

FIRST PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

SECOND SESSION

1967

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 1st Sitting of the National Assembly of Guyana under the Constitution of Guyana, held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 9.00 A.M.

ON

TUESDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 1967

PRESENT:

His Honour the Deputy Speaker, Mr. R.C. Tello - In the Chair

(a) Members of the Government

(1) Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C., Prime Minister
The Honourable Dr. P.A. Reid, Minister of Trade
The Honourable P.S. d'Aguiar, Minister of Finance
The Honourable N.J. Bissember, Minister for
Parliamentary Affairs (Leader of the House)
The Honourable R.E. Cheeks, Minister of Local
Government
The Honourable E.F. Correia, Minister of Communications
The Honourable Mrs. W. Gaskin, Minister of Education
The Honourable L. John, Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable R.J. Jordan, Minister of Agriculture
and Natural Resources
The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall, C.B.E., J.P.,
Minister of Health and Housing
The Honourable C.A. Merriman, Minister of Labour
and Social Security
The Honourable M.F. Singh, Minister of Works
and Hydraulics
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, C.M.G., Q.C.,
Attorney-General and Minister of State
The Honourable M.W. Carter, Minister of Information

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. D.B. deGroot, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. G. Bowman, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Mr. O.E. Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry
of Education
Mr. P. Duncan, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry
of Local Government
Mr. J.G. Joaquin, O.B.E., J.P., Parliamentary
Secretary, Ministry of Works and Hydraulics
Mr. C.V. Too-Chung, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Finance.

(iii) Other Members

Mr. W.A. Blair
Mr. J. Budhoo
Mr. W.G. Carrington
Mr. M. Kasim
Mr. R.G. Field-Ridley
Mr. D. Mahraj
Mr. H. Prashad, J.P.
Rev. A.B. Trotman
Mr. H.M.S. Wharton, J.P.

(b) Members of the Opposition

Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition
Mr. A. Chase
Mr. B.H. Benn
Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. R. Chandisingh
Dr. Charles Jacob, Jr.
Mr. C.V. Nunes
Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye
Mr. E.M.G. Wilson
Mr. M. Hamid, J.P.
Mr. J.R.S. Luck
Mr. D.C. Jagan
Mr. H. Lall
Mr. M. Khan, J.P.
Mr. L. Linde
Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.
Mr. M.N. Poonai
Mr. M. Bhagwan

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

Absent

Mr. T.A. Sancho
Mr. J.H. Thomas
Mr. H.J.M. Hubbard
Mr. Y. Ally
Dr. S.A. Ramjohn
Mr. E.M. Stoby - on leave
Mr. S.M. Saffee

PROCLAMATION SUMMONING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

The Clerk read Proclamation No. 2 of 1967, made by the Governor-General and published in the Gazette on the 1st of August, 1967, proclaiming that a session of the Parliament of Guyana shall be held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Guyana, and shall begin at 9 o'clock in the forenoon on Tuesday, 8th August, 1967.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

OATHS

The oath of allegiance and the oath of office were made and subscribed by the Honourable Martin Wylde Carter, Minister of Information.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 9.13 a.m. the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 9.25 a.m. the sitting was resumed.

ARRIVAL OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL
AND LADY ROSE

Their Excellencies the Governor-General, Sir David Rose, G.C.M.G., C.V.O., M.B.E., and Lady Rose entered the Chamber and took their places on the Dais.

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Before reading the Address presented to him by the Prime Minister, His Excellency paid tribute to the late Speaker, Mr. A.P. Alleyne. At his request, Members stood in silence as a mark of respect. His Excellency then read the Address and presented the copy to His Honour the Deputy Speaker.

ADDRESS OF THANKS

His Honour the Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly, thanked His Excellency.

DEPARTURE OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES

Their Excellencies then withdrew from the Chamber.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 9.55 a.m. the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 10.07 a.m. the sitting was resumed.

MOTION

MOTION TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SPEAKER,
MR. A.P. ALLEYNE

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Standing Orders were suspended to enable this motion to be moved.

The Prime Minister moved the following motion which was seconded by the Leader of the Opposition:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly record its deep regret at the death of Mr. A.P. Alleyne, Speaker and servant of this Assembly, acknowledge the debt owed to him for the time during which he devoted his authority, dignity and wisdom to the high office he held; recognise, as a fitting tribute to his memory, his constant and unremitting service to the Assembly and the Members thereof and the fairness, wit and ability with which he carried out his duties, and direct that an expression of its deep sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow and children.

