

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1974

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 41st Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

WEDNESDAY, 21ST AUGUST, 1974

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 (Absent)

Senior Ministers (7)

- The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Works and Communications (Absent - on leave)
- * 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 (Absent - on leave)
 - * 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 (Absent)
 - * 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 (Absent - on leave)
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House
- * The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education and Social Development (Absent)
 - * Dr. the Honourable O.M.R. Harper, Minister of Health
 - * The Honourable G.A. King, Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

Ministers of State (9)

- The Honourable M. Kasin, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
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 (Absent - on leave)
The Honourable M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara) (Absent)

- * Non selected Minister

- * 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. Salin, 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 (Absent - on leave)
- 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 (Absent - on leave)
- 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. Chowritnootoo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education
- Mr. R.H.O. Corbin, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation

Deputy Speaker (1)

- Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman, Deputy Speaker

Other Members (17)

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

Members of the Opposition - Liberator Party (2)

- Mr. M.F. Singh, Leader of the Opposition
- Mrs. E. DaSilva

OFFICERS

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

* Non elected Minister

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

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

- (a) Mr. Hoyte, Mr. Green, Miss Field-Ridley, Mr. Nascimento, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Ambrose, Mrs. Branco, Mr. Fowler and Mr. Stoby for that day's sitting, and
- (b) Mr. Kasin up to 26th August, 1974.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Prime Minister:

Report on the operations of the Guyana Credit Corporation for the year ended 30th June, 1972.

(GSC: 3/8/1)(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources:

Final Act of the International Conference of Bauxite Producing Countries incorporating the Agreement establishing the International Bauxite Association.

(ENR: 5/29)(Circulated)

- (3) By the Minister of Finance:

Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order, 1974 (No. 95), made under section 8 of the Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Act, Chapter 1:07, on the 7th of August, 1974 and published in the Gazette on the 10th of August, 1974.

(8/10)(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

- ((1) DEBENTURES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1974 - Bill No. 27/1974 published 19.8.74

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 MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ISSUE OF DEBENTURES BY THE STATE IN SATISFACTION WHOLLY OR PARTLY OF THE ~~PURCHASE~~ PRICE OF PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE STATE BY PURCHASE.

- (2) UNIFICATION CHURCH (INCORPORATION) BILL 1974
Bill No. 25/1974 published 3.8.74, 10.8.74 and 17.8.74

Mr. Ramson presented the following Private Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE UNIFICATION CHURCH.

PUBLIC BUSINESSBILLS - Second and Third ReadingsITEM 1 - GUYANA WATER AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 -
Bill No. 24/1974 published 30.7.74

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Prime Minister moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE GUYANA WATER AUTHORITY ACT 1972.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time, and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 2 - NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SURTAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1
Bill No. 26/1974 published 7.8.74

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SURTAX ACT 1974.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance 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.

MOTIONSITEM 3 - INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources moved the following motion:

WHEREAS a conference of Ministers of bauxite producing countries was held at Conakry from 5th to 8th March, 1974, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Guinea for the purpose of preparing an Agreement for the establishment of an International Bauxite Association to further the interests of Bauxite producing countries;

AND WHEREAS the countries represented at the Conference were Australia, Guinea, Guyana, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, Surinam and Yugoslavia;

AND WHEREAS the Conference agreed on the text of the Agreement for the establishment of the International Bauxite Association;

AND WHEREAS the Agreement was opened for signature at Conakry in the Republic of Guinea by the duly accredited representatives of those countries participating in the Conference;

AND WHEREAS the duly accredited representatives of the countries represented at the Conference signed the Final Act of the Conference at Conakry in the Republic of Guinea on 8th March, 1974;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana on behalf of Guyana intends to sign and ratify the Agreement in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the action to be taken by the Government of Guyana to enable Guyana to become a Member of the International Bauxite Association.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 4 - SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS TO NON-PENSIONABLE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

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

WHEREAS the conditions governing the payment of superannuation benefits to non-pensionable government employees, as authorised by Legislative Council Resolutions No. LII of the 6th July, 1951, No. LVI of the 8th May, 1957, and No. XXXIII of the 8th May, 1974, provide inter alia that -

- (i) an employee who at the date of his retirement holds "an approved appointment", and has served in an approved appointment for at least twenty (20) continuous years immediately preceding the date of his retirement will be eligible for an annual allowance; and
- (ii) with effect from 1st July, 1973, an employee to whom an annual allowance is granted may be paid, at his option, an allowance at the rate of three-fourths of the allowance payable in terms of the Resolutions together with a gratuity equal to twelve and one-half times the amount by which such allowance is reduced;

AND WHEREAS the Government considers that the option should also be exercisable by persons who retired during the period commencing on 1st January, 1973 and ending on 30th June, 1973:

BE IT RESOLVED:


That the conditions authorised by the Legislative Council Resolution mentioned aforesaid be varied to enable an employee who retired on or after 1st January, 1973, to whom an annual allowance is granted to be paid, at his option, an allowance at the rate of three-fourths of the allowance payable in terms of the Resolutions together with a gratuity equal to twelve and one-half times the amount by which such allowance is reduced.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.35 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


S. NARAIN 23/8/74
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

23~~st~~ August, 1974