

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 26TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
FIRST SESSION (1981) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD DECEMBER, 1981

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (77)

Speaker (1)

- * Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (64).

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 (Absent - on leave)
Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Public Welfare
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
- * Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent)
- * 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)
- * Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- * Cde. S.A. Moore, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
- * Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Education

Ministers (8)

- Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister of Co-operatives (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.N. Maitland-Singh, M.P., Minister, Consumer Protection, in the
Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent)
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister, 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. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister, in the Office of the
Prime Minister
- * Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister, Office of the President (Absent)
- * Cde. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister, Health, in the Ministry
of Public Welfare

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* Non elected Member

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 (Absent - on leave)

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- 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. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Education, Social Development and Culture
Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Foreign Affairs

Other Members (22)

- Cde. M. Ally, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. M. Armogan, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.
Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P.
Cde. E.D. Davidson, M.P.
Cde. H. Doobay, M.P. (Absent)
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.H. Primo, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
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.
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)
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)
Cde. A. Dorrick, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

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* Non elected Member

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (8)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Minority Chief Whip

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.

Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

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. (Absent)

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

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cdes. Hoyte, Wright and Primo for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, on behalf of the Minister of Home Affairs:

Annual Report of the Guyana Prison Service for the year 1979.

(HA: 1/1/2/1^{III})(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

No. 1 - Stand-by Electricity Plant at Suddie Hospital

Cde. Basir asked the Minister, Health, in the Ministry of Public Welfare, the following question:

QUESTION: Is the Minister, Health, aware that the stand-by electricity plant at the Suddie Hospital, Essequibo, is out of order, with consequential severe inconvenience and loss of efficiency at the Hospital?

/...

Will the Minister say what steps he proposes to take or what efforts are being made to have the situation remedied?

The Minister, Health, in the Ministry of Public Welfare, gave the following reply:

ANSWER: Cde. Speaker, in reply to the question raised by my Parliamentary colleague in relation to the stand-by plant at Suddie Hospital, I wish, first of all, to say that the stand-by plant is in working order. What is happening is that it has occasioned a few break-downs over the past year. This is due to additional electrical medical equipment which has been supplied to the hospital in an attempt to upgrade the services of the Suddie Hospital.

These problems, however, are only occasioned when the electricity supply within the Suddie area is bad. Also I think I should note that the stand-by plant is one which has been at the Suddie Hospital prior to the rural electrification programme, and since our budget for next year includes rehabilitation for Suddie Hospital we should be looking at the additional electricity stand-by facilities to cope with these outages we have been having.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER

Motion to Suspend Standing Order No. 68(2)

On a motion by the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, and with the leave of the Speaker, Standing Order No. 68(2) was suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with the motion of Sympathy on the death of Cde. John Fernandes (Snr.) as the first item under Public Business.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. JOHN FERNANDES

The Vice-President, Works and Transport, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. John Fernandes and pays tribute to the distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow and children

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The Deputy Speaker and Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

The motion was thereafter put and carried with Members standing.

ITEM 2 - APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 5/1981

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 5/1981 - Supplementary Estimates totalling \$80,121,990 for the period ended 12th December, 1981.

After consideration of the Schedule the motion for the approval of the Financial Paper was put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

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

"RESOLVED, That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 5/1981 - Supplementary Estimates totalling \$80,121,990 for the period ended 12th December, 1981."

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 - GUYANA TIMBER EXPORT BOARD (TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS) BILL 1981 - Bill No. 14/1981 published 12.12.81

The Minister of National Development moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to provide for the dissolution of the Guyana Timber Export Board, the transfer of its functions to the Guyana Forestry Commission and for related matters.

The Deputy Speaker and Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

The Speaker drew Members' attention to the following corrections to the Bill:

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- Clause 2: (a) Insertion of "Cap. 67:03" in the margin in the definition of "Principal Act";
- (b) Substitution of "r" for "R" in the definition of "Registered producer".
- Clause 3: (a) Substitution of "P" for "p" in proviso (a) and (b) of subsection (2);
- (b) Insertion of "," after "Contracts" and "boards" in subsection (6);
- (c) Deletion of "/her" in subsection (9);
- (d) Substitution of "P" for "p" in the words "principal Act" in subsection (10).
- Clause 4: Substitution of the word "make" for "take" in subsection (1).
- Clause 5: (a) Substitution of ' Board, "." for ' Board.' ' ;
- (b) Insertion of "Act No. 2 of 1979" in the margin.

The Minister of National Development thereafter 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 - NATIONAL CANE FARMING COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 -
Bill No. 11/1981 published 5.12.81

The Minister of Agriculture moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the
National Cane Farming Committee Act.

Cde. Dalchand spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Agriculture 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 - GUYANA GOLD BOARD BILL 1981 - Bill No. 12/1981 published
12.12.81

The Minister of Energy and Mines moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to provide for
the establishment, constitution, and
functions of the Guyana Gold Board and
for matters connected therewith.

