

**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**

**73<sup>th</sup> Sitting**

**2:10 p.m.**

**Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1975**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Speaker**

Cde. Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

**(Absent – on leave)**

**MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT – PEOPLE’S NATIONAL CONGRESS (50)**

**Prime Minister (1)**

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E, S.C.,  
Prime Minister

**Deputy Prime Minister (1)**

Cde. P.A. Reid  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development

**Senior Ministers (8)**

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C.,  
Minister of Economic Development

- \*Cde. H. Green,  
Minister of Cooperatives and National Mobilisation (Absent)
- \* Cde. H.O. Jack,  
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent- on leave)
- \* Cde. F.E. Hope,  
Minister of Finance (Absent)
- \* Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A.,  
Minister of Works and Housing
- \* Cde. G.A. King,  
Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection
- \* Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H.,  
Minister of Agriculture
- \*Cde. C.L. Baird,  
Minister of Education and Social Development (Absent)
- \*Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C.,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (Absent)

### **Ministers (5)**

- Cde. W.G. Carrington,  
Minister of Labour (Absent- on leave)
- Cde. Miss S.M. Field-Ridley,  
Minister of Information and Culture
- Cde. B. Ramsaroop,  
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House
- \*Cde. O.M.R. Harper,  
Minister of Health (Absent)
- \*Cde. C.V. Mingo,  
Minister of Home Affairs (Absent)

### **\*Non-elected Ministers**

## **Ministers of State (9)**

Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture	
Cde. O.E. Clarke Minister of State – Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne)	<b>(Absent – on leave)</b>
The Hon. P. Duncan, J.P., Minister of State – Regional (Rupununi)	<b>(Absent)</b>
Cde. C.A. Nascimento, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister	<b>(Absent – on leave)</b>
Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., Minister of State – Regional (Essequibo coast/West Demerara)	<b>(Absent)</b>
Cde. K.B. Bancroft, Minister of State – Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)	<b>(Absent)</b>
*Cde. W. Haynes, Minister of State for Consumer Protection	<b>(Absent)</b>
*Cde. A. Salim, Minister of State – Regional East Demerara/West Coast Berbice	<b>(Absent)</b>
*Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael Minister of State – Regional (North West)	<b>(Absent)</b>

## **Parliamentary Secretaries (8)**

Cde. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing	
Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Works and Housing	
Cde. M.M. Ackman Parliamentary Secretary Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip	

## **\*Non-elected Ministers**

Cde. E. L. Ambrose  
Parliamentary Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture

Cde. S. Prashad  
Parliamentary Secretary  
Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation **(Absent)**

Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo  
Parliamentary Secretary  
Ministry of Education and Social Development

Cde. R.H.O Corbin  
Parliamentary Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister

Cde. M. Corrica,  
Parliamentary Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister

### **Deputy Speaker (1)**

Cde. R. C. Van Sluytman, Deputy Speaker

### **Other Members (17)**

Cde. J.N. Aaron  
Cde. L.M. Branco  
Cde. M. Corrica  
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler  
Cde. J. Gill **(Absent – on leave)**  
Cde. W. Hussain  
Cde. S. Jaiserrisingh **(Absent – on leave)**  
Cde. K.M.E. Jonas **(Absent – on leave)**  
Cde. M. Nissar  
Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye **(Absent)**  
Cde. J.G. Ramson  
Cde. P.A. Rayman  
Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P.  
Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P.  
Cde. C. Sukul, J.P.  
Cde. H.A. Taylor  
Cde. L.E. Willems

**Members of the Opposition – Liberator Party (2)**

Mr. M.F. Singh, Leader of the Opposition

Mrs. E. DaSilva

**(Absent – on leave)**

**OFFICERS**

Clerk of the National Assembly – Mr. F.A. Narain

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – Mr. M.B. Henry, AMBIM

4.9.75

National Assembly

2:10 – 2:20p.m.

**PRAYERS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**LEAVE TO MEMBERS**

**The Speaker:** Leave has been granted to Cde. Minister Jack, Cde. Minister Carrington, Cde. Minister Clarke for today's Sitting; Cde. Minister Nascimento for one month from 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1975; Cdes. Jonas and Jaiserrisingh for four months from today; Cde. Gill for today's Sitting, and the hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva for today's Sitting.

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS**

**PRIVATE BILL**

**WEST MILLENNIUM EVANGELIST PILGRIM CHURCH**

**The Speaker:** Cde. Ramson.

**Cde. Ramson:** Cde. Speaker, I beg to present the Petition on behalf of Majorie McGarrell of K-27-987 Tucville, Georgetown, Lionel Burrowes of 65 Adelaide Street, Georgetown and Samuel Klein of 141 Cato Street Agricola, East Bank Demerara, Trustees of the West Millennium Evangelist Pilgrim Church, seeking to have introduced in this Assembly a Private Bill to incorporate the said Church.

