

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 36TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1994) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1994

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (43)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

*The Hon. Asgar Ally, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development

*The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent)

*The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President (Absent)

*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

*Non-elected Member

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Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P. (Absent)
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P. (Absent)
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.
 Mr. Kadim Bacchus, M.P., (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 Mahaica/Berbice)
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 Barima/Waini)
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P., a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent)
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Mrs. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.
 Miss Gwenneth A. Brouet, M.P.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 Demerara/Mahaica)

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, M.P.

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Thank-you Letter and Photogravures of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh

The Speaker read the following letter which he had received on 24th March, 1994, from the Assistant Private Secretary to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:-

"H.M. YACHT BRITANNIA

At Belize City

23rd February, 1994.

Dear Mr. Speaker,

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have asked me to write to thank you for arranging their visit to Parliament last Monday. Her Majesty much appreciated the opportunity to address the National Assembly on this historic occasion. Both Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were grateful for all the excellent arrangements which ensured that this was one of the high points in what had been a most successful and enjoyable State Visit to Guyana.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh have asked me to send the attached photogravure to you for Parliament to mark the occasion of their visit. It comes with the warm good wishes of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) ROBIN JANVRIN"

The Speaker informed Members that the photogravures were in the Committee Room that day.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave for that day's sitting had been granted to Mr. Winston S. Murray.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Prime Minister:

Annual Report of the Public and Police
Service Commissions for the year 1992.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

Government of Guyana Housing Policy.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1994

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Committee of Supply resumed consideration of the 1994 Estimates of Expenditure.

The following Heads and Divisions were approved, as printed in the Estimates:-

Head 46 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security	\$	331,233,000
Div. 504 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security		882,354,000
Head 20 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs		846,665,000
Div. 506 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs		7,860,000
Head 34 - Ministry of Health		363,312,000
Head 35 - Ministry of Health - National Hospitals		538,780,000
Head 36 - Ministry of Health - Other Health Programmes		214,242,000
Div. 516 - Ministry of Health		1,222,000,000

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Assembly resumed.

The Senior Minister of Finance reported to the Assembly that the Committee of Supply had completed consideration and had approved of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1994.

Thereafter, the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1994 was put and carried.

APPROPRIATION BILL 1994 - Bill No. 8/1994

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), Standing Orders Nos. 12 and 46(3) were suspended to enable the Appropriation Bill 1994 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that sitting.

On motions by the Senior Minister of Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:-

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sum necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the financial year ending 31st December, 1994 estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of that sum for specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

MOTIONSITEM 2 - CONFIRMATION OF THE PURCHASE TAX (MOTOR VEHICLES)
ORDER 1994 (NO. 7)

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 5A(5) of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, confirm the Purchase Tax (Motor Vehicles) Order 1994 (No. 7), which was made on 7th March, 1994, under section 5A of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, and published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette dated 7th March, 1994.

ITEM 3 - CONFIRMATION OF THE PURCHASE TAX (MOTOR VEHICLES)
(EXEMPTION) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1994 (NO. 8)

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 5A(5) of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, confirm the Purchase Tax (Motor Vehicles) (Exemption) (Amendment) Order 1994 (No. 8), which was made on 7th March, 1994, under section 5A of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, and published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette dated 7th March, 1994.

ITEM 4 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER
1994 (NO. 9)

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1994 (No. 9), which was made on 7th March, 1994, under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, and published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette dated 7th March, 1994.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 5 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 -
Bill No. 6/1994 published 7.3.94

On motions by the Senior Minister of Finance, the following Bill was read a second time and was thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed:-

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Motor Vehicles and Road
Traffic Act.

ITEM 6 - TAX (AMENDMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL 1994 -
Bill No. 7/1994 published 7.3.94

On motions by the Senior Minister of Finance, the following Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed:-

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Tax Act and to repeal the
Excise Regulations Act.

PHAGWAH GREETINGS

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Government, extended Phagwah Greetings to the Members and to the Staff of the Assembly.

Dr. McKenzie (Chief Whip), on behalf of the Minority Parties, also joined in extending Phagwah Greetings.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.22 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



O.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

25th March, 1994.