

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

SECOND SESSION

1970-1971

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 38th 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, 4TH JANUARY, 1971

PRESENT:

- (i) Mr. N.J. Bissember) In the
(ii) His Honour the Deputy Speaker, Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P. } Chair

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, S.C., Prime Minister
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Agriculture

The Honourable M. Kasim, Minister of Communications
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Finance
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour
and Social Security

The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of
Education

The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Trade (Leader
of the House)

The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Housing and
Reconstruction

The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs

The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of Local Government

The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works, Hydraulics
and Supply

The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Mines and Forests
Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot, Minister of Health

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Finance

Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. W. Haynes, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. A. Salim, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply

(iii) Other Members

Mr. J.N. Aaron
 Miss M.M. Ackman, Government Whip
 Mr. K. Bancroft
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.
 Mr. E.F. Correia
 Mr. M. Corrica
 Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
 Mr. R.J. Jordan
 Mr. S.M. Saffee
 Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
 Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.
 Mrs. L.E. Willems

(b) Members of the Opposition

Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition
 Mr. Ram Karran
 Mr. R. Chandisingh
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P., Opposition Whip
 Mr. G.H. Lall, J.P.
 Mr. M.Y. Ally
 Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 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 S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Attorney-
 General and Minister of State
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C.
 Mr. Balchand Persaud - on leave

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO PRESIDE AT THE SITTING

In accordance with Standing Order No. 4(1), Mr. N.J. Bissember, nominated by the Prime Minister and seconded by Mr. Ram Karran, was elected to preside in the absence of a Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The sitting of the Assembly was, thereafter, convened with Mr. Bissember in the Chair.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

RESIGNATION OF MRS. P.A. LIMERICK AND ELECTION OF MRS. L.E. WILLEMS

Mr. Bissember announced that a letter dated 31st December, 1970, had been received from Mrs. Patricia A. Limerick resigning as a Member of the National Assembly.

In accordance with article 70(1) of the Constitution, the Deputy Speaker had called upon the Representative of the People's National Congress List who submitted the name of Lola Eileen Willems to fill the vacancy.

OATH

Mrs. Lola Eileen Willems made and subscribed the oath of office.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk in accordance with article 62(1) of the Constitution invited Members to make proposals for the office of Speaker which had become vacant on the 18th of May, 1970, through the resignation of Mr. R.B. Gajraj, J.P., who had been appointed Ambassador to the United States of America.

The Prime Minister proposed and the Minister of Trade (Leader of the House) seconded Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

The Leader of the Opposition proposed and Mr. M.F. Singh seconded Mr. A.I. Crum Ewing.

The question that Mr. Sase Narain, who was first proposed, be Speaker, was put and carried on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Cheeks	Mr. Sutton
Mrs. Willems	Mr. M.F. Singh
Mr. Zaheeruddeen	Mrs. DaSilva
Mr. Van Sluytman	Mr. Teekah
Mr. Saffee	Mrs. Sahoye
Mr. Jordan	Mr. Remington
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Bhola Persaud
Mr. Corrica	Mrs. Branco
Mr. Correia	Mr. Ambrose
Mr. Budhoo	Mr. R. Ally
Mr. Bancroft	Mr. Stoby
Miss Ackman	Mr. R.D. Persaud
Mr. Aaron	Mr. M.Y. Ally
Mr. Wrights	Mr. Lall
Mr. Thomas	Mr. Hamid
Mr. Salim	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Haynes	Mr. D. Jagan
Mr. Duncan	Mr. Chandisingh
Mr. Joaquin	Mr. Ram Karan
Mr. Mingo	Dr. Jagan
Mr. Clarke	
Mr. D.A. Singh	
Mr. Ramsaroop	
Miss Field-Ridley	
Mr. Carrington	
Mr. Hoyte	
Mr. Kasim	
Dr. Reid	
Mr. Burnham	

Mr. Sase Narain was, therefore, declared duly elected Speaker of the National Assembly.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Presiding Member in accordance with article 62(3) of the Constitution invited Members to make proposals for the Office of Deputy Speaker which became vacant on 1st January, 1971, through the appointment of Mr. O.E. Clarke as Minister of Home Affairs.

The Prime Minister proposed and Mr. Ram Karran seconded Mr. Derek Chunilall Jagan, J.P.

There being no other proposals, Mr. Jagan was declared duly elected Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

Mr. Jagan, who was present, took the Chair.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Members of the Government and on his own behalf, congratulated Mr. Jagan on his election as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

Mr. M.F. Singh, on behalf of the Members of the United Force, and Mr. Cheeks, associated themselves with the remarks.

The Deputy Speaker thanked Members for their remarks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Appointment of Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and Government Whip

His Honour the Deputy Speaker announced the appointments of the following Members and extended his congratulations to them:

- (i) Mr. Clarke, former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, as Minister of Home Affairs;
- (ii) Mr. Mingo, former Parliamentary Secretary, as Minister of Local Government;
- (iii) Mr. Wrights as Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply; and
- (iv) Miss Ackman as the Government Whip.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Customs Duties (Exemption from Import Duties) Order, 1970 (No. 109), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 26th of November, 1970, and published in the Gazette on the 5th of December, 1970.

(G-527)(Circulated)

/...

(b) Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order, 1970 (No. 113), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, 1969 (No. 13), on the 26th of November, 1970, and published in the Gazette on the 12th of December, 1970. (G-527)(Circulated)

(c) Customs (Prohibition of Imports) Order, 1970 (No. 116), made under section 42 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 10th of December, 1970, and published in the Gazette on the 16th of December, 1970. (G. 580/1 II)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Local Government:

Sheet Anchor/Cumberland Local Government District (Constitution)(Amendment) Order, 1970 (No. 115), made under section 33 of the Municipal and District Councils Act, 1969 (No. 24), on the 5th of December, 1970, and published in the Gazette on the 16th of December, 1970.

(LG: 24/4)(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTION NO. 6

At the request of the Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), Question No. 6 to be asked by Mrs. DaSilva, was deferred.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Statements by the Prime Minister on -

(i) Corruption and Malpractices in the Public Sector

The Prime Minister made a statement concerning corruption and malpractices in the public service - including Public Corporations - and outlined the steps being adopted by the Government to deal with the situation.

(ii) Council of Law Reporting

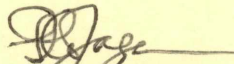
The Prime Minister also made a statement on Government's decision to establish a Council of Law Reporting having both executive and advisory functions and being responsible in particular for the law reports of Guyana.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

The Minister of Trade (Leader of the House) informed the Assembly that no Public Business would be considered at that sitting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.00 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



D.C. JAGAN

Deputy Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

11th January, 1971.