

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 9TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD
SESSION (1983) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON FRIDAY, 1983-04-08

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 (Absent)

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

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

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

Senior Ministers (7)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Education (Absent)

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 (Absent)

- * Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines (Absent)

- * 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

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 (Absent)

- * 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 (Absent - on leave)

Ministers of State (2)

Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Internal
Trade and Consumer Protection

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 (Absent)
 Cde. B. Bhagyan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Other Members (27)

- Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. M. Armogan, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
 Cde. J.B. Calde, M.P.
 Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
 Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 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.
 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.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. Willems, 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, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent - on leave)
 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 - 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 Karren, 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. (Absent)

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

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

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

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

Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.

(ii) United Force (2).

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mr. M.A. Abraham

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 -

- (a) Cdes. Dr. Reid, Ramsaroop and Van West-Charles for that day's sitting;
- (b) Cde. Denny up to 1983-04-17;
- (c) Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo for one month from 1983-04-02;
- (d) Cde. Bipat for six weeks from 1983-04-05; and
- (e) Cde. D. Abraham to the end of April 1983.

(ii) Thirtieth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Parliament Office

The Speaker informed Members that he was advised that that day marked the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of the Parliament Office as a separate Department with its own Staff to serve Parliament. Prior to that time the services to the Legislature were provided by the Staff of the Colonial Secretary's Office.

The following two Officers now on the Staff were on the Staff at the time when the Parliament Office was established on 8th April, 1953:

- (a) Cde. Frank A. Narain, now Clerk of the National Assembly, and
- (b) Cde. Kenneth C. King, now Sergeant-at-Arms.

Cde. Narain had been at the Parliament Office continuously since its establishment and while Cde. King had also been at the Office at the time of its establishment, he had, however, left on promotion but had subsequently returned. The Speakers under whom these Officers had served are as follows:-

Sir Eustace Woolford (May 1953 - June 1957)
 Sir Donald Jackson (August 1957 - July 1961)
 Cde. R.B. Gajraj (October 1961 - September 1964)
 Cde. A.P. Alleyne (December 1964 - August 1967)
 Cde. R.B. Gajraj (February 1968 - May 1970)
 Cde. Sase Narain (Since January 1971)

On behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker congratulated Cdes. Narain and King on their service and extended best wishes to them for continued service.

(iii) Deaths

- (a) Cde. Abel Dorrick, M.P.

The Speaker informed Members that since the last sitting, Cde. Abel Dorrick, who had been the Member elected to the Assembly by the Regional Democratic Council for Region 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, had died.

He said that a motion of condolence on Cde. Dorrick's death would be moved at the next sitting of the Assembly.

- (b) Cde. Percival Augustus Cummings

- (c) Cde. Wellesley Trevelyan Lord

The Speaker said that two persons who had served previously as legislators had died. They were Cde. Percival Augustus Cummings and Cde. Wellesley Trevelyan Lord.

Cde. Cummings had been one of the Governor's nominees to the Upper House, i.e., the State Council, of the 1953 Legislature, where he served from 26th May, 1953, and up to the time of the suspension of the Constitution in December, 1953. He had also been nominated to the Interim Legislative Council which followed, and served there from December, 1953 to September, 1957. During that time he had been assigned responsibility for Labour, Health and Housing.

Cde. Lord had been a nominated Member of the Interim Legislative Council and served there from January, 1954 to June, 1957.

Both persons had made their respective contributions in the Legislature.

The Speaker said that he was sure that Members of the Assembly would wish to record their regret at the passing of the two persons and to extend their sympathy to their bereaved families. He therefore requested the Clerk to convey their condolences accordingly.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORT, ETC.

(1) By the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance:

Report of the Commissioner of Insurance for the years ended 31st December, 1971 to 31st December, 1980.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Co-operatives

Annual Report of the Ministry of Co-operatives for the year 1981.

(MC: 5/0)(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

(1) NATIONAL DATA MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BILL 1983 - Bill No. 9/1983 published 1983-03-19

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

A Bill intituled An Act to establish an Authority responsible for data processing and information systems in the Public Sector.

(2) PRISON (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 10/1983 published 1983-03-26

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Prison Act.

(3) FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill NO. 11/1983 published 1983-04-09

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 amend certain fiscal enactments.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second and Third Readings

GUYANA MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE BILL 1983 - Bill No. 8/1983 published 1983-02-26

The Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Prime Minister, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

Thereafter 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.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 12

On a Motion by the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, and with the leave of the Speaker, Standing Order No. 12 was suspended to enable the Assembly to revert to "Oath Of A New Member".

OATHS

The Speaker informed Members that following the resignation of Cde. Jean Maitland-Singh and his call upon the representative of the People's National Congress List of Candidates, the name of Cde. Edwina Melville had been extracted from the said List and Cde. Melville had been accordingly on 11th March, 1983, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly.

Cde. Melville who was present, made and subscribed the Oath of Office.

The Speaker on behalf of Members of the Assembly, himself congratulated Cde. Edwina Melville on her election to the National Assembly, welcomed and extended good wishes to her.

ADJOURNMENT

At 14:30 hrs, on a Motion by the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Thursday 1983-04-14.

S. J. NARA
S. J. NARA
Speake

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PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
1983-04-12