

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 17TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD
SESSION (1983) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON THURSDAY 1983-12-08

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (58)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Production
Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Social Infrastructure
Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Party and State Matters
*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice-President and
Attorney General

Senior Ministers (6)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development
and Culture
Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Mobilisation
*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)
*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
*Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines
*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance and Economic Planning

Ministers (7)

Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister
Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture
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
*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

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

* Non elected Member

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- 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 (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. E. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, in the Office of Prime Minister
 Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, within the Ministry of Agriculture

Other Members (23)

- Cde. M. Ally, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.
 Cde. B. Beniprashad, 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.
 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. R.N. Primo, M.P.
 Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
 Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
 Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
 Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P. (Absent)
 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 (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

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.

OATHS

The oath of office was administered to Cde. Carl Greenidge, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, as a Member of the National Assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Thanks to Deputy Speaker

The Speaker took the opportunity of placing on record his sincere thanks to the Deputy Speaker, Cde. Ram Karran, for presiding and conducting the proceedings at the last sitting of the Assembly, in his absence.

(ii) Congratulations to Cde. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P. Minister of Finance and Economic Planning

The Speaker on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself congratulated Cde. Greenidge on his appointment as a Senior Minister and extended to him best wishes in the performance of his responsibilities as Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

He welcomed Cde. Greenidge to the Assembly

(iii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to

- (a) Cde. Jackson up to 12th December, and
- (b) Cde. Ainsworth up to 15th December.

(iv) Death of Mr. Arthur George King

The Speaker referred to the formal motions of sympathy on the deaths of two persons who had served as former Parliamentarians within recent years and which appeared on the Order Paper, and informed Members that a few weeks ago, another person, who might not have been known by many Members there, had passed away. He was Arthur George King who had served as an Elected Member of the Legislative Council as the representative for the Demerara River Constituency for a period of twelve years from October 1935 to October 1947. He said that he had known Mr. King personally for many years for, as a young man, he had been articled to him and had the privilege of benefitting from his knowledge and experience. He was sure that Members would also wish to place on record their regret at his passing. He extended sympathy to the surviving members of the family of Mr. King.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning:

Financial Paper No. 2/1983 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$55,962,956, for the period ended 1983-10-31.

(Circulated)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 68(1) the Minister named Monday 1983-12-12 as the day for the consideration of the Financial Paper in Committee of Supply.

(2) By the Vice-President, Production:

(a) Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1982.

(A: 17/6) (Circulated)

(b) Annual Report of the East Demerara Water Conservancy Board for the year 1981.

(A: 5/13/2) (Circulated)

QUESTION TO MINISTERSNo. 1 - Building in the Mahaica Hospital Compound

Cde. Ram Karran asked the Minister of Health and Public Welfare the following question:

- QUESTION:
- (a) How many buildings have been demolished in the Mahaica Hospital Compound in the 1981-1982 period?
 - (b) What were the buildings used for before demolition?
 - (c) To what use were the unsold salvaged materials put?
 - (d) What was the amount realised on the materials which were sold?

The Minister gave the following reply:-

ANSWER:

- (a) During 1981 - 1982 seven (7) buildings were demolished five (5) cottages and two - 2 storeyed buildings.
- (b) The buildings formed part of the Mahaica Hospital Complex.
- (c) The materials salvaged were used for the construction of eight (8) chicken pens 100' x 30', and one (1) pig pen 60' x 12', repairs to other existing buildings and bridges; construction of one (1) plucking house and feed bond; staff changing quarters; two (2) Guard huts and boarding up of the cinema. Some of the materials were donated to rebuild Mora Point Police Outpost.
- (d) No materials were sold and the remainder are in the Mahaica Hospital Compound.

