

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 37TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD
SESSION (1983-1984) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON THURSDAY 1984-11-22

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. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Prime Minister

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

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Social Infrastructure and
First Deputy Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

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

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

Other Deputy Prime Minister (1)

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

Senior Ministers (8)

*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Mobilisation

Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines

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

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister of Forestry

Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Health and Public Welfare

*Cde. M.L. Parris, M.P., Minister of Education

Ministers (6)

Cde. Urmia Johnson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of
National Development (Absent - on leave)

Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister within the
Ministry of Education (Absent - on leave)

*Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P., Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives

Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of Youth and Sport within
the Ministry of Education (Absent - on leave)

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Transport within the Vice-Presidency
of Social Infrastructure (Absent - on leave)

*Cde. Dr. S.P. DaSilva, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture

*Non-elected Member

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Ministers of State (2)

Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection
Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry

Cde. Agnes 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, Youth
Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, National Development

Government Chief Whip (1)

Cde. Bidiawattie Tiwari, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Other Members (24)

Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.
Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.
Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. Philomena A. Rayman, M.P.
Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.
Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad, M.P.
Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.
Cde. Patricia Fredericks, M.P.
Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.
Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P.
(One seat vacant)

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

Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P.
Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Dianne Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 6 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
Cde. W. Bipat, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Cde. I. Chowritmootoo, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)
Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
Cde. H.I. London, M.S., M.P., (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. Cora A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara) (Vacant) (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

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. Janet 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.

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.

Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Cde. M.B. Henry, 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 Cde. R.C. Fredericks for that day's sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

PUBLIC CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 21/1983
published 1983-10-22

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

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the
Public Corporations Act.

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER No. 2/1984

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1984 Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$27,106,865 for the period ended 13th November, 1984.

During consideration of the Schedule the following ~~amendment~~ by the Minority Leader was put and negatived:

Deletion of the following on Page 4 of the Current Estimates:-

"Item 20

Code 0053

Head 53 - Accountant General

Subhead 308 - Transport, Travel and Postage

Supplementary Provision now sought - \$3,610,000

Notes - Voted provision inadequate for overseas visits and conferences"

After consideration of the Schedule the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, That this National Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1984 Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$27,106,865 for the period ended 13th November, 1984."

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER No. 3/1984

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/1984 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$100,000,000 for the period ended 13th November, 1984.

After consideration of the Schedule the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, That this National Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/1984 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$100,000,000 for the period ended 13th November, 1984."

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 17:50 hrs the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 18:12 hrs the sitting was resumed.

MOTIONS

ITEM 3 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 23(3)

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 23(3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday, 22nd November, 1984, upon the motion by the Minority Leader, dealing with the seizure of uncustomed goods (Motion published on 1984-11-19 on Notice Paper No. 70).

ITEM 4 - SEIZURE OF UNCUSTOMED GOODS

The Minority Leader moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly expresses its concern at the indiscriminate manner in which the Police have been seizing goods from the premises of merchants and from small traders in the past two weeks.

Cde. Belgrave seconded the motion.

The Minister of Finance, Mr. M.F. Singh and Cde. Collymore spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minority Leader replied.

The Prime Minister concluded the debate on the motion.

The motion was put and negatived.

ITEM 5 - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 23(3)

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 23(3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday, 22nd November, 1984, upon the motion by the Minority Leader, dealing with the hostility against Nicaragua (Motion published on 1984-11-20 on Notice Paper No. 72)

ITEM 6 - CONDEMNATION OF HOSTILITIES AGAINST NICARAGUA

The Minority Leader moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the people of Nicaragua, having freed themselves from the fascist Somoza dictatorship, are seeking to build a revolutionary-democratic non-aligned society under the leadership of the Sandinistas;

AND WHEREAS within recent times there has been an intensification of military manoeuvres in Central America and the Caribbean by units of the Armed Forces of the USA leading to an increase in tension in the region;

AND WHEREAS many peace-loving forces including the Non-aligned Movement and especially the Contadora Group, **are working** assiduously for the peaceful negotiated settlement of the problems of Central America;

7.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly condemn all hostile actions, including specifically those of a military nature, which are directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nicaragua;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly urge all States of the hemisphere to adhere to the Contadora Act for Peace and Co-operation which has already been accepted by Nicaragua.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs seconded and spoke to the motion.

Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 21:10 hrs, on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


S. NARAIN
Speaker
84-11-29.

PARLIAMENT OFFICE
Public Buildings
Georgetown
1984-11-29.