

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 35TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1986 1987) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1987

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker (1)

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

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

Ministers in the Cabinet (10)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Prime Minister (Absent - Performing the
Functions of Office of President)

Other Vice-President and First Deputy Prime Minister (1)

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

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Vice-President, National Mobilisation,
and Deputy Prime Minister

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

Other Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

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

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Public Utilities

Senior Ministers (4)

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

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

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Labour

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

Other Ministers (14)

Senior Ministers (7)

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

Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Medical Education,
Environment and Food Policy

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

*Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry
of Agriculture

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

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

*Cde. Dr. N.E. Blackman, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

*Non-elected Member

Ministers (5)

- Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of National Mobilisation (Absent - on leave)
Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister in the Office of the President
Cde. Sawh, M.P., Minister of Forestry
*Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Medical Education, Environment and Food Policy

Ministers of State (2)

- Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning and Development
Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs

Parliamentary Secretary (1)

- *Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Education

Government Chief Whip (1)

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

Other Members (23)

- Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton, 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.
Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
Cde. Anna Ally, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. L.R. Arthur, M.P.
Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P.
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. E.W. Trotman, M.P.
Cde. K. Sankar, M.S., M.P.

*Non-elected Member

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

Cde. E. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/
Berbice) (Absent)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
Cde. Enid E. Abrahams, 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. B.L. Domingo, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper
Essequibo) (Absent)
Cde. Joycelyn Thom-Lindie, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper
Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader (Absent)

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
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
Mr. M.A. Abraham, 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. I. Hartman, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Congratulations to Prime Minister

The Speaker announced that he was informed that following the departure on the 24th March, 1987, from Guyana of the President on an official visit to the Republic of Venezuela, the Prime Minister had been authorised to perform the functions of the Office of the President during the absence of the President. He said he was sure that Members of the Assembly would have wished to join with him in extending congratulations and best wishes to Cde. Hamilton Green.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cdes. Urmia Johnson, Anna Ally, and Rose Semple for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-

By the Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, on behalf of the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Loan Agreement between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Opec Fund for International Development dated October 22, 1986. (East Bank Essequibo Project) Loan No. 403 p.

(ST: 3/2/12/6) (Circulated)

- (ii) Loan Agreement between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the International Fund for Agricultural Development dated November 20, 1986. (East Bank Essequibo Development Project) Loan No. 190 - GY.

(ST: 3/2/27) (Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS, -

No. 13 - Cattle Rustling in the Rupununi

Mr. Kwavana asked the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs the following question:

- QUESTION: (i) Is it true that in or about the month of March 1986 a special police detachment was dispatched to the Rupununi to investigate the rustling of cattle?
- (ii) Is it true that as a result of their visit a number of Rupununi residents were arrested and charged?
- (iii) What is the number of residents charged with offences connected with cattle rustling or arising out of the visit of the special police detachment?

- (iv) Is it true that, following reports of police brutality during the investigation mentioned in question (i), the Government dispatched a mission to the Rupununi to investigate?
- (v) If a mission was dispatched will the Minister of State say who comprised it and what were its findings?
- (vi) Can the Minister of State say whether the residents charged are represented by counsel?

(Notice Paper No. 45 published 1986-05-20)

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs gave the following reply:-

ANSWER: (i), (ii) and (iii) - The Commissioner of Police did receive a letter alleging police brutality in general terms. Complaints were investigated by the Officer-in-Charge of the Division (Rupununi). The Commissioner of Police having had the complaints investigated was satisfied that the report on police brutality was not so.

(iv), (v) and (vi) - The Government did not dispatch a mission to the Rupununi.

No. 14 Assets of the Late President of Guyana.

Mr. Kwayana asked the Minister of Finance the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister, in view of the fact that he was not a private citizen and stood as Head of the Guyana Government from December 14, 1964 to August 6, 1985, investigate the assets wherever held of the late President of Guyana, Mr. Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, and make a report on their nature and their gross and net value, with the necessary information to the Guyanese people, taking into account widespread public interest in the matter?

(Notice Paper No. 48 published 1986-05-30)

The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, gave the following reply:

ANSWER: Standing Order 17 (1) (f) provides that a 'question shall not contain arguments, inferences, opinions, imputations, epithets, ironical expressions or hypothetical cases'. The cryptic subtlety with which the question before the House has been crafted only serves to throw into higher relief the depravity and maliciousness of the wholly unproven imputations which it seeks to convey. In my respectful view, the question falls totally outside of the pale of decency so anxiously delimited by the Standing Order.