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The Speaker drew Members' attention to the following corrections to the Bill:

- Clause 3: Substitution of "First" for "first".
- Clause 6: Substitution of "authorise" for "authorised" in the proviso.
- Clause 10: Deletion of the words "matter, such interest shall be deemed to be the interest of that" in subsection (3).
- Clause 11: (a) Substitution of "General Manager" for "General Secretary" in subsection (1);
- (b) Substitution of the words "Teachers' Pensions Act" for "Teachers' Pension Act" in subsection (5)(a);
- (c) Substitution of the word "purposes" for "purpose" in subsection 5(b).
- Clause 12: Substitution of the word "fund" for "funds" in subsection (2).
- Clause 15: Substitution of the words "public officer or a member" for "public officer as a member" in subsection (4).
- Clause 20: Substitution of the words "reasonable cause" for "reasonable causes" in subsection (1).
- Clause 21: (a) Substitution of the word "section" for "sections" in paragraph (a).
- (b) Substitution of the words "summary conviction -" for "summary conviction." in paragraph (c).
- First Schedule: (a) Insertion of the words "Seal of the Board" as the marginal note to paragraph 3;
- (b) Insertion of "the" before "Deputy" in paragraph 3(1);
- (c) Substitution of the words "the Board is dealing" for "the Board at dealing" in paragraph 4(6);
- (d) Deletion of the word "allowances" where it occurs for the second time in paragraph 5(3).
- Second Schedule: Substitution of "(o)" for "(c)" wherever it appears in the first amendment to section 79(1).

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud and the Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

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Thereafter the Minister of Energy and Mines replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Clause 4: The following amendment by the Minister of Energy and Mines was put and carried:

Deletion of subsection (2).

Clause 4 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 5 to 7 were passed as printed.

Clause 8: The following amendment by the Minister of Energy and Mines was put and carried:

Insertion of the words "or any agent authorised in writing by the Board" after "Board".

Clause 8 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 9 to 23 and the First and Second Schedules were passed as corrected.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

ITEM 6 - MINING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 - Bill No. 13/1981 published 12.12.81

The Minister of Energy and Mines moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Mining Act.

The motion was put and carried.

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

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ITEM 1 - WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL 1981 - Bill No. 15/1981 published 12.12.81

The Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to provide for the implementation of the International System of Units (SI); and for purposes connected therewith.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 29 were passed as printed.

Clause 30: The following amendment by the Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, was put and carried:

Substitution of the word "person" for the word "Inspector".

Clause 30 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 31 to 37 were passed as printed.

First to Eighth Schedules were passed as printed.

Ninth Schedule: The following amendment by the Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, was put and carried:

Substitution of "Weights and Measures Act 1981" for "Metrication Act 1981".

The Ninth Schedule was then passed as amended.

Tenth Schedule was passed as printed.

The Speaker drew Members' attention to the following corrections to the Bill:

Clause 2: (a) Substitution of the word "date" for "day" where it appeared for the second time in the definition of "appointed day";

(b) Substitution of a "semi-colon" for a "full-stop" at the end of the definition of "appointed day";

/...

(c) Substitution of the word "standardised" for the word "standardise" in the definition of "working standards".

- Clause 3:
- (a) Substitution of the word "date" for "day" in subsection (3);
 - (b) Insertion of a "comma" after the word "order" in the first line of subsection (3);
 - (c) Substitution of the word "or" for "of" after the word "base" in subsection 5(c);
 - (d) Insertion of the words "specialised scientific fields. The" before the word "physical" in subsection (6).
 - (e) Substitution of the words "standard of weight" for "standard or weight" in subsection (12).

Clause 6: Substitution of the words "National Standards" for "National Standard".

Clause 8: Substitution of "standards" for "standard".

Clause 19: Substitution of the word "day" for "date" in subsection (1).

- First Schedule:
- (a) Substitution of the word "radiation" for "rediation" in the definition of "time";
 - (b) Insertion of a "comma" after "electrons" in "Note".

Second Schedule: Substitution of the word "cuts" for "cut" and the words "an arc" for "and are" in the definition of "Plane angle".

Third Schedule: Insertion of a "comma" after "Electric potential", "volt potential difference", "Absorbed dose" and "imparted kerma" under "Physical Quantity".

- Fourth Schedule:
- (a) Substitution of "1^o" for "1^o'" and insertion of "rad" for both minute and second in the definition of "plane angular measure".
 - (b) Substitution of the word "units" for "unit" in "Note".

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

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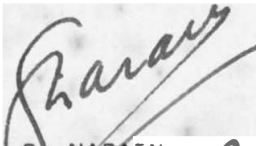
Christmas and New Year Greetings

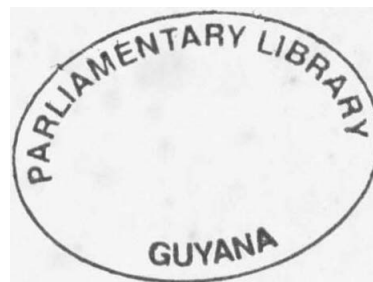
The Speaker extended Christmas and New Year Greetings to Members, the Staff and members of the ~~Press~~ and Radio,

The Prime Minister, Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud and Mr. M.F. Singh reciprocated the greetings.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.23 p.m., on a motion by the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


S. NARAIN
Speaker
22/12/81



PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
24th December, 1981