

THIRD SESSION

1971 - 1972

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 62nd 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, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 1972

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture
The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister for State for Agriculture
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Works and Communications
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and Social Security
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information, Culture and Youth
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House
The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Health
The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of State for the Public Service
The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of Local Government
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Public Affairs
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Mines and Forests
The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education
The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance and Trade
Dr. the Honourable K.F.S. King, Minister of Economic Development
The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Housing and Reconstruction

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Trade
Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Communications

(iii) Other Members

Mr. J.N. Aaron
 Miss M.M. Ackman, Government Whip
 Mr. K. Bancroft
 Mr. N.J. Bissember
 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. 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. Bholu Persaud
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
 Mr. L.A. Durant
 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 L.F.S. Burnham, S.C.,
 Prime Minister - on leave
 The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of
 Co-operatives and Community Development - on leave
 Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

OATHS

Before the Oaths were administered, His Honour the Speaker informed Members that in a communication received by the Parliament Office from the Secretary to the Office of the President, he had been advised that, following the resignation of Ministers on the 31st of July, 1972, the following had been appointed to be Ministers with effect from the 1st of August, 1972:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture
The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A.	Minister of State for Agriculture
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C.	Minister of Works and Communications
The Honourable W.G. Carrington	Minister of Labour and Social Security
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley	Minister of Information, Culture and Youth
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop	Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House
The Honourable D.A. Singh	Minister of Health
The Honourable O.E. Clarke	Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable C.V. Mingo	Minister of State for the Public Service
The Honourable W. Haynes	Minister of Co-operatives and Community Development
The Honourable A. Salim	Minister of Local Government
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C.	Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General
The Honourable H. Green	Minister of Public Affairs
The Honourable H.O. Jack	Minister of Mines and Forests
The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird	Minister of Education
The Honourable F.E. Hope	Minister of Finance and Trade
D.: the Honourable K.F.S. King	Minister of Economic Development
The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A.	Minister of Housing and Reconstruction

He added that from the list it would be seen that -

- (i) the elected Members of the Assembly who had been Ministers were re-appointed as Ministers;
- (ii) Mr. A. Salim, an elected Member of the Assembly, and formerly a Parliamentary Secretary, was appointed a Minister;
- (iii) Mr. Hope, Dr. King and Mr. S.S. Naraine, who were not elected Members of the Assembly, were appointed as Ministers, and had therefore by virtue of holding the office of Ministers, become Members of the Assembly; and
- (iv) Mr. E.B. McDavid had not been re-appointed a Minister and as he had not been an elected Member of the Assembly he had ceased to be a Member thereof.

His Honour further stated that the non-elected Ministers had ceased to be Members of the Assembly on their resignation as Ministers, and that it was therefore necessary for all the Ministers who were not elected Members of the Assembly and who had been appointed as Ministers to make and subscribe the oath required by Article 76 of the Constitution.

The following non-elected Ministers then made and subscribed the oath:

- (i) The Honourable Shridath Surendranath Ramphal, S.C.,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General
- (ii) The Honourable Hamilton Green,
Minister of Public Affairs
- (iii) The Honourable Hubert Oliver Jack,
Minister of Mines and Forests
- (iv) The Honourable Cacilene Leona Baird,
Minister of Education
- (v) The Honourable Franklin Eleazar Hope,
Minister of Finance and Trade
- (vi) Dr. the Honourable Kenneth Fitzgerald Stanislaus
King, Minister of Economic Development
- (vii) The Honourable Shiw Sahai Naraine, A.A.,
Minister of Housing and Reconstruction

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Congratulations to Ministers

His Honour the Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, extended congratulations to the Ministers on their appointments, welcomed the three new non-elected Ministers to the Assembly and wished all the Ministers success in their respective assignments.

(ii) Leave

His Honour announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Burnham and Mr. Haynes for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.**(1) By the Minister of Works and Communications:**

Fourth General Report and Statement of Accounts of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Council for the period 1st April, 1971 to 31st March, 1972.

(CC-13/5/5 II)

(2) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (i) Motor Cycles (Protective Helmets) Regulations, 1972 (No. 19), made under section 103 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Ordinance, Chapter 280, on the 12th of July, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 15th of July, 1972.

(P.77/168/10)(Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Police Force by the Commissioner of Police for the year 1971.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance and Trade:

- (i) Report of the Directors of the New Widows' and Orphans' Fund on the Working of the Fund for the year 1967.

(G:105/54 IV)(Circulated)

- (ii) Financial Paper No. 4/1972 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current Estimates for the period ending 6th September, 1972, totalling \$1,900,000.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS**Question No. 32**

Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture the following question:

- Question: (i) Will the Minister say whether it is true that Government proposes to merge the Guyana Rice Corporation and the Rice Marketing Board?

- (ii) If so, will Government state reasons for the proposed merger?

