

**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**

74th Sitting	2:05 p.m.	Thursday, 25th September, 1975
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MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

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

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 – on leave)

***Non-elected Minister**

*Cde. H.O. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources	(Absent)
* Cde. F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance	
* Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Works and Housing	(Absent – on leave)
* 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 – on leave)
*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	(Absent- on leave)
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 – on leave)

Ministers of State (9)

Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture	
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***Non-elected Ministers**

Cde. O.E. Clarke
Minister of State – Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne)

The Hon. P. Duncan, J.P.,
Minister of State – Regional (Rupununi)

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. C.A. Nascimento,
Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.,
Minister of State – Regional (Essequibo coast/West Demerara)

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. K.B. Bancroft,
Minister of State – Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)

(Absent)

*Cde. W. Haynes,
Minister of State for Consumer Protection

(Absent – on leave)

*Cde. A. Salim,
Minister of State – Regional
East Demerara/West Coast Berbice

(Absent)

*Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael
Minister of State – Regional (North West)

(Absent)

Parliamentary Secretaries (8)

Cde. J.R. Thomas,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Works and Housing

(Absent – on leave)

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

(Absent – on leave)

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

***Non-elected Ministers**

Cde. S. Prashad
Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation

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

(Absent – on leave)

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

(Absent – on leave)

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

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. R. C. Van Sluytman, Deputy Speaker

Other Members (16)

Cde. J.N. Aaron

Cde. L.M. Branco

Cde. M. Corrica

Cde. E.H.A. Fowler

Cde. J. Gill

Cde. W. Hussain

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. S. Jaiserrisingh

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. K.M.E. Jonas

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. M. Nissar

Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye

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

OFFICERS

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

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

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National Assembly

2:05 – 2:15 p.m.

PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave to members

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to Cdes. Burnham, Green, Narain, Baird, Carrington, Field-Ridley, Mingo, Duncan, Zaheeruddeen, Thomas, Ackman, Chowritmootoo and Corbin for today's Sitting; to Cde. Haynes for three months from 9th September, and Cde. Hussain from 22nd September to 4th October, 1975.

- (1) (a) Auditors Report and Final Accounts of the Guyana Forest Industries Corporation for period 1st June, 1973 to 31st December, 1973.
- (b) Accounts of the Guyana Development Corporation for the years 1970, 1971 and 1972
- (c) Audited Accounts of the Guyana marketing Corporation for the year ended 31st December, 1969.

**[The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development
on behalf of the Prime Minister]**

- (2) Financial Paper No. 4/1975 – Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the current and Capital Estimates totaling \$75,589,809 for the period ending 31st August, 1975.

[The Minister of Finance]

In terms of Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister of Finance named Wednesday, 28th November, 1975, as the day for the consideration of the Financial Paper in Committee of Supply.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS – SECOND READING

DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to amend the Defence Act.”

[The Minister of National Development on behalf of the Prime Minister]

The Speaker: Cde. Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Speaker, before the hon. Minister takes his stand I would like to make, with your permission, a request. You will remember, in respect of this matter that on the last occasion the hon. Prime Minister had deferred consideration of this measure in order to enable him *inter alia* to have consultations with the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. Deputy Prime Minister is aware that I did have such consultations with the hon. Prime Minister on this matter. However, the amendment which was consequent on those consultations was seen by me for the first time as I came into the Parliament Chamber this afternoon.

In my opinion, the amendment is not consistent with what was agreed between the hon. Prime Minister and myself. I clearly understood the agreement to be different from what is reflected in the measure before this honorable House today. In view of the lack of unanimity between myself and the hon. Prime Minister as reflected in this amendment which is a mere substitution rather than an amendment though it has to be termed an amendment, and in view of the fact that I have seen this only for the first time as I came in here I may want to put forward a counter amendment. I am respectfully asking the hon. Deputy Prime Minister to defer this measure so as to enable me to have further consultation with the hon. Prime Minister on this matter in order to clarify the position. We did have consultations but there seems to be some misunderstanding somewhere along the line and I would like to have an opportunity to clear up that misunderstanding with the hon. Prime Minister.

The Speaker: Cde. Deputy Prime Minister.

