

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 6TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
THIRD SESSION (1983) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON THURSDAY 1983-02-24

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

- \* Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly  
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (61)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Vice-President, Works, Transport and Housing  
Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance  
Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Agriculture  
Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Party and State Matters

Senior Ministers (7)

- Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Education  
Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National and Regional Development (Absent)  
\* Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection  
\* Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines (Absent - on leave)  
\* Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice (Absent)  
\* Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent)  
\* Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs (Absent - on leave)

Ministers (6)

- Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister of Co-operatives  
Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance  
\* Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister  
\* Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President (Absent)  
\* Cde. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Health (Absent - on leave)  
\* Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P., Minister of Labour, Manufacturing and Industrial Development

Ministers of State (2)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent - on leave)  
Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sports, in the Ministry of Education

\* Non elected Member

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works, Transport and Housing  
 Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education  
 Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Other Members (26)

- Cde. M. Ally, M.P. (Absent)  
 Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.  
 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. O.E. Clarke, M.P.  
 Cde. E.B. Davidson, M.P.  
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.  
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.  
 Cde. P. Fredericks, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 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. S. Prashad, M.P.  
 Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.  
 Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.  
 Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P. (Absent)  
 Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., 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  
 Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.

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) (Absent - on leave)  
 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. (Absent)

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

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent)

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

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

(ii) United Force (2)

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

Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P. (Absent)

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 -

(a) Cdes. Dr. Reid, Jack, Thomas, Van West-Charles and P. Fredericks for that day's sitting, and

(b) Mr. M.F. Singh for two months from 1983-02-21.

(ii) Congratulations to Members Honoured on 13th Anniversary of the Republic

The Speaker informed Members that on the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of the Republic, two Members of Parliament has been among those persons who had been honoured. Cde. Milton Armogan had received the award of the Medal of Service for long service with exceptional dedication over past years in the field of politics, and Cde. Harold Lall Bahadur Singh had received the award of the Medal of Service for long service with exceptional dedication in the field of politics and public service. Both Members were now entitled to use the abbreviation "M.S." after their names.

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, extended heartiest congratulations to Cdes. Armogan and Singh.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

(1) GUYANA MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE BILL 1983 - Bill No. 8/1983

The Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Prime Minister, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to provide for the establishment and administration of the Guyana Management Institute and for matters connected therewith,

(2) APPROPRIATION BILL 1983 - Bill No. 7/1983 published 1983-02-24

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

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, 1983, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of that sum for specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

MINISTRATION AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 -

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, was replying when it was decided to defer further consideration of the Bill to a later stage.

ITEM 2 - COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 2/1983 published 1983-02-12

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Companies Act.

The motion was put and carried.

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

ITEM 3 - PRAEDIAL LARCENY (ENHANCEMENT OF PUNISHMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 3/1983 published 1983-02-12

The Vice-President, Agriculture, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to provide for enhanced punishment for praedial larceny.

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

Thereafter the Vice-President, 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 4 TRADE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 4/1983 published 1983-02-12

The Minister of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Trade Act.

Cde. N. Persaud and Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection 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.

RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 1/1983

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, concluded his reply.

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

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2 - The following amendment by the Vice-President Economic Planning and Finance, was put and carried:

Substitution of the following for all the words in the last two lines of the clause:

'insertion of the words "or the Minister" after the words "the National Assembly by resolution" '.

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clause 3 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 5 GUYANA EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL BILL 1983 - Bill No. 5/1983 published 1983-02-15

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to establish the Guyana ExportPromotion Council to promote export trade in Guyana.

The motion was put and carried.

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

ITEM 6 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 6/1983 published 1983-02-15

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Tax Act.

Cde. N. Persaud spoke to the motion.

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, replied.

The motion was put and carried.

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

#### MOTIONS

ITEM 7 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1983 (No. 7)

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1983 (No. 7), which was made on 14th February, 1983, and published in the Gazette on 15th February, 1983.  
/...

ITEM 8 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1983  
(No. 8)

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1983 (No. 8), which was made on 14th February, 1983, and published in the Gazette on 15th February, 1983.

ITEM 9 - CONFIRMATION OF THE TRAVEL VOUCHER TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER  
1983 (No. 9)

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 4 of the Travel Voucher Tax Act, Chapter 80:09, confirm the Travel Voucher Tax (Amendment) Order 1983 (No. 9), which was published in the Gazette on 15th February, 1983.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 10 - CONFIRMATION OF THE TRAVEL VOUCHER TAX (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2)  
ORDER 1983 (NO. 10)

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 4 of the Travel Voucher Tax Act, Chapter 80:09, confirm the Travel Voucher Tax (Amendment)(No. 2) Order 1983 (No. 10), which was made on 17th February, 1983, and published in the Gazette on 19th February, 1983.

BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 11 - APPROPRIATION BILL 1983 - Bill No. 7/1983 published  
1983-02-24

On motions by the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, the following Bill was read a second and a third time 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, 1983, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of that sum for specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

ADJOURNMENT

At 15.45 hrs, on a motion by the Vice-President, Party and State Matters, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.  
1983-02-28