



the Assembly. In this case, you do not need a majority of the House. Once the Speaker gives leave, you do not need a majority of the House. The Speaker puts it, and it can be voted down by the majority, but if eighteen Members agree, then the Motion can be heard. So that is the rule.

Thank you very much, Hon. Members. Mr. Clerk.

**Mr. Corbin:** If a matter of this gravity is not urgent to this country, these laws of Guyana mean absolutely nothing in this country. Nothing! All of them! All of them! All of them! [*Uproar*]

[*All the law books were overturned by Mr. Corbin.*]

[*At this stage, all the Members of the PNC/R-1G and GAP/ROAR walked out of the Chamber.*]

**The Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, could you proceed, please?

I do recall, before you leave, many years ago, at a meeting in this National Assembly, and I do believe Mr. Corbin was present, when the books were similarly overturned by Dr Jagan, who was then the Leader of the Opposition. That was some time in the 1970s.

### 98<sup>th</sup> Sitting dated October 15, 2009

## THE PRESENT UNTENABLE AND DEPLORABLE SITUATION IN THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY BY GPL TO CONSUMERS

### Preamble

*A request by Mr. Robert Corbin, Leader of the Opposition, to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the present untenable and deplorable situation in the supply of electricity by GPL to consumers, was allowed by the Speaker. The motion accordingly stood over to 5.00 p.m.*

### Verbatim

**The Speaker (Hari N. Ramkarran):** Mr. Corbin, I am in receipt of your letter, and the only part of the letter that is relevant is the first paragraph. So, I am not going to give you permission to read this letter or to make a speech on it. I will



approve your application and you will have the opportunity of making all the remarks you want during the debate.

Hon. Members, I thank you.

**Mr. Robert H. O. Corbin:** The Hansard has not recorded my Motion as yet, Sir.

**The Speaker:** We have gone through this on many occasions in the past. The Standing Orders provide for an adjournment Motion to discuss a matter of urgent public importance.

**Mr. Corbin:** That is not what I am asking, Sir. I am saying that I do not think the Members are privy yet to the nature of the subject matter.

**The Speaker:** Oh, no. I am going to apprise them of it now.

**Mr. Corbin:** I stand by your guidance.

**The Speaker:** Yes, I was about to inform the House that I received a letter today, from the Hon. Member, Mr. Corbin, the first paragraph of which reads as follows: "In accordance with Standing Order No. 12, I wish to notify you that I propose to request leave to move the adjournment of the National Assembly at today's Sitting, to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, to wit, the present untenable and deplorable situation in the supply of electricity by GPL to consumers."

Now, I could not have drafted a better Motion than that one, I confess. That is the Motion that is in accordance with the Standing Orders, and I am allowing it. The rest of the letter is relevant to the Motion and they are matters, contentious matters, which can be raised in the debate.

In accordance with the rules and practices, therefore, I am now required to put the matter to the House and to formally inform you that I considered the claim by Hon. Member Mr. Corbin, and I am satisfied that the matter qualifies as one which may properly be raised in a Motion for the adjournment of the Assembly. The leave of the Assembly is also required, and I now ask your leave.

*Question put, and agreed to.*



*Motion carried.*

The Motion will, therefore, in accordance with the Standing Orders, stand down until the resumption after the suspension.

I will allow two speakers on each side, and, since it is a Motion which criticises the Government, the lead speaker on the Government side will have the power to respond, in accordance with the appropriate Standing Order.

### **Announcements by the Speaker**

**98<sup>th</sup> Sitting dated October 15, 2009**

#### **HARI N. RAMKARRAN'S, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S, RESPONSE TO THE HON. PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER CONCERN -ING ISSUES WHICH AROSE IN THE DEBATE ON THE SALE OF GT&T'S SHARES**

I am in receipt of your letter dated 21st October, 2009.

Your letter concerns the issues which arose in the debate on the sale of GT&T's shares which you said have not gone "unnoticed." One of these was the alleged "sleight of hand" by Hon. Member Robert Corbin who "gave the closing" to Hon. Member Winston Murray, who was insisting that he speak after Hon. Member Ashni Singh and "who did not confine himself to a reply. You said that this "sleight of hand" has been noted "and it is hoped that it will not become a practice."

You also "noted" my ruling which supported the objection by Hon. Member Robert Corbin of accusations by Hon. Member Odinga Lumumba about a certain course of conduct by Hon. Member Robert Corbin without evidence that I deemed inadequate.

You anticipate that this ruling will be upheld on future occasions. I presume that you mean when the Government objects and I further presume that you imply that I have been inconsistent in the past. You pointed to no examples of my inconsistency.