(iii) Will the Minister say -

- (a) what are the liabilities of the Rice Development Corporation (RDC) to the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC)?
 - (b) what were the annual gains or losses of the Guyana Rice Corporation from 1965 to the end of 1971?
- (iv) Will the Minister say whether rice farmers who had already sold their paddy at the "old" prices to the Guyana Rice Corporation and other rice millers for the crop year 1971-72 will get pro rata increases on account of the new increased prices for rice?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture gave the following reply:

Answer:

- (i) It is planned to merge the Rice Marketing Board and the Rice Corporation thereby creating a single institution to serve the rice industry.
- (ii) For many years, the two organisations, though under separate managements, have been operated in unison. Merger is, therefore, merely a formality. Nevertheless when it takes place, the following benefits will result:
 - (a) A single organisation, rather than two, will save management and operating costs;
 - (b) the economic and financial benefits of vertical integration will result by combining, into a single entity, the production organisation (GRC) and the marketing organisation (RMB);
 - (c) consolidation of the assets of the two organisations will increase the operating strength and financial bargaining position of the new unit. Borrowings for working capital will be reduced and greater efficiency achieved in the use of physical and money resources;
 - (d) the technical skills and manpower available to the two bodies will be more effectively and efficiently employed; and
 - (e) the cumulative effect of the above will be better services for rice farmers with consequential financial and other benefits to them.

(iii) (a) The Guyana Rice Corporation has no liabilities to the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

(b) The Guyana Rice Corporation came into existence on 26th August 1969. From that time, its operations have been closely linked to those of the Rice Marketing Board. The policy has been to reflect trading surpluses in the accounts of the Rice Marketing Board, while the Guyana Rice Corporation undertook various programmes of assistance to farmers and certain non-profitable activities to encourage production. Accordingly, the accounts of the two organisations are not intended to be considered in isolation of each other but rather together. The net surpluses resulting from the operations of both organisations were as follows:-

1969/70	-	\$660,119
1970/71	-	\$454,957

(iv) In the past, increased rice prices were usually announced on 1st October, that is, after the main crop was already planted and reaping had commenced. Farmers did not know of the increased prices, therefore, until after they had planted and had begun to reap the crop. Farmers were denied the opportunity, therefore, of planting the largest possible acreage to take full advantage of the price increase. However, on this occasion increased prices were announced in June in order to stimulate farmers into planting as much rice as possible so as to benefit fully from higher prices at harvest time in September/October 1972 and thereafter.

Supplementary questions were asked by Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Ram Karran and the Leader of the Opposition.

Question No. 33

Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture the following question:

Question: Will the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture say why the rotating heifer scheme has been abandoned by the Government?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture gave the following reply:

Answer: The scheme was abandoned in 1962 by the P.P.P. Government.

A supplementary question was asked by Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) SEA DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1972 - Bill No. 7/1972
published 2.9.72

The Minister of Works and Communications, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE SEA DEFENCE ORDINANCE.

- (2) TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1972 - Bill No. 8/1972 published
2.9.72

The Minister of Finance and Trade, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING AN EXCISE TAX AND TO EFFECT CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE BITTERS AND CORDIALS ORDINANCE.

- (3) REVISION OF LIST OF JURORS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL
1972 - Bill No. 9/1972 published 4.9.72

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION FOR THE REVISION OF THE LIST OF PERSONS QUALIFIED AND LIABLE TO SERVE AS JURORS IN THE COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

- ITEM 1 - MOTION TO APPROVE OF RAISING OF LOAN TO PURCHASE A
PROPERTY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Minister of Finance and Trade moved the following motion:

WHEREAS for the purposes of the Development Programme of Guyana for the period 1966 to 1972, the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars, that is to say approximately three hundred and twenty thousand Guyana dollars, is required to complete the purchase price of a property at 2490, Tracy Place, Washington, D.C., for use as an office by the Guyana Embassy;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to raise a loan in the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand United States dollars, for the purpose aforesaid;

AND WHEREAS Barclays Bank International Limited, at 120 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10005 is willing to make available a loan in the sum aforesaid for the purpose aforesaid, at a rate of interest $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent above the New York prime rate prevailing during the repayment period, repayable in monthly instalments of U.S. \$1,500, the first instalment to be paid on the last day of September, 1972 and the last instalment to be paid on the last day of August, 1985;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in pursuance of section 4 of the Public Loan Ordinance 1966 approve of the raising from Barclays Bank International Limited, New York, of the loan aforesaid, in the sum aforesaid, for the purpose aforesaid, such loan to be repaid at the times and in the manner hereinbefore specified.

Mr. Ram Karran and Mrs. DaSilva spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance and Trade replied.

