

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1969

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 46th 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

FRIDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 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 C.M.L. John, Minister of Local Government
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and
Social Security
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Housing and
Reconstruction
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. W. Haynes, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Works and Hydraulics
Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister

(iii) Other Members

Mr. J.N. Aaron
Miss M.M. Ackman
Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue
Mrs. P.A. Limerick
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. G.H. Lall
 Mr. M.Y. Ally
 Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. Balchand Persaud
 Mr. Bholu Persaud
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye
 Mrs. E. DaSilva
 Mr. J.A. Sutton

Clerk of the National Assembly - Mr. F.A. Narain

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	- on leave
The Honourable R.J. Jordan, Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources	- on leave
The Honourable N.J. Bissember, Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs	- on leave
Mrs. the Honourable S.M. Patterson, Minister of Education	- 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	- on leave
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister without Portfolio	
Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister of Health	- on leave
Mr. P. Duncan, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister	
Mr. A. Salim, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources	
Mr. K. Bancroft	- on leave
Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.	- on leave
Mr. E.F. Correia	- on leave
Mr. M. Corrica	- on leave
Mr. E.H.A. Fowler	- on leave
Mr. S.M. Saffee	- on leave
Mr. E.M.G. Wilson	
Mr. A.M. Haid, J.P.	- on leave
Mr. E.M. Stoby	
Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.	
Mr. V. Teekah	- on leave
Mr. M.W. Singh	- on leave
Mr. R.E. Cheeks	

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER(i) Illness of Speaker

His Honour the Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that a communication was received informing them that the Speaker, Mr. Gajraj, who was still in Canada, was ill and that he had been advised by his doctor against returning to Guyana at the end of October.

An application for an extension of one month's leave had also been received on behalf of his Honour.

On behalf of Hon. Members, His Honour the Deputy Speaker instructed the Clerk to send a letter to Mr. Gajraj, expressing the concern of the Assembly over his illness, and informing him of the grant of the necessary leave and extending to him the Assembly's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

(ii) Leave to other Members

His Honour the Deputy Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Members as follows:-

The Prime Minister - from the 24th of October to the 6th of November, 1969

Mr. Bissement	}	- from that sitting
Mrs. Patterson		
Mr. Green		
Dr. Talbot		
Mr. Bancroft		
Mr. Budhoo		
Mr. Corrica		
Mr. Saffee		
Mr. M.F. Singh	}	

Mr. Fowler - from the 22nd to the 31st of October, 1969.

(iii) Death of Mr. E.V. Viapree, a former Clerk of the Assembly

His Honour the Deputy Speaker said that he was sure that Members had heard of the death of Mr. E.V. Viapree, a former Clerk of the Assembly, and that they would wish their regret at his death to be placed on record.

He therefore instructed the Clerk, on behalf of Honourable Members, to send a letter to the sorrowing widow of Mr. Viapree expressing the Assembly's regret at his death and extending their condolences to her and to their children.

(iv) Visit of Overseas Parliamentarians, etc.

His Honour the Deputy Speaker said that the Assembly must also place on record their great pleasure of having with them in Guyana over the last few days, at the invitation and as the guests of the Guyana Government and the Guyana Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, a Parliamentary Delegation

from the U.K., comprising -

Mr. A.H. MacDonald, M.P., Leader of the Delegation
 Mr. T. Alec Jones, M.P.
 Mr. W.H. Alldritt, M.P.
 Sir John Rodgers, Bt., M.P., and
 Mr. Kenneth Baker, M.P.,

and also the following from other Commonwealth Parliaments -

Hon. C.J. Magara, M.P., from Uganda
 Hon. R. Ngala, M.P., from Kenya
 Dr. N.M. Perera, M.P., from Ceylon, and
 Mr. J.W.E. Davies, Clerk of the House of Representatives, from Sierra Leone.

They were also pleased to have with them at the time Mr. Edwin Brooks and Mr. Tony Gardner, United Kingdom Members of Parliament, who paid private visits to this country.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Allowances) (No. 3) Order, 1969 (No. 43), made under section 8 of the Ministers, Members of the House of Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Ordinance, 1965 (No. 7), on the 11th of October, 1969, and published in the Gazette on the 18th of October, 1969.
 (G. 104/53 III) (Circulated)

- (b) Schedule of Losses of Cash and Stores.
 (F. 18/0) (Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

Report of the National Honours Committee - July, 1968, together with the amended Constitution of the Orders of Guyana.
 (HA: 23/36) (Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(1) National Honours

The Minister of Home Affairs made a Statement on the Report of the National Honours Committee and on the Cabinet's decisions on the Report. He also circulated for the benefit of Members colour photographs of the proposed designs for the various medals and insignia of the Orders.

(ii) Death of Mr. E.V. Viapree, a former Clerk of the Assembly

On behalf of the Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs, the Minister of Local Government referred to the death of Mr. E.V. Viapree, a former Clerk of the Assembly, and paid tribute to him for the service he had rendered.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969

Bill No. 26/1969 published 25.10.69.

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

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION OF SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF MR. E.V. VIAPREE, A FORMER CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government, the Standing Orders were suspended to enable him to move at that time a motion of sympathy on the death of Mr. E.V. Viapree, a former Clerk of the Assembly.

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government, on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs, seconded by Mr. Ram Karran and supported by Mr. Sutton, the Assembly unanimously passed, with Members standing, the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Mr. E.V. Viapree, a former Clerk of the Assembly, and pay tribute to the service which he rendered and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow and children.

ITEMS 1 and 2 - MOTIONS - Deferred

At the request of the Minister of Finance consideration of the motions at items 1 and 2 of the Order Paper for the confirmation of the Consumption Tax (Petroleum) Order, 1969, and the Customs Duties (Amendment)(No. 6) Order, 1969, was deferred.

BUSINESS FOR NEXT SITTING

The Minister of Local Government informed Members that at the next sitting the Assembly would proceed with the motion dealing with the 50th Anniversary of the International Labour Organisation, notice of which was published that day.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.00 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Local Government, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 29th of October, 1969.



O.E. CLARKE

Deputy Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

27th October, 1969.