

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 16TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
FIRST SESSION (1981) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 4TH JUNE, 1981

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (82)

Speaker (1)

* Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (69)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Vice-President, Works and Transport

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Public Welfare (Absent)

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/
State Relations

Senior Ministers (10)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Higher Education

Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of Regional Development

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Development (Absent)

*Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

*Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines

*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister
of Justice

*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)

*Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent)

*Cde. S.A. Moore, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs (Absent)

*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Education (Absent)

Ministers (13)

Cde. J.P. Chouritootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister, Environment and Water
Supply, in the Ministry of Public Welfare

Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister of Co-operatives

Cde. J.N. Maitland-Singh, M.P., Minister, Consumer Protection, in the
Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister, Crops and Livestock, in the Ministry of
Agriculture

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic
Planning and Finance

Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P., Minister, Fisheries, in the Ministry of Agriculture

*Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister, Mechanical Equipment, in the Ministry
of Works and Transport

*Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of Information

*Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister, Forestry, in the Ministry of Agriculture

*Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister of Public Service

* Non elected Member

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- *Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister, Office of the President (Absent)
- *Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister, Drainage and Irrigation, in the Ministry of Agriculture
- *Cde. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister, Health, in the Ministry of Public Welfare

Ministers of State (3)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State for Culture, in the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture
- Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sport, in the Ministry of National Development
- *Cde. C.E. Wright, M.P., Minister of State for Construction, in the Ministry of Works and Transport

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Women's Affairs and Housing
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
- *Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Other Members (23)

- Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P.
 - Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
 - Cde. M. Armogan, M.P.
 - Cde. B. Benipraashad, M.P.
 - Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P.
 - Cde. J.B. Caldcira, M.P.
 - Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
 - Cde. E.B. Davidson, M.P.
 - Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
 - Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.
 - Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
 - Cde. P. Fredericks, M.P.
 - Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.
 - Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P.
 - Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
 - Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
 - Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
 - Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
 - Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.P.
 - Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
 - Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
 - Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
 - Cde. H.B. Walcott-Nascimento, J.P., M.P., Government Chief Whip
- Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

- Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. B. Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

- Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
- Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
- Cde. C.A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
- Cde. W. Bipat, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

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* Non elected Member

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Cde. H.I. London, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 5 Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. I. Chowritmootoo, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. N.R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Cde. D. Abraham, M.P., (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
Cde. A. Dorrick, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper
Essequibo) (Absent)
Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (8)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Minority Chief Whip
Cde. N. Persaud, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly, Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A.
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Cde. M.B. Henry

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to

- (i) Cde. Jackson to the end of the week, and
- (ii) Cde. Bynoe for that day's sitting.

(ii) Death of Brother of Deputy Clerk

The Speaker informed Members of the death and burial of the elder brother of the Deputy Clerk, and on behalf of Members and himself, extended deepest sympathy to the Deputy Clerk.

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PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance:

- (a) Contract made on 16th April, 1981, between Short Brothers Limited and the Government of Guyana, for the purchase of one Skyvan Aircraft and spares.
(ST: 3/3/1/2/)(Circulated)
- (b) Contract entered into on 21st January, 1981, between Guyana and the Inter-American Bank, for Loan re Fisheries Development Project (Loan No. 390/OC-Gy).
(ST: 3/2/9/2)(Circulated)
- (c) Financing Contract between the European Economic Community and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana re Pilot Fish Processing Project (878/VIII/E/1/80).
(ST: 3/2/8/3)(Circulated)
- (d) Agreement dated 9th April, 1981, between Guyana and the OPEC Fund for International Development re balance of payments support (Loan No. 218).
(ST: 3/2/12/3)(Circulated)
- (e) Agreement dated 1st February, 1980, between Guyana and the Royal Bank of Canada, RBC Finance B.V., the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Royal Bank of Canada International Limited, Libra Bank Limited, and the Royal Bank of Canada as Agent, for a loan of US\$10,000,000, for financing general development in Guyana.
(ST: 3/2/19/2)(Circulated)
- (f) Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1981 (No. 31), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, and published in the Gazette on 2nd June, 1981.
(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

MISCELLANEOUS ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 -
Bill No. 6/1981

The Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, on behalf of the Prime Minister, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend certain enactments.

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS IN STATEMENT ON REVIEW OF THE
1981 BUDGET

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Government of Venezuela has belligerently reactivated its spurious, absurd and unjust claim to five-eighths of the territory of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS in pursuance of its unjust claim the Government of Venezuela has embarked upon a course of economic aggression against our country and has publicly mounted threats to our territorial integrity;

AND WHEREAS by these actions, the Government of Venezuela has breached both the letter and the spirit of the existing Protocol of Port-of-Spain and the Geneva Agreement which were intended to promote normal, friendly relations between Guyana and Venezuela and thus enable the people of both countries to devote their energies to the vital task of their economic, social and cultural development;

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid oppressive behaviour by the Government of Venezuela has burdened Guyana with unanticipated and unplanned expenditures to protect herself from the dangerous consequences of such behaviour;

AND WHEREAS, as outlined in the Statement on the Review of the 1981 Budget made in the National Assembly on 1st June, 1981 it has become imperative that major adjustments be made to the 1981 Budget to enable the country to sustain a viable and financeable capital programme for 1981-82, protect the jobs of the Guyanese working people and maintain the social services, while at the same time ensuring the necessary flexibility to meet the cost of preserving our territorial integrity:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly approve the proposals made in the Statement on A Review of the 1981 Budget (including the proposals for revising and upgrading the salaries of public officers) as an urgent and necessary measure to ensure the stability of our economy, the preservation of the jobs of the Guyanese working people and the maintenance and defence of Guyana's territorial integrity.

The Minority Leader was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

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RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Minority Leader concluded his speech.

Cde. Bend-Kirton-Holder, Parliamentary Secretary, Women's Affairs and Housing, Mr. Abraham, Cde. Belgrave and Cde. Dalchand spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.00 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE MOTION ON APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS IN STATEMENT ON REVIEW OF 1981 BUDGET

The Assembly resumed the debate on the motion on the approval of the proposals in the Statement on the Review of the 1981 Budget.

Cde. Sallahuddin, Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, and Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

The Deputy Speaker was speaking to the motion when the proceedings were interrupted to enable the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 9 (1).

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 9(1)

On a motion by the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, Standing Order No. 9 (1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to sit beyond 10.00 p.m. to ~~conclude~~ the debate on the motion on the approval of the proposals in the Statement on the Review of the 1981 Budget.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE

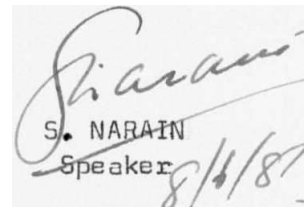
The Deputy Speaker continued and concluded his speech.

The Prime Minister spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10.55 p.m., on a motion by the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 8th June, 1981.



S. NARAIN
Speaker 8/6/81

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
8th June, 1981.