Cde. Reid: Cde. Speaker, I was not actually present at the discussions but I would wish to say that this matter was discussed more than once and arising out of the discussion with the prime Minister there was a clear understanding of what had to be amended and what that

amendment was all about. This document that I have in my hand is in keeping with the conversations and discussions with the Prime Minister as far as the amendment is concerned.

I would just wish to make one point which is fairly obvious and is in keeping with this amendment. Even though I realize that my honorable friend and Comrade Fielden Singh is seeing this for the first time, and even though I am disposed to giving him the opportunity to study this in depth, I want to say that this amendment is in keeping actually with the original Act. In that original Act, when majority age was 21, the person at age 18, without consent from any parent or guardian or anybody whatsoever could have enlisted in the Defence Force. Now majority age is reduced to 18 and to keep that part of the Act it is reasonable to note that the age can be reduced below this age and as was possible at the age of 18 in the past, one would wish that the young people at the age of 16 would be able to enlist without any consent from any parent, guardian or any person whatsoever. This is what this bill is all about.

Further, in the Defence Act, those below 18 could have enlisted with consent from the parents and so this Act will give a further concession to the young people. If their parents agree and if they are at the age of 14 but not yet 16, then with the consent of their parents they can enlist. But Cde. Speaker – this is passing through my mind – I would not want to deny my good friend and comrade the opportunity to study it in depth. Having said that much I hope that when we return to the Bill on Monday there will not be much more to say in presenting it. We will allow my friend to put forward his argument and we will not spend too much time on the matter. He is probably in the very fortunate position where time does not matter with him. But, on our side time is very vital and important. I would agree with my friend in this instance.

Bill, by leave, deferred.

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Mr. Singh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my grateful thanks to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, even though I expected that that was the only honourable course to adopt under the circumstances. But just one point...

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The Speaker: I am not permitting any discourse here. I am sorry. Cde. Minister of Finance please proceed with the next Bill.

STATE ENTERPRISES (GUARANTEE)(AMENDMENT) BILL

A Bill intituled:”

“An Act to amend the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974.

[The Minister of Finance]

The Ministers of Finance (Mr. Hope): In moving the Second Reading of the State Enterprises (Guarantee)(Amendment) Bill 1975, I wish to make one or two very brief remarks. It is well known that part of the deepening of CARICOM arrangements goes beyond the question of trade. The Integration Movement which CARICOM is all about envisages as well the integration of our economies much more closely through the establishment of joint enterprises, enterprises which are owned and controlled by those countries which form part of the CARICOM arrangement. We have a number of these joint enterprises in being and a number of them are being contemplated as part of the whole integration process. One of these would be, of course, the West Indies Shipping Company. Another of these is a soya bean firm project and there are others in the making and it is because of our anticipation of these joint enterprises that now require financing jointly by the individual members of CARICOM that we have brought this Bill before Parliament today.

In fact, as would be expected, these Companies or institutions or enterprises will need financing. I expect that part of the financing would come through the direct contribution of the individual States that own them but I also expect that the institutions will seek to borrow finance, to borrow money from different institutions for the purpose of their operations. We have one of these institutions already established in the Commonwealth Caribbean serving the CARICOM territories. This institution of course is the Caribbean Development bank. One of the ideal objectives of the Caribbean Development Bank is to finance these regional development projects and contemplated in this aid is integration within the region.

When this institution, the Caribbean Development Bank has to loan these regional enterprises it will be necessary for the Governments that participate in them to guarantee these institutions. Accordingly we seek to extend the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act to enable the Government, through the Minister of Finance, on the resolution by the House to guarantee the borrowing for these regional enterprises on certain terms and to have the payments or repayments in pursuance of the guarantee charged to the fund.

It is for this purpose that the Bill is before the House today seeking an extension in the coverage, in the ambit of the present guarantee, the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act, to enable the inclusion of regional enterprises among the group of enterprises for which borrowing can be so guaranteed by the Government.

Cde. Speaker, this really is the background of the Bill. It is a very simple bill with no more than three sections. Its content is very limited but I have explained its purpose. With these remarks I wish to commend the Bill for approval by the house. I, therefore, move the Second Reading of the State Enterprises (Guarantee)(Amendment) Bill 1975.