The motion was then put and carried on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DECLINED TO VOTE</u>
Mrs. Willems	Mr. Teekah	Mr. Chooka
Mr. Zaheeruddeen	Mr. Durant	Mr. Sutton
Mr. Van Sluytman	Mr. Remington	Mrs. DaSilva
Mr. Saffee	Mr. Bholia Persaud	
Mr. Jordan	Mr. Balchand Persaud	
Mr. Fowler	Mrs. Branco	
Mr. Corrica	Mr. Ambrose	
Mr. Correia	Mr. R. Ally	
Mr. Chan-A-Sue	Mr. Stoby	
Mr. Budhoo	Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud	
Mr. Bissember	Mr. M.Y. Ally	
Mr. Bancroft	Mr. Lall	
Miss Ackman	Mr. Hamid	
Mr. Aaron	Mr. Wilson	
Mr. Wrights	Dr. Ramsahoye	
Mr. Thomas	Mr. Chandisingh	
Mr. Duncan	Mr. Ram Karran	
Mr. Joaquin	Dr. Jagan	
Mr. Salim		
Mr. Mingo		
Mr. Clarke		
Mr. D.A. Singh		
Mr. Ramsaroop		
Miss Field-Ridley		
Mr. Carrington		
Mr. Hoyte		
Mr. Kasim		
Dr. Reid		
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ITEM 2 - MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDER NO. 46

The Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order No. 46 be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with the second reading and the remaining stages of the following Bills at the Sitting of the Assembly on Monday, the 11th of September, 1972:-

- (i) Sea Defence (Amendment) Bill 1972 - Bill No. 7/1972 published 2.9.72
- (ii) Tax (Amendment) Bill 1972 - Bill No. 8/1972 published 2.9.72
- (iii) Revision of List of Jurors (Special Provisions) Bill 1972 - Bill No. 9/1972 published 4.9.72.

Mr. Ram Karran, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Sutton spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>	<u>DECLINED TO VOTE</u>
Mrs. Willems	Mr. Sutton	Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Zaheeruddeen	Mrs. DaSilva	
Mr. Van Sluytman	Mr. Teekah	
Mr. Saffee	Mr. Durant	
Mr. Jordan	Mr. Remington	
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Bholu Persaud	
Mr. Corrica	Mr. Balchand Persaud	
Mr. Correia	Mrs. Branco	
Mr. Chan-A-Sue	Mr. R. Ally	
Mr. Budhoo	Mr. Stoby	
Mr. Bissember	Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud	
Mr. Bancroft	Mr. M.Y. Ally	
Miss Ackman	Mr. Lall	
Mr. Aaron	Mr. Hamid	
Mr. Wrights	Mr. Wilson	
Mr. Thomas	Dr. Ramsahoye	
Mr. Duncan	Mr. Chandisingh	
Mr. Joaquin	Mr. Ram Karran	
Mr. Salim		
Mr. Mingo		
Mr. Clarke		
Mr. D.A. Singh		
Mr. Ramaroop		
Miss Field-Ridley		
Mr. Carrington		
Mr. Hoyte		
Mr. Kasim		
Dr. Reid		
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BILLS - Second and Third ReadingsITEM 3 - REVISION OF LIST OF JURORS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS)
BILL 1972 - Bill No. 9/1972 published 4.9.72

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION FOR THE REVISION OF THE LIST OF PERSONS QUALIFIED AND LIABLE TO SERVE AS JURORS IN THE COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud and Mr. Wilson spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

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

ITEM 4 - SEA DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1972 - Bill No. 7/1972
published 2.9.72

The Minister of Works and Communications moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE SEA DEFENCE ORDINANCE.

Mr. Ram Karran and Mr. Balchand Persaud spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Works and Communications replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

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

ITEM 5 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1972 - Bill No. 8/1972 published
2.9.72

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE TAX ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING AN EXCISE TAX AND TO EFFECT CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE BITTERS AND CORDIALS ORDINANCE.

Mr. Ram Karran spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance and Trade replied.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Tax (Amendment) Bill 1972 clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 4 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance and Trade the Bill was read the third time and passed as printed.

MOTIONS

ITEM 6 - MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDER NO. 68

On a motion by the Minister of Finance and Trade the Assembly adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That Standing Order No. 68 be suspended to enable Finance Paper No. 4/1972 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current Estimates for the period ending 6th September, 1972, totalling \$1,900,000, to be considered at the Sitting on Monday, the 11th of September, 1972.

ITEM 7 - MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/1972

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider Financial Paper No. 4/1972.

In Committee of Supply

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

BE IT RESOLVED.

That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposal set out in Financial Paper No. 4/1972 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current Estimates for the period ending 6th September, 1972, totalling \$1,900,000.

The Schedule to the Financial Paper was considered.

The motion was then put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance and Trade the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposal set out in Financial Paper No. 4/1972 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current Estimates for the period ending 6th September, 1972, totalling \$1,900,000."

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.20 p.m., on a motion by the Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


S. NARAIN

Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

18th September, 1972.

