

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

ON THE 24TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND

SESSION (1990) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2:00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY 18TH JULY 1990

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (61)

Prime Minister (1)

+ Cde. H. Green, M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister (1)

+ Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P., Vice-President, Culture and Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

+*Cde. K.S. Massiah, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Other Deputy Prime Minister (2)

+ Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development

+ Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.F., Deputy Prime Minister, Public Utilities (Absent)

Senior Ministers (9)

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

+*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance

+ Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Planning and Development

+ Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H. M.P., Minister of Trade and Tourism

+ Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Regional Development

Cde. Yvonne B. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President

* Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture

* Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister of Education

* Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister of Communications and Works

Ministers (8)

Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of
Regional Development (Absent)
+Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister of Labour and
Co-operatives (Absent on leave)
Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Utilities
*Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister
Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of the Public Service
Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of
Culture & Social Development

+ Cabinet Member

* Non-elected Member

Parliamentary Secretary (1)

* Cde. L.E. Scotland, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Government Chief Whip (1)

Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Other Members (25)

Cde. K.B. Bancroft, M.P.
Cde. Philomena A Rayman, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. A.K. Habibulla, M.P.
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, m.p.
Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
Cde. M. Ally, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. H. Doo~~way~~, M.P.
Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
Cde. Anna Ally, M.P.
Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.
Cde. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P.
Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
Cde. B. Persaud, J.P., M.P.
Cde. K. Sankar, M.S., M.P. (Absent on leave)
Cde. E.L. Fraser, M.P.
Cde. Mignon D. Griffith, M.P.
Cde. P.E. Rockliffe, M.P.

(There is one Vacancy)

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P.
Cde. P. Singh, J.P., M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P., (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P., (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P., (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P., (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
Cde. Enid E. Abrams, M.S., J.P., M.P., (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/
West Demerara)
Cde. I. Ally, M.P., (Region No 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P., (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P., (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent on leave)
Cde. M. Ajoodhia, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. D. Fernandes, M.P., (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

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

* Non-elected Member

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (6)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P., Minority Chief Whip (Absent)
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
Cde. I Basir, M.P.
Cde. G.C. Belgrave, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent)
Mr. M.A. Abrams, A.A., M.P. (Absent)

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

OFFICERS

Cde. F. A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly
Cde. G.E.F. Moses, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

Prayers

The Clerk read Prayers.

Announcements by the Speaker

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cdes. Sharma and Stephens for that day's sitting.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSNo. 29 - REAGENTS AT LABORATORIES

Cde. Janet Jagan asked the Prime Minister the following questions:

- QUESTION:
- (i) Can the Prime Minister say if there are sufficient reagents to supply all laboratories, including the blood transfusion centre?
 - (ii) Is it true that a shortage of reagents curtailed laboratory investigations into AIDS (HIV), typhoid, hepatitis and diabetes sometime this year?
 - (iii) Can the Prime Minister give an assurance that there will be no more shortage of reagents?

(Notice Paper No. 49 (Q23 Opp 23) published 1990-06-08)

The Prime Minister replied that there were shortages from time to time. However, there are no shortages at the present time.

No. 30 - FILARIASIS CASES

Cde. Janet Jagan asked the Prime Minister the following question:

- QUESTION:
- (i) Is there any increase in the number of filariasis cases?
 - (ii) If so, what is the Ministry doing to test such cases?

(Notice Paper No. 50 (Q24 Opp 24) published 1990-06-08)

The Prime Minister replied that there was no increase of filariasis cases.

No. 31 - ALLEGATIONS OR CASES OF FRAUD AT SIMAP

Cde. Janet Jagan asked the Vice-President, Culture and Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister the following question:

- QUESTION: Are there any allegations or cases of fraud connected to the receipt and distribution of SIMAP funds and goods?

(Notice Paper No. 51 (Q25 Opp 25) published 1990-06-08)

The Vice President, of Culture and Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister replied that there were two cases of fraud:-(a) New Amsterdam and (b) Supenaam.

No. 33 - AGREEMENT(S) WITH BOOKER/TATE

Mr. E. Kwayana asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister lay on the table the agreement or agreements between the Guyana Sugar Corporation and/or the Government of Guyana and Booker/Tate as soon as they are signed?

(Notice Paper No. 60 (Q34 Opp 34) published 1990-06-08)

The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development replied no to this question.

No. 34 - EFFECTS OF THE SWEETENER INDUSTRY ON THE MARKETING OF CANE SUGAR

Mr. E. Kwayana asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development the following question:

QUESTION: How will the involvement of Tate & Lyle in the sweetener industry, and its plan to build a polydextrose plant on the site of a sugar refinery in Canada affect the marketing of cane sugar as conveyed by Booker/Tate?

(Notice Paper No. 61 (Q35 Opp 35) published 1990-06-08)

The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development replied that he had no knowledge how the marketing of cane sugar would be affected.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1. EXAMINATION OF ENTITIES TO BE DIVESTED

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the process of divestment be suspended and each entity proposed for divestment be subjected to a thorough examination by a special Parliamentary Committee to be constituted by all Parties represented in the National Assembly and that the said Committee be given the authority to consult and involve other political and socio-economic organisations and individuals in its work;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the said Committee report its findings and/or recommendations to the Assembly within the shortest possible time and well in advance of the General Elections.

Mr. Kwayana seconded ~~and~~ spoke to the motion.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development spoke to the motion.

The Deputy Speaker replied. The motion was put and negatived.

ITEM 2. INCREASE IN PERSONAL INCOME TAX ALLOWANCES

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls upon the Government to increase Personal Income Tax Allowances in all categories commensurate with the drastic increase in the cost of living.

Cde. Belgrave seconded the motion.

The Minister of Finance was speaking when the time for the suspension of sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION

At 4:00 p.m. the Assembly was suspended for refreshment.

RESUMPTION

At 4:30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Finance continued and concluded his speech.

Cde. Belgrave and Mr. Kwayana spoke to the Motion.

The following amendment which was moved by the Minister of Finance was put and carried.

Deletion of the words that follow 'to' in the second line and substitution of the following "C

"Continue to keep under active review personal income tax allowances with a view to their periodic adjustment".

ITEM 3 - ASSIGNMENT OF WOMEN JUDGES TO RAPE CASES

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That women Judges be assigned to preside at the hearing of rape cases as far as is practicable.

Cde. Janet Jagan seconded and spoke to the motion.

Mrs. Kwayana and the Attorney General and the Minister of Legal Affairs spoke to the motion.

The motion was put and negatived.

ITEM 4 - EVIDENCE AND PROCEDURE IN RAPE CASES

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly agrees that the laws of evidence and procedure be reviewed by the Attorney General to provide in cases of rape for the following:-

- (i) the victim's name be withheld from publication
- (ii) the preliminary hearing and trial of persons charged with rape be held in ~~open~~
- (iii) the cross-examination of the complainant as regards previous sexual relations be limited to her sexual relations with the accused and not generally
- (iv) the panel of jury to be comprised of six men and six women;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the relevant amendments to the laws be introduced for approval of the National Assembly without delay.

Cde. Janet Jagar ~~seconded~~ and spoke to the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:27 p.m. on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development the Assembly was adjourned to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, 19th July, 1990.

.....
S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE
Public Buildings
Georgetown.