

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT

[Volume 7]

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE
CONSTITUTION OF GUYANA.

1st Sitting

14:00 hrs

Friday, 1980-10-17

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (62)

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., Speaker

Members of the Government – People's National Congress (45)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P. A. Reid, O.E.,
Prime Minister

Senior Ministers (11)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives	(Absent – on leave)
Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Works and Transport	(Absent – on leave)
Cde. B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House	
Cde. C. V. Mingo, Minister of Home Affairs	
*Cde. H. Green, Minister of Health, Housing and Labour	
*Cde. H.O. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources	(Absent)
*Cde. F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance	
*Cde. G. B. Kennard, C.C.H., Minister of Agriculture	(Absent)
*Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., Attorney General and Minister of Justice	
*Cde. R.E. Jackson, Minister of Foreign Affairs	(Absent)
*Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection	(Absent)

*Non-elected Ministers

Ministers (2)

Cde. O.E. Clarke, Minister – Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne)	(Absent – on leave)
Cde. C.A. Nascimento, Minister, Office of the Prime Minister	(Absent)

Ministers of State (10)

Cde. F.U.A Carmichael Minister of State – Regional (Rupununi)	(Absent)
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Cde.	P. Duncan, J.P., Minister of State- Regional (North West)	(Absent)
Cde.	K.B. Bancroft, J.P., Minister of State – Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)	(Absent)
Cde.	J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., Minister of State – Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)	(Absent – on leave)
Cde.	J.R. Thomas, Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture	(Absent)
Cde.	R.H.O. Corbin, Minister of State for Youth and Sport, Ministry of National Development	(Absent)
Cde.	S. Prashad, Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)	
Cde.	R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture	(Absent)
*Cde.	F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of State for Information, Ministry of National Development	(Absent)
*Cde.	H. Rashid, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister	

Parliamentary Secretaries (6)

Cde.	M.M. John, C.C.H., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip	(Absent – on leave)
Cde.	E.L. Ambrose, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture	
Cde.	M. Corrica, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture	(Absent)
Cde.	E.M. Bynoe, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection.	
Cde.	C.E. Wright, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives	
Cde.	J.G. Ramson, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Transport	

Other Members (15)

Cde.	W.G. Carrington, C.C.H.	
Cde.	S.M. Field-Ridley	(Absent)
Cde.	E.H.A. Fowler	
Cde.	J. Gill	
Cde.	W. Hussain	
Cde.	K.M.E. Jonas	(Absent)
Cde.	A. Salim	
Cde.	E.M. Stoby, J.P.	(Absent)
Cde.	S.H. Sukhu, M.S.	
Cde.	H.A. Taylor	
Cde.	H.B. Walcott, J.P.	(Absent)
Cde.	L.E. Williams	
Cde.	M. Zaheerruddeen	(Absent)

Members of the Opposition (16)

(i) People's Progressive Party (14)

Leader of the Opposition (1)

Cde. C. Jagan,
Leader of the Opposition (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran,
Deputy Speaker (Absent)

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan (Absent)
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., Opposition Chief Whip (Absent)
Cde. Narbada Persaud (Absent)
Cde. C. Collymore (Absent)
Cde. S.F. Mohamed (Absent)
Cde. I. Basir (Absent)
Cde. C.C. Belgrave (Absent)
Cde. R. Ally (Absent)
Cde. Dalchand, J.P. (Absent)
Cde. Dindayal (Absent)
Cde. H. Nokta (Absent)
Cde. P. Sukhai (Absent)

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P.
Mr. M.A. Abraham (Absent)

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly – Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A.
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – Cde. M.B. Henry

PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE SPEAKERConstitutional Changes

The Speaker: Cde. And hon. Members, by a Proclamation which was made on 1st October, 1980, and published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette that same day, the new Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana came into operation on 6th October, 1980. In terms of the Act which enacted the Constitution, the National Assembly is now functioning as a Transitional National Assembly and will continue to so function until Parliament is dissolved. All persons who were Members of the National Assembly are Members of the Transitional National Assembly.

With the coming into operation of the non-Constitution, some changes have taken place in this Assembly. The former Prime Minister who was an elected Member of the National Assembly assumed the Office of President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and ceased to be a Member of the National Assembly.

Cde. Ptolemy Reid who ranked next in seniority after the Office of the Prime Minister and who is an elected Member of the Assembly became the new Prime Minister. He is therefore the leader of Government business in the Assembly.

The Office of Leader of the Opposition has been re-designated Minority Leader.

Comrades and hon. Members, as today is the first occasion on which we are meeting since the new Constitution came into operation and as this is the first Sitting of the Transitional National Assembly under the Constitution, I would like to take the opportunity of welcoming here all the members. I wish also on behalf of members to extend congratulations and best wishes to the new President and the new Prime Minister.