**The Speaker:** The Clerk will now read the Petition.

**The Clerk read the Petition as follows:**

**GUYANA**

**PETITION**

**TO:** The Honourable Members of the National Assembly of Guyana.

The Humble Petition of Majorie McGarrell of K-27-987 Tucville, Greater Georgetown,

Lionel Burrowes of Adelaide Street, Georgetown and Samuel Klein of 141 Cato Street, Agricola, East bank Demerara, respectfully sheweth as follows:

1. That your Petitioners are the Trustees of the West Millennium Evangelist Pilgrim Church with headquarters at Lot 14 Agricola, East Bank Demerara in Guyana.
2. That the said Church was established in Guyana in the year 1924 at Lot 141 Cato Street, Agricola, East Bank Demerara, and has a membership of 700 persons.
3. That Church services are regularly held according to the form of worship of the faith and have been regularly held in the Church Building at the said address.
4. That the West Millennium Evangelist Pilgrim Church wishes to be incorporated so as to be able to acquire and dispose of property in the State of Guyana.
5. That your Petitioners are the promoters of a Bill which seeks to incorporate the West Millennium Evangelist Pilgrim Church in Guyana.
6. That your Petitioners are desirous of having the said Bill introduced into the National Assembly of Guyana and enacted by the Parliament in Guyana.
7. Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that the Honourable Members of the National Assembly may be pleased to allow them to proceed.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1974.

Petitioners

1. Majorie McGarrell (sgd.)
2. Lionel Burrowes (sgd.)
3. Samuel Klein (sgd.)

**The Speaker:** In accordance with Standing Order No. 57 (4), I will not put the question.

*Question –*

“That the Promoter be allowed to proceed”

*Put and agreed to.*

**The Speaker:** The Promoters may proceed accordingly.

### PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following Papers were laid:

- (1) Annual Report of the Guyana Rice Marketing Board for the year ended September, 30, 1972.
- (2) Audited Accounts of the Guyana.
- (3) Audited accounts of the Guyana Broadcasting Service for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1972. [**The Prime Minister**]
- (4) Statement of Guarantees given by the minister of Finance under section 3 of the Guarantee of loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act 1971 (No. 16) for the quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1975. [**The Minister of Economic Development on behalf of the Minister of Finance**]



(5) Roads (Corentyne) Regulations 1975 (No. 11), made under section 25 of the Roads Act (Chapter 51:01, on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1971, and published in the Gazette on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1975. [**The Minister of Works and Housing**]

(6) Revision papers of the Laws of Guyana as at 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1974.

[**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs**]

### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

#### Apology to the Speaker

**Cde. Prime Minister:** Cde. Speaker, as Minister responsible for Home Affairs, a certain incident which took place on Friday of last week was brought to my attention. It would appear that certain officers, in the execution of their duties, executed a search on you, Cde. Speaker, and I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the Government to apologise for the inconvenience and embarrassment which you must have suffered, not the inconvenience of being searched, because it is part of the law that the officers may search any passenger about to embark, but the inconvenience and embarrassment caused by subsequent actions on the part of the officers, through a misunderstanding of the relevant sections, which could have led persons to believe that there was reason to suspect that you, Cde. Speaker, might have been involved in a breach of the Foreign Exchange control regulations.

As you are aware, it has been established beyond the shadow of a doubt, not merely beyond reasonable doubt, but beyond the shadow of a doubt, that any such suspicion would have been wrongly grounded and, speaking as Prime Minister, I would like to take this opportunity to say that my Government and I have absolutely no basis whatever for resoling from our previous position of having the greatest faith and confidence in Your Honour's integrity and uprightness.

I hope that you will accept the apology which was sent by the Commissioner of Police as well as the one which I now unreservedly tender.

**The Speaker:** The apology sent by the Commissioner of Police has already been accepted and I have great pleasure in accepting the apology by your Government and yourself and to say that the law of the land must always be upheld irrespective of whom that person may be. I wish to thank you for the assurances given.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS – FIRST READING

The following Bill was introduced and read the First time:

“State Enterprises (Guarantee)(Amendment) Bill 1975 – Bill No. 31/1975

[**The Minister of Economic Development**]

### PUBLIC BUSINESS

### BILLS – SECOND READING

### DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to amend the Defence Act.” [**The Prime Minister**]

**Cde. Prime Minister:** Cde. Speaker, it was proposed that I ask the House to have this Bill, Defence (Amendment) Bill 1975, No. 29 of 1975, read a Second time. But I will ask, with your kind permission and the permission of the House for it to be deferred to enable me, as Defence minister, to have further consultations with my colleagues as well as with the Leader of the Opposition.

I may mention a particular point which we would like discussed. This Bill as it stands at the moment, seeks to make possible enlistment in the /Guyana Defence Force under the age of 18 provided there is the parent’s written consent or the consent of some person or persons who may stand in *loco parentis*.

However, it was attracted to our attention that one could have enlisted in the Guyana Defence Force at 18 without parental permission, when the age of maturity was 21 and there

4.9.75

National Assembly

2:10 – 2:20 p.m.

does seem, at least at first blush, grounds for suggesting that the enlistment age, without consent, should be lowered and, in the circumstances, I would ask that the Bill be deferred to permit further discussions and consultations with both sides of the House.

**The Speaker:** Is this agreed?

**Mr. Singh:** It is agreed.

*Bill, by leave, deferred.*

### ADJOURNMENT

**Resolved,**

“That this Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed.” [**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House**]

**Adjourned accordingly at 2:20p.m.**

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