

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 18th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 1973

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (50)

Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister (2)

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister (Absent)
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture

Senior Ministers (7)

- The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Works and Communications
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (Absent)
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance
Dr. the Honourable K.F.S. King, Minister of Economic Development
The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Housing

Ministers (6)

- The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information and Culture
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House
The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education
Dr. the Honourable C.M.R. Harper, Minister of Health
The Honourable G.A. King, Minister of Trade (Absent)

Ministers of State (9)

- The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture
The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne)
The Honourable P. Duncan, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi)
The Honourable C.A. Nascimento, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister

Non elected Minister

- The Honourable M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., Minister of State - Regional
(Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- # The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of State for Home Affairs
- # The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/
Potaro) (Absent)
- # The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of State - Regional (East
Demerara/West Coast Berbice) (Absent)
- # The Honourable F.U.A. Carmichael, Minister of State - Regional
(North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (8)

- Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing
- Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Works and Communications
- Miss M.M. Ackman, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime
Minister, and Government Chief Whip
- Mr. E.L. Ambrose, Parliamentary Secretary (Agriculture),
Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
- Mr. K.B. Bancroft, Parliamentary Secretary (Hinterland),
Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
- Mr. S. Prashad, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives
and National Mobilisation
- Mr. J.P. Chowritmootoo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Education
- Mr. R.H.O. Corbin, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Co-operatives and National Mobilisation

Other Members (18)

- Mr. J.N. Aaron
- Mrs. L.M. Branco
- Mr. M. Corrica
- Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
- Miss J. Gill
- Mr. W. Hussain (Absent - on leave) ✓
- Miss S. Jaiserrisingh
- Mr. K.M.E. Jonas
- Mr. M. Nissar
- Dr. L.E. Ramsahoye (Absent - on leave)
- Mr. J.G. Ramson
- Mrs. P.A. Rayman
- Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Mr. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P.
- Mr. C. Sukul, J.P.
- Mr. H.A. Taylor
- Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
- Mrs. L.E. Willems

Members of the Opposition - Liberator Party (2)

- Mr. M.F. Singh, Deputy Speaker
- Mrs. E. DaSilva

OFFICERS

- Mr. F.A. Narain, Clerk of the National Assembly
- Mr. M.B. Henry, AMBIN, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

Non elected Minister

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Mr. Hoyte, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Wrights and Mr. Bancroft from 11th to 14th December, 1973, and
- (b) Mr. Stoby for 10th and 11th December, 1973.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Minister of Works and Communications:

Commonwealth Telecommunications Council - Fifth
General Report and Statement of Accounts -
1st April, 1972 to 31st March, 1973.

(CC-13/5/5 III)

- (2) By the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Estimates of Revenues and Expenditure of
Guyana for the financial year 1974.

(Circulated)

- (b) Purchase Tax (Motor Cars)(Amendment)(No. 3)
Order 1973 (No. 151), made under
section 5A of the Motor Vehicles and
Road Traffic Ordinance, Chapter 280, on
the 10th of December, 1973, and published
in the Gazette on the 10th of December,
1973.

(Circulated)

- (c) Consumption Tax (Amendment)(No. 3) Order
1973 (No. 152), made under section 4 of
the Consumption Tax Act 1969 (No. 13),
on the 10th of December, 1973, and
published in the Gazette on the 10th
of December, 1973.

(Circulated)

- (d) Customs (Export Duties Order 1973 (No. 153),
made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance,
Chapter 309, on the 10th of December, 1973,
and published in the Gazette on the 10th of
December, 1973.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

TAX (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1973 - Bill No. 27/1973
published 10.12.73

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 TAX
ORDINANCE.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Before the commencement of Public Business, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House informed the Assembly that it was agreed, in consultation with the Opposition, to proceed first with Item 2 (Motion to approve the Estimates of Expenditure for financial year 1974) on the Order Paper.

MOTIONSITEM 1 APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1974

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified that Cabinet had recommended that the Assembly should proceed upon the motion for the approval of the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1974, totalling \$337,303,150, net of appropriation-in-aid and excluding \$57,887,933, which is chargeable by law. (See Appendix).

The Minister of Finance then moved the motion and read the Budget Speech.

The motion was then proposed.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance named Thursday, 13th December, 1973, as the day for the resumption of the debate on the motion.

Copies of the Estimates, the motion, and the Budget Speech were then circulated to Members.

ITEM 2 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 6/1973

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider Financial Paper No. 6/1973.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 6/1973 - Statement of amounts withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund under article 112(3) of the Constitution totalling \$23,110,708, for the period ending 17th October, 1973.

After consideration of the Schedule to the Financial Paper 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 the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 6/1973 - Statement of amounts withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund under article 112(3) of the Constitution totalling \$23,110,708, for the period ending 17th October, 1973."

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF CUSTOMS (EXEMPTION FROM DUTIES) ORDER 1973 (NO. 136)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirm the Customs (Exemption from Duties) Order 1973 (No. 136), which was made on the 11th of November, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 17th of November, 1973.

Mrs. DaSilva spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.17 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 13th of December, 1973.

S. NARAIN
Speaker

12/11/73

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
12th December, 1973.