Mr. Cheeks and Mr. Bhagwan spoke to the motion.

His Honour the Deputy Speaker announced that messages of condolence were received from the following:-

- (i) The Rt. Hon. Dr. Horace King, M.P., Speaker of the United Kingdom House of Commons;
- (ii) The Chairman, Councillors and Secretariat of the General Council of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;
- (iii) The Members and Staff of the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;
- (iv) The Acting Lord Mayor, the City Council and the Citizens of Georgetown;
- (v) Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E., former Member
- (vi) Mr. J.A.F. Hailwood, Chairman of the Demerara Co. Ltd.
- (vii) Mr. Edward Rangee;
- (viii) Mr. S.K. Joseph, Mortice.

Thereafter, the Assembly adopted the Resolution with Members standing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

His Honour the Deputy Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Carrington for the period 8th to 31st August, 1967.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By His Honour the Deputy Speaker

Address by His Excellency the Governor-General on the occasion of the Opening of the Second Session of the First Parliament of Guyana on Tuesday, 8th August, 1967.

(Sessional Paper No. 2/1967)
(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Trade

Seventy-sixth Annual Report of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

(T: 1/127/3)

(3) By the Minister of Finance

- (a) Reports of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Guyana Post Office Savings Bank for the years ended 31st December, 1965 and 31st December, 1966.

(POSB: 6V and VI)

- (b) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1967 (No. 18), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 30th of June, 1967, and published in the Gazette on the 8th of July, 1967.

(G: 315/61 II)(Circulated)

- (4) By the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Annual Reports of the Ministry of Agriculture for the years 1964, 1965 and 1966.

(AGR: 407/280)(Circulated)

- (5) By the Minister of Labour and Social Security

- (a) Annual Report of the Social Assistance Department for the year 1965.

(34/811 VII)(Circulated)

- (b) Hours of Work (Printing Trade Workers) Regulations, 1967 (No. 8), made under sections 26 and 29 of the Factories Ordinance, Chapter 115, on the 11th of July, 1967 and published in the Gazette on the 17th of July, 1967.

(b) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order (18/345(I))(Circulated).

(No. 18), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 30th of June, 1967, and published in the Gazette on the 8th of July, 1967.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

- (1) GUYANA CITIZENSHIP BILL, 1967 - Bill No. 12/1967 published 24.6.67

(1) By 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 MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP OF GUYANA BY PERSONS WHO DO NOT BECOME CITIZENS OF GUYANA BY VIRTUE OF CHAPTER III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF GUYANA, FOR DEPRIVATION AND RENUNCIATION OF CITIZENSHIP OF GUYANA AND FOR PURPOSES INCIDENTAL THERETO OR CONNECTED THEREWITH.

- (2) (a) ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1967 - Bill No. 13/1967 published 29.7.67

- (b) BANK OF GUYANA (COINAGE) BILL, 1967--Bill No. 15/1967 published 29.7.67

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bills which were read the first time:

- (a) A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE ESTATE DUTY ORDINANCE.

- (b) A BILL intituled AN ACT TO ENSURE THE FULL OPERATION OF SECTION 22(1) OF THE BANK OF GUYANA ORDINANCE, 1965 WITH RESPECT TO COINS ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COINAGE ACTS, 1870 TO 1946, OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(3) OMBUDSMAN BILL, 1967 - Bill No. 14/1967
published 29.7.67

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR MATTERS SUPPLEMENTARY AND ANCILLARY TO THOSE PROVIDED FOR BY PART 2 OF CHAPTER V OF THE CONSTITUTION OF GUYANA

PUBLIC BUSINESS

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

On a motion by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, the following Members were appointed to comprise the Committee of Selection, with His Honour the Speaker as Chairman, in terms of Standing Order No. 71(1):

The Honourable C.M.L. John
The Honourable R.J. Jordan
Mr. D.B. deGroot
Mr. C.V. Too-Chung
Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye
Mr. D.C. Jagan

Before the adjournment was taken, the Leader of the House announced that at the next sitting of the Assembly, the debate on the Governor-General's Address would commence.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.48 a.m., on a motion by the Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 10th August, 1967.


Deputy Speaker

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.

10th August, 1967