However, even if the question is technically admissible, it fails altogether to present the slightest substratum of factual material to justify the exercise of any powers of investigation which the Minister of Finance may have, or indeed which any public agency may have.

As I understand it, the request for an investigation is based on two grounds, viz.

- (i) the fact that the late President 'was not a private citizen and stood as Head of the Guyana Government from December 14, 1964, to August 6, 1985'; and
- (ii) alleged 'widespread public interest in the matter'.

The first ground is not acceptable because it would require us to automatically delve into the private affairs of other Heads of State on their death simply because they are not private citizens. The preposterous nature of such a proposition is its own refutation.

As regards the second ground, the 'alleged widespread public interest' is a figment of the imagination of Mr. Eusi Kwayana. No material whatsoever has been presented to substantiate the existence of the alleged public interest or to exhibit its precise basis. This question represents an attempt to imbue his own droll curiosity with a degree of respectability by wrapping it up in allegations of national interest.

Perhaps I should end by pointing out that under the law the Commissioner of Inland Revenue is the responsible officer for investigating the assets of a deceased person with a view to ascertaining 'their nature and their gross and net value' as referred to in the question. For this purpose he is clothed by law with adequate power to call for all necessary information and to carry out all necessary enquiries.

I feel certain that the Commissioner is fully aware of the nature and extent of his authority and does not need to be reminded of them by the wholly distasteful and reprehensible question with which it has been sought to 'silly' a great name and disfigure the records of this Honourable House.

Mr. Kwayana asked a supplementary question.

No. 27 - Cost of Construction - Square of the Revolution

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, on behalf of the Minority Leader asked the Minister of Communications and Works the following question:

- QUESTION:
- (i) Is it true that the cost of construction for the bitumen pave and stands at the "Square of the Revolution" was \$4.3 million?
 - (ii) If not, what was the actual cost?

(Notice Paper No. 68 published 1986-06-05)

The Minister of Communications and Works gave the following reply:

ANSWER: (i) The answer to (i) is No.

(ii) The actual cost was \$2,588,904.

No. 28 - Ceasing of Nuclear Testing

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, on behalf of the Minority Leader asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister say whether Guyana will support the call made by the six non-aligned nations in a letter sent to President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachyov, urging the two leaders to stop nuclear testing, and to prevent the militarisation of outer space?

(Notice Paper No. 69 published 1986-06-05)

The Minister of Regional Development, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave the following reply:

ANSWER: Not all the nations which are involved in the initiative taken with the USA and the USSR on the question of nuclear disarmament are non-aligned. Guyana has supported all calls for an end to nuclear testing and the prohibition of the introduction of new weapons systems into outer space. At the Eight Summit Conference of Heads of State of Government of Non Aligned Countries, held in Harare in September 1986, a call was made on "all states, in particular those with major space capabilities to refrain from taking any measures aimed at developing, testing or deploying weapons and weapon systems in outer space."

At that Summit, His Excellency President Hugh Desmond Hoyte proposed that a message be sent to the leaders of the two major nuclear powers "calling on them to institute a moratorium immediately on nuclear tests....." The proposal was accepted by the Conference and embodied in the Harare Appeal on Disarmament.

No. 29 - Quantity, Price and Disposal of Gold

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, on behalf of The Minority Leader, asked the Minister of Finance the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister say -

- (i) how much gold was bought by the Guyana Gold Board during 1985;
- (ii) at what price; and
- (iii) where and how is the gold sold or otherwise disposed of?

(Notice Paper No. 70 published 1986-06-05)

The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, gave the following reply:-

- ANSWER:** (i) During 1985 the Gold Board bought 10,329 oz. of gold.
- (ii) At an average price of G\$1919.43/oz.
- (iii) The gold is sold to brokers in London, UK, Washington and U.S.A.

No. 37 - Maintenance of Sea Defences, East Bank Essequibo

Cde. Nokta asked the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture the following question:

- QUESTION:** (i) Is the Minister aware that the poor maintenance of Sea Defences on the East Bank Essequibo has resulted in serious flooding, loss of livestock and damage to crops in the east half of Bush Lot and Reliance area?
- (ii) If so, will he say what efforts are being made to prevent a recurrence?
- (iii) Will the Minister also say whether consideration is being given to the payment of compensation to those residents who have suffered losses?

