the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The question was then put and carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.35 p.m. on a motion by the Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 25th November, 1969.



O. E. CLARKE

Deputy Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

25th November, 1969.