No. 2 - Income and Expenditure for the Mahaica Hospital Cinema

Cde. Ram Karran asked the Minister of Health and Public Welfare the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister show income and expenditure at the Mahaica Hospital Cinema on a monthly basis for the period 1981-1982?
(Notice Paper No. 21 published 1983-07-21)

The Minister gave the following reply:-

ANSWER:

The income and expenditure for the Mahaica Cinema for the period 1981 - 1982 are as follows:

The Cinema was out of operation for four (4) years and resumed operation on 16th February, 1982:-

<u>Months</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
February	\$ 4,098.25	\$ 2,330.00
March	9,823.24	9,571.90
April	10,283.84	9,891.68
May	11,490.36	12,243.25
June	8,447.17	7,255.00
July	8,162.70	9,237.21
August	3,631.20	2,940.80
September	6,367.74	5,814.10
October	8,035.63	9,902.92
November	8,445.81	7,215.65
December	5,367.90	4,248.10
	<u>\$ 84,153.84</u>	<u>\$ 80,650.61</u>

Surplus at end of year December, 1982 - including \$2,000.00 stocks of carbon on hand was \$5,503.23.

No. 3 - Income and Expenditure of the Poultry Farm of the Mahaica Hospital

Cde. Ram Karran asked the Minister of Health and Public Welfare the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister provide a detailed account of income and expenditure of the poultry farm at the Mahaica Hospital during the 1981 - 1982 period, showing sales to the public and purchases by the Institution.

The Minister gave the following reply:-

ANSWER:

1981 - August to December

Expenditure \$80,353.09

Income

Sales:	To Public	\$43,877.35
	To Institutions	39,164.70
		\$83,042.05

At the end of the accounting period Stock Feed to the value of \$3,000 and birds to the value of \$12,000 were on hand.

1982 - January to December

\$582,982.16

Expenditure

Income

Sales:	To Public	\$153,535.75
	To Institutions	171,639.91
		\$325,145.66

No. 4 - Infant Mortality Rate and Child Death Rate

Cde. J. Jagan asked the Minister of Health and Public Welfare the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister say if he is aware that Guyana has the highest infant mortality rate and the highest child death-rate in the Commonwealth Caribbean?

The Minister gave the following reply:-

ANSWER:

Guyana does not have the highest Infant Mortality Rate in the Commonwealth Caribbean nor does it have the highest child death rate. The latest figure for Guyana is 33.5 per thousand.

Supplementary questions were asked by Cde. Janet Jagan.

No. 5 - Distribution of Medicated Salt

Cde. J. Jagan asked the Minister of Health and Public Welfare the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister say whether medicated salt for the control of malaria is still being distributed to people in the border areas of Guyana?
(Notice Paper No. 26 published 1983-07-21)

The Minister gave the following reply:-

ANSWER:

No.

A Supplementary question was asked by Cde. J. Jagan.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - Sympathy on Death of Cde. W.O.R. Kendall, C.C.H.

The Vice-President, Social Infrastructure, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. William Oscar Rydyard Kendall, C.C.H., 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.

The Minority Leader and Mr. M.A. Abraham spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried with Members standing.

ITEM 2 - Sympathy on Death of Cde. L.E. Mann, C.C.H.

The Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Laurence Everil McRansford Mann, C.C.H., 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.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 - ACQUISITION OF LANDS (NOT BENEFICIALLY OCCUPIED) BILL 1983 - BILL No. 20/1983 published 1983-10-01

The Speaker informed Members that by agreement the ~~second~~ reading of the following Bill was deferred to the next sitting:-

A Bill intituled An Act to make provision for the acquisition of land which is not beneficially occupied other than State Lands or Government Lands, so as to ensure rational use of such land and for matters connected therewith.

/...

B.

ITEM 4 - FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 22/1983
published 1983-10-22

The Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the
Factories Act.

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 5 - EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS AND CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 -
BILL No. 23/1983 published 1983-10-22

The Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives, moved the second reasing of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the
Employment of Women, Young Persons
and Children Act.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

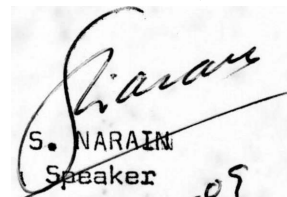
Thereafter the Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives replied.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

At 15:15 hrs, on a motion by the Vice-President, Party and State Matters, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Monday 1983-12-12.


S. NARAIN
Speaker
83-12-09

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
George town.
1983-12-09.