(Notice Paper No. 78 published 1986-06-05)

The Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture gave the following reply:

- ANSWER:** I am not aware of flooding in places referred to in the question but it is presumed that the questions was referring to Bush Lot and Reliance on the West Coast of Essequibo. The Government is aware that during the period 24th to 30th March, 1986 there was over-topping because of tides above the normal high tides. About nine to twelve inches of water was lodged on the eastern side of the Public Road between Bush Lot and Reliance, a distance of about half a mile and involving about 45 houses. There was no reported loss of livestock, no reported damage to crops or other losses. There have been no claims, consequently the question of compensation does not arise. However, since the occurrence the drains have been de-silted and the height of the dam has been increased by three feet with an additional two feet of bloder protection.

Living next to the Atlantic Ocean is a legacy which we inherited and while the Government continues to spend at the rate of \$5,000 per foot to protect its citizens from the ravages of the Ocean by the very nature of sea defences, no Government anywhere in the world can prevent overtopping of the ocean.

No. 39 - Prisoners' Meals and Mails

Cde. Janet Jagan asked the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs the following question:

- QUESTION: (i) Will the Minister provide a chart of the daily meals for a period of one week at the Mazaruni Prison, having regard to reports that prisoners' meals are nutritionally inadequate?
- (ii) Will the Minister say why permission for prisoners to send or receive mail has been restricted to once monthly instead of weekly or fortnightly?

(Notice Paper No. 81 published 1986-06-11)

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs gave the following written reply:-

ANSWER: (i) PRISONERS' DIET SCALE

ALL PRISONS

DAILY ISSUE PER PRISONER

MEALS	ITEM	SCALE
Morning	Cassava	5 ozs
	Sugar	5 ozs
	Milk	2 ozs
	Rice	2 ozs
	Or	
	Cornmeal	2 ozs
	Or	
	Flour	2 ozs
	Coffee	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz
	Midday	Rice
Or		
Ground Provision		20 ozs
Fresh Fish		5 ozs
Or		
Salted Fish		3 ozs
Or		
Beef/Pork		6 ozs
Cooking Oil		1 oz
Peas/Beans		1 oz
Green Vegetables		4 ozs
Salt		$\frac{3}{8}$ ozs
Curry Powder		$\frac{1}{16}$ oz
Black Pepper		$\frac{1}{32}$ ozs
Condiments		-
Dinner Fish	Rice	4 ozs
	Fish	3 ozs
	Or	
	Salted Fish	2 ozs
	Or	
	Sugar	2 ozs
	Cooking Oil	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz
	Green Vegetables	2 ozs
	Or	
	Pea	1 oz
Or		
Beans	1 oz	

MAZARUNI PRISON MENU FROM 87-03-01 to 87-03-07

SUNDAY - 1987-03-01 - MORNING	Cornmeal porridge Eucalyptus tea
MIDDAY	Rice with minica peas and curried pork. Salted fish for non meat eaters
EVENING	Rice with minica peas and stew calaloo. Sweet Sage Tea.
MONDAY - 1987-03-02 - MORNING	Rice porridge Lemon grass tea
MIDDAY	Cook-up rice with pork and pigeon peas. Salted fish for non meat eaters
EVENING	Garnished rice with calaloo and fried salted fish. Lemon grass tea
TUESDAY - 1987-03-03 - MORNING	Cassava porridge. Pear leaf tea
MIDDAY	Rice with pigeon peas with brown sauce. Salted Fish
EVENING	Vegetable cook-up with bora; T.I. potatoes; and minica peas, salted fish. Sweet sage tea
WEDNESDAY - 1987-03-04 - MORNING	Rice porridge Sweet broom tea
MIDDAY	Rice with calaloo, minica dholi and salted fish choka
EVENING	Vegetable fry rice with diced pumpkin T.I. potatoes and bora. Pear leaf tea
THURSDAY - 1987-03-05 - MORNING	Cornmeal porridge, conga pump tea
MIDDAY	Metemgee with salted fish
EVENING	Rice with pigeon peas with fried fish and brown sauce. Sweet sage tea.
FRIDAY - 1987-03-06 - MORNING	Cassava porridge, Eucalyptus tea
MIDDAY	Fried rice with diced sweet potatoes, pumpkin and bora, fresh fish or Beef.
EVENING	Rice with pigeon peas and curry fish. Lemon grass tea.
SATURDAY - 1987-03-07 - MORNING	Rice porridge. Sweet sage tea
MIDDAY	Rice with minica peas and pork pepper pot, salted fish for non meat eaters.
EVENING	Boiled and fried ground provision with minica stew. Eucalyptus Tea.

- (ii) Prison Rule # 291 contained in Chapter 11:01 of the Laws of Guyana provides that every prisoner shall be allowed to write and receive a letter on reception and thereafter once every month.