Leave to Members

Leave has been granted to the Comrades Hoyte, Clarke, and Van Sluytman for today's Sitting, and to Cde. S. S. Naraine for the period 15th October to the 21st October. Further leave has been granted to Cde. John until 24th October, 1980. I understand that she is still ill.

Reply by the Prime Minister

The Speaker: Cde. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister (Cde. Reid): Cde. Speaker, I wish to sincerely acknowledge your congratulations and I trust that over this period, which is determined as the Transitional National Assembly, business of Government and this House will be conducted in the usual manner. I want to record also my congratulations to you for the service you have rendered in bringing into effect the People's New Constitution for this Co-operative Republic so that we can now at the beginning of this transitional period.

One has recognized the amount of detailed work that has had to be put into effect to make this possible and I trust, for the future, the entire new Constitution will bring to bear to the new

people of this Co-operative Republic a better quality of life and the prosperity that we all look forward to.

I also wish finally to record my sincere gratitude to my colleagues and the people in all walks of life in Guyana for making it possible for the President of this Co-operative Republic to take note to some of the workings that have gone on through and in my name but which, indeed, have been done because of the work of all the people in this Co-operative Republic. I hope that, Cde. Speaker, I shall be able to carry the new burden as effectively as possible.

Permit me, Cde. Speaker, to also indicate to this House that it would be my joy and privilege to convey to the Cde. President your good wishes and hopes. I am certain at some time it will be the privilege of this House to welcome the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following Papers were laid:

Rate of Interest Order 1980 (No. 62), made under sections 6 of the Rate of Interest Act 1979 (No. 13), and published in the Gazette on 17th September, 1980. [The Minister of Finance.]

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS – FIRST READING

The following Bills were introduced and read the First time:

1. Household Service Workers (Hours of Work) Bill 1980 – Bill No.17/1980. [The Minister of Health, Housing and Labour.]
2. Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 1980 – Bill No. 18/1980 [The Minister of Finance.]
3. Miscellaneous Laws (Amendment) Bill 1980. [The Minister of Home Affairs.]

2.10 p.m.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS – SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

GUYANA AND TRINIDAD MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (AMENDMENT)

BILL 1980

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to amend the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Company Ordinance.”

The Speaker: Cde. Willems.

Cde. Willems: In asking to move the Second Reading of the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Company (Amendment) Bill, Bill No.15, I crave your indulgence to state that I feel deeply honoured and privileged in being the first member and, moreso, the first woman member to be given the opportunity of moving the Second Reading of this Bill in this Transitional National Assembly.

Cde. Speaker, the Bill is self explanatory. The Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Company Limited which is incorporated in Guyana under the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Company Ordinance, Chapter 209 of the 1953 edition of the Laws of Guyana, underwrites insurance in several of the territories through branches or agencies established in those territories. It is considered that it would be beneficial to the Company if it could establish subsidiaries in the Caribbean territories in which it underwrites insurance having regard to the laws applicable in those territories.

Clause 3 of the Bill, therefore seeks to enable the Company to do so. Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Bill seek to bring the Company’s procedures into conformity with the requirements of modern commercial practice. Provision is made in Clause 5 of the Bill for the keeping of a register at the Head Office of the Company in which shall be recorded precise particulars relating to Directors and officers of the Company. The register will be opened for inspection by members of the public during business hours and, in some cases, on payment of a fee of 25 cents.

The existing statute requires a publication in the Official Gazette of the list of Directors and officers of the Company which is not in keeping with modern commercial practice.

Cde. Speaker, I beg that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Cde. Taylor seconded.

Question proposed, put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time.

Assembly in Committee.

Bill considered and approved.

Assembly resumed.

GUYANA AND TRINIDAD MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY (AMENDMENT) –
BILL 1980

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to amend the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Fire Insurance Company Ordinance.”

The Speaker: Cde. Willems.

Cde. Willems: Cde. Speaker, I beg to present the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Fire Insurance Company (Amendment) Bill 1980, Bill No. 16/1980. According to the explanatory memorandum for this Bill, clauses 2 and 3 of the Bill seek to amend the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Fire Insurance Company Ordinance to make provision for the keeping of a register at the Head Office of the Company in which will be recorded precise particulars relating to the Directors and officers of the Company. The register will be opened to inspection by the public and, in some cases, on payment of a fee of 25 cents in substitution for the existing statutory provisions which require publication of the list of Directors and officers of the Company to be made in the Official Gazette.

I beg Cde. Speaker that this Bill be now read a Second time.

Cde. Taylor seconded.

Question proposed, put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time.

Assembly in Committee.

Bill considered and approved.

Assembly resumed.

Bill reported without Amendment read the Third Time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved “That this Assembly do now adjourn to Friday, 24th October, 1980 at 2 p.m.

/The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House./

Adjourned accordingly at 2.23 p.m.