

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

THIRD SESSION

1971 - 1972

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

MONDAY, 29TH MAY, 1972

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

(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, A.A., Minister of Communications

The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Finance

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

The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Housing and  
Reconstruction (Leader of the House)

The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Trade

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

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

The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State for  
Co-operatives and Community Development

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

The Honourable E.B. McDavid, Minister of Information and  
Culture

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

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

Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

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. L.I. Chan-A-Sue  
 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  
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C.  
 Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker  
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson  
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P., Opposition Whip  
 Mr. G.H. Lall, J.P.  
 Mr. M.Y. Ally  
 Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P.  
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.  
 Mr. R. Ally  
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose  
 Mrs. L.M. Branco  
 Mr. Balchand Persaud  
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.  
 Mr. L.A. Durant  
 Mr. V. Teekah  
 Mrs. E. DaSilva  
 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 W.G. Carrington,  
 Minister of Labour and Social Security - on leave  
 The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C.,  
 Attorney-General and Minister of State  
 The Honourable H.D. Jack,  
 Minister of Mines and Forests  
 The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird,  
 Minister of Education  
 Mr. N.J. Bissember - on leave  
 Mr. Bholu Persaud  
 Mr. M.F. Singh - on leave

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

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

- (i) Mr. Carrington up to the end of June, 1972 and
- (ii) Mr. M.F. Singh for that day's sitting.

Death of Mr. F.A. Leubin, former Official Reporter

His Honour the Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly, expressed regret at the death of Mr. Frank Allan Leubin, a former Official Reporter, and extended the condolences of the Assembly to his widow.

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

Public Corporations (No. 2) Order 1972 (No. 43), made under section 2C(4) of the Public Corporations Ordinance 1962 (No. 23), on the 18th of May, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 27th of May, 1972.

(PC-6/1)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Communications:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Communications for the year 1970.

(C-12/4/5<sup>II</sup>)(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Financial Paper No. 1 of 1972 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on Current and Capital Estimates, totalling \$1,423,493.

(2/5 V)(Circulated)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister of Finance named Wednesday, the 31st of May, 1972, as the day for consideration of the Financial Paper in Committee of Supply.

- (b) Customs (Amendment of Part II A of the First Schedule) Regulations, 1972 (No. 13) made under section 14A of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 29th of April, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 29th of April, 1972.

(C.Ex. 22 II)



- (c) Customs Duties (Carifta Rate)(Amendment) Order 1972 (No. 33), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 25th of April, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 29th of April, 1972.  
(C.Ex.3 (58))(Circulated)
- (d) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1972 (No. 34), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 24th of April, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 29th of April, 1972.  
(C.Ex.3 (58))(Circulated)
- (e) Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1972 (No. 35), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, 1969, on the 24th of April, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 29th of April, 1972.  
(G: 669(1))(Circulated)
- (f) Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Trotman Trust Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1970.  
(G:107/53 III)(Circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Local Government:

Valuation for Rating Purposes Regulations 1972 (No. 9), made under section 41 of the Valuation for Rating Purposes Act 1969, on the 19th of April, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 25th of April, 1972.

(LG: 12/5 II)(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Question No. 28

Dr. Jagan asked the Prime Minister the following question:

- Question:
- (i) Will the Prime Minister say whether the tax-payers of Guyana are paying for the passages and accommodation of the foreign delegates, observers and Guyanese diplomats, or any of them, who attended the P.N.C. Congress which commenced on 4th April, 1972, at Queen's College?
- (ii) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Prime Minister say what is the cost?

The Prime Minister gave the following reply:

Answer: (i) The Government of Guyana has paid for the passages and accommodation of Guyanese Diplomats who came to Guyana in April, 1972 for consultation. The accommodation and other expenses of Foreign delegates to the P.N.C. Congress and observers were paid by the People's National Congress.

(ii) The expenses with respect to the Guyanese diplomats were as follows:-

(a) Air Fares	-	\$9,780
(b) Hotel Accommodation	-	5,971
(c) Local Transportation	-	<u>1,956</u>
		<u>\$17,707</u>

Question No. 29

Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud on behalf of Mr. Bhola Persaud asked the Minister of Health the following question:

Question: (i) Is the Minister aware that for eight months there has been no resident nurse at Orealla on the Corentyne River?

(ii) If so will the Minister say whether it is the intention of the Government to station a nurse at Orealla, and how soon this will be done.

The Minister of Health gave the following reply:

Answer: (i) It is untrue to say that Orealla has been without a resident Midwife for the past eight months.

(ii) There is a nurse stationed at Orealla.

A supplementary question was asked by Mr. Chandisingh.

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

Flooding of the coastland areas

At the request of the Leader of the Opposition, permission was granted to him to move the adjournment of the Assembly at the appropriate time for the purpose of discussing the flood situation.



PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1 - MOTION ON THE CONFIRMATION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES (CARIETA RATE)(AMENDMENT) ORDER 1972 (No. 33)

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

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirm Customs Duties (Carifta Rate)(Amendment) Order, 1972 (No. 33), which was made on the 25th April, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 29th April, 1972.

ITEM 2 - MOTION ON THE CONFIRMATION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1972 (No. 34)

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

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirm Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1972 (No. 34), which was made on the 24th April, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 29th April, 1972.

ITEM 3 - MOTION ON THE CONFIRMATION OF CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1972 (No. 35)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly in terms of section 5(1) of the Consumption Tax Act, 1969 (No. 13 of 1969), confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1972 (No. 35), which was made on the 24th April, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 29th April, 1972.

Mr. Ram Karran spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS A DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCEFlooding of the coastal areas

In accordance with the permission granted earlier, the Leader of the Opposition moved the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the flooding situation caused by heavy rainfall.

Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, Mrs. DaSilva and Mr. Van Sluytman spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

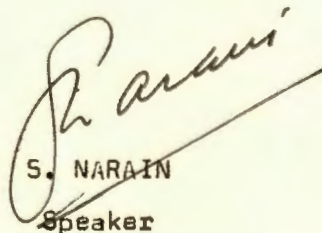
RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.40 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Sutton, Mr. Zaheeruddeen, Mr. Stoby, Mr. Salim, Mr. Ram Karan and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture spoke to the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.15 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Housing and Reconstruction (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 31st of May, 1972.



S. NARAIN  
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

30th May, 1972.