No. 40 - Information on President's College

Cde. S.F. Mohamed asked the Vice-President, Education and Social Development, and Deputy Prime Minister the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister say -

- (i) How many students are presently enrolled and how many teachers are presently employed at the President's College?
- (ii) How many security guards are employed at this College?
- (iii) How many persons are employed to work in the farm attached to the President's College?
- (iv) What is the estimated monthly operational costs for the President's College?
- (v) (a) Does ideological education form part of the curriculum of the President's College and are subjects related to socialism presently taught?
- (b) If there is such a programme could the Minister kindly make same available to members of the National Assembly?

(Notice Paper No. 48 published 1936-06-13)

The Vice-President, Education and Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister gave the following reply:

- ANSWER: (i) The number of students enrolled at President's College is one hundred and twenty-eight (128). There are 62 girls and 66 boys. The number of teachers on staff at present is twenty-six (26).
- (ii) Security by its very nature, would become ineffectual if details about it become public knowledge. Consequently, it would be improper for me to disclose the number of guards employed at the College. However, in view of the fact that the College stands on 400 acres of unfenced lands and there has to be security of person (adults and children), property (including building materials), stock and crops, it is necessary that there should be a number of persons equal to the task of securing persons and premises. I assure this House that the present guard strength is adequate for the time being.

- (iii) I presume that by "Farm attached to President's College" Cde. Mohamed is referring to the Agricultural Sector of the College. The number of persons employed in this Sector is 49. They are engaged in cash-crop cultivation, in dairy farming, pig and sheep rearing, poultry (layers and meat birds) and duck rearing, fish farming in four ponds and rice cultivation of an area of 30 acres.
- (iv) The estimated monthly operational costs amount to \$143,000.00
- (v) (a) Ideological education in its broadest sense informs the entire curriculum of the College. Social Studies and National Policy are two of the subject areas which relate to Socialism.
- (b) There is no specific programme of instruction therefore I cannot respond to Cde. Mohamed's request for such a document.

No. 41 - Inquiry into Death of Ramkissoon Saymar

Cde. Collymore asked the Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Attorney General say what has been the outcome of the inquiry into the death of Ramkissoon Saymar while in Police custody in Brickdam Police Station?

(Notice Paper No. 86 published 1986-06-26)

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs on behalf of the Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The inquest found no one criminally responsible.

No. 42 - Sale of Gasolene in Wakenaam

Cde. Nokta asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, the following question:

- QUESTION:
- (i) Will the Minister say what are the reasons for the closure of the only gasolene station in Wakenaam?
 - (ii) Will the Minister say whether it is intended to re-establish a gasolene station in Wakenaam?
 - (iii) Is the Minister aware that gasolene is at present being sold out of barrels in the vicinity of the Transport and Harbours Department Stelling in Wakenaam in violation of safety regulations, and that this poses a threat to the safety of the public and property?
 - (iv) Will he ensure that the sale of the gasolene complies with the legal requirements for carrying on this type of business?

(Notice Paper No. 87 published 1986-06-26)

The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, gave the following reply:

- ANSWER:** (i) Amin's gas station was closed in 1984 as a result of perceived malpractices, including blackmarket sales and treating non-legally with gold-miners.
- (ii) In the interim, the Regional Administration made arrangements to keep the community supplied. I am not totally familiar with those arrangements but I would not be surprised if there were inefficiencies and other inadequacies of the service.
- (iii) Amin's gas station was re-opened in August, 1986 with appropriate assurances given by the owner of his intention to pursue due regularity.
- (iv) Instructions have been issued to ensure the cessation of the interim arrangements.

Cde. Noluta asked a supplementary question.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - SALE OF GUYANA TIMBERS LIMITED

At the request of Mr. Kwayana, the motion at Item 1 on the Order Paper was deferred.

ITEM 2 - SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

Cde. S.F. Mohamed moved and spoke to the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to take immediate measures to introduce in the Education system a School feeding programme which, initially, should aim at a daily supply of milk to all children and pupils in Kindergartens and Primary schools countrywide.

(Notice Paper No. 85 published 1986-06-13)

Cde. Basir seconded and spoke to the motion.

Mr. Kwayana, Mr. M.F. Singh, the Vice-President, Education and Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister, Cde. Belgrave and the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture spoke to the motion.

Cde. S.F. Mohamed replied.

Thereafter, the motion was put and negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.40 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

S. Narain
S. NARAIN
Speaker 27-05-86

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
GEORGETOWN.