

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 26TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD
SESSION (1983-1984) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON THURSDAY 1984-04-26

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (70)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (57)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Production (Absent - on leave)

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Social Infrastructure (Absent)

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Party and
State Matters (Absent - on leave)

*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice-President and
Attorney General (Absent)

Senior Ministers (6)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Education, Social
Development and Culture (Absent - on leave)

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

Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines

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

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

*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance and
Economic Planning (Absent)

Ministers (7)

Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Office of the
Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of
Agriculture (Absent)

Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of Youth and Sport within
the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Transport within the Vice-Presidency
of Social Infrastructure (Absent)

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

*Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Health and
Public Welfare

*Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P., Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives

*Non elected Member

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Ministers of State (2)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent)
 Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Regional Development (Absent - on leave)

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Housing, within the Ministry of Health and Public Welfare
 Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, within the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture
 Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, in the Office of the Prime Minister

Other Members (23)

- Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.
 Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.
 Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
 Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. O.E. Clarke, 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. (Absent)
 Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P. ✓
 Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
 Cde. E. Melville, M.P. (Absent) ✓
 Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P. ✓
 Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
 Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P. ✓
 Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
 Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
 Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P. (Absent)

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 (9)

- 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, J.P., 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) (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 (Absent)

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.

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

Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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 Comrades Reid, Hoyte, Ramsaroop, Chandisingh, Johnson, H.L.B. Singh and Mr. M.F. Singh for that day's sitting.

(ii) Appointment of Cde. B. Tiwari as Government Chief Whip

The Speaker announced that he was informed that Cde. Bidiawattie Tiwari had been appointed Government Chief Whip with effect from 1st January, 1984. On behalf of Members and his own he extended congratulations and best wishes to Cde. Tiwari.

(iii) Deaths

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Comrades Seeram Prashad and Nellie Charles had recently lost their father and mother, respectively. On behalf of the Members and his own he extended deep sympathy to the two Members.

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PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-

By the Minister of Energy and Mines, on behalf of
the Minister of Transport within the Vice-Presidency
of Social Infrastructure:

Timehri International Airport (Amendment) Regulations
 1984 (No. 6), made under section 3 of the Timehri
 International Airport Act, Chapter 52:01, and
 published in the Gazette on 3rd March, 1984.

(MT: 3/31^{II}) (Circulated)

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE -

The Critical State of Public Transportation

Cde. Nokta sought leave to move the adjournment of the
 Assembly for the purpose of discussing the critical state of
 transportation in the country.

The Speaker did not allow the claim as it was not of
 recent occurrence.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

MINING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 - Bill No. 6/1984 Published 1984-04-21

The Minister of Energy and Mines, on behalf of the Government,
 presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the
 Mining Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

WORKING CONDITIONS OF DOMESTIC WORKERS

Cde. J. Jagan moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Campbell Committee was set up and
 reported some 17 years ago on conditions of domestics
 and made positive recommendations for improvement of
 pay, hours of work and conditions of work;

AND WHEREAS since 1977, former Labour Minister
 W. Carrington had promised to recommend an 8-hour day
 for domestic workers, improved pay and other conditions
 of work;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Trinidad and
 Tobago on December 20, 1979, published an order for
 "Minimum wages and terms of service for household
 Assistance" which provides for a 44 hours - 6 day **week**,
 vacation and sick leave and wages for full-time,
 part-time and itinerant household assistance reaching
 \$70.00 per week for full-time employees in 1981, with
 provision for overtime pay:

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BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly recommends the immediate drafting of legislation to provide for minimum pay, maximum hours and other matters relating to working conditions of domestic workers.

Cde. Belgrave seconded the motion and spoke to it.

The Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives spoke to the motion and moved the following amendments:

Third WHEREAS Clause

- (i) Deletion of the third WHEREAS Clause, and
- (ii) Substitution of the following therefor:

"AND WHEREAS by the Household Service Workers (Hours of Work) Act 1980 (No. 17), legislation to cover overtime (after eight hours per day and forty-eight hours per week), off-day, Register of Wages, hours and conditions of work was enacted;

AND WHEREAS legislation to cover vacation leave for full time and part-time household service workers is in existence:"

Resolve Clause

- (iii) Deletion of the words "immediate" and ", maximum hours", and
- (iv) Addition of the words "not covered by legislation after the words "domestic workers" at the end of the clause.

The Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives explained that the amended version of the motion would be read as follows:

WHEREAS the Campbell Committee was set up and reported some 17 years ago on conditions of domestics and made positive recommendations for improvement of pay, hours of work and conditions of work;

AND WHEREAS since 1976, former Labour Minister W. Carrington had promised to recommend an 8-hour day for domestic workers, improved pay and other conditions of work;

AND WHEREAS by the Household Service Workers (Hours of Work) Act 1980 (No. 17), legislation to cover overtime (after eight hours per day and forty-eight hours per week), off-day, Register of Wages, hours and conditions of work was enacted;

AND WHEREAS legislation to cover vacation leave for full time and part-time household service workers is in existence:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly recommends the drafting of legislation to provide for minimum pay and other matters relating to working conditions of domestic workers not covered by legislation.

Thereafter Cde. J. Jagan replied.

The original motion was put and negatived.

The amended version of the motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 15:15 hrs on a motion by the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Thursday 1984-05-03.

S. Arain
S. ARAIN
Speaker, c.v.
84-05

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
1984-05-02