Question proposed.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Speaker, in the explanatory memorandum which I would like to read it is stated:

“This Bill therefore seeks to amend the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974 for the purposes of enabling the Government of Guyana (along with other member states of the Caribbean Community) to guarantee the financial obligations of a regional institution.”

Obviously we can have no quarrel with this. We believe in the promotion of regional integration and we know that it is in fact one of the objects of the People’s National Congress. If we look at the back page of their **New Nation Newspaper**, it has it clearly stated in the second to last Clause:

“To work for the closest possible association of Guyana with here Caribbean neighbours.”

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We agree with that and so I think it is not only necessary to confine ourselves to the specific purpose of his Bill but to look at the broad spectrum of integration and cooperation and the joint coming together which this Bill seeks to promote, the integration with our Caribbean neighbours.

As we think about it a question arises in our minds. The question is very simple. Why are we in Guyana pursuing this philosophy of Marxism and Leninism which is so alien to our CARICOM neighbours, the people whom we are about to have cooperation and association with by means of this Bill.

According to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Reid, Guyana is now pregnant with the child that was born of the Russian Revolution and he peacefully predicts that the birth of the child to establish this Russian system will be here in Guyana. We will establish not any Caribbean system, but the Russian system in Guyana. That is where we have to stop and think. And since we are moving towards integration with our CARICOM neighbours, I think that we have an obligation to look at our CARICOM neighbours and to see what their thinking is like in relation to our thinking.

2:25 – 2:35p.m.

What, for example, does that respected leader of our neighbouring CARICOM partner Dr. Eric Williams in Trinidad and Tobago, think about the Russian system, bearing in mind that he recently visited Russia? Bearing in mind that we want Caribbean integration, what do our partners think?

There is an article which was printed in the Guardian of Trinidad and Tobago, 31st August, 1975 giving in detail the replies of Dr. Eric Williams to questions asked by Guardian's Political Reporter, John Babb, in an interview. What does Dr. Williams think about the Russian system after he recently visited Russia? I quote from that article in the Guardian of 31st August, 1975 under the heading "Soviet Security":

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“In the USSR, we did not have such time for discussion. They don’t seem to allow such time for discussion there. We are seeing the place more than anything else, but the most interesting was their concern with security; their emphasis on the results of the last war.

In terms of Cuba, Russia and Romania have the capacity to do thing. The Government takes a decision and then they just carry it out; one party states without any opposition at all.”

That is what he thinks of the system in the USSR and his is one of the countries we are getting together with. What does he think of the system that we want to establish here in Guyana? What does he think of the Cuban system? I noticed in this morning’s newspaper that two of our Ministers have taken off today for Cuba to look at housing and community development in Cuba. What does this leader of our neighbouring territory with who we are integrating in these regional institutions think? He says about Cuba:

“You know if you want to go and put up an apartment house... big apartment house in three, four months and so on.

In Cuba, they are way ahead of Trinidad and Tobago. But when you look at it, who lives in the apartment house?

The people that are put in there. You have to live there. They couldn’t go anywhere else.

They say do not allow family homes. I said, well, we obviously can’t be compared with that.”

That is what he said about Cuba and our Ministers have gone to look at that and it is interesting to note what he said about freedom generally, this leader of our Caribbean partner. What will he do in respect of freedoms? He said in this same article:

“I would allow the freedom and see how best without allowing either anarchy on the one hand and complete authoritarianism on the other, how best to accommodate our human resources, your physical resources, so that you get some workable system.

There would be waste on both sides.

The one system permits no interference from its human resources and claims that it uses the material resources better; the other system permits some interference.

Perhaps they could even permit some more in terms of what is happening in different parts of the world, changing parts of the world, changing up things, taking control, etc.

I am not for that you know.”

That is what this well respected leader of Trinidad and Tobago said. Are these views shared by the ruling P.N.C. in Guyana? Obviously not! Obviously these views held by our partner in CARICOM are not shared by the ruling party in Guyana. Do they allow freedom? Do they allow press freedom in Guyana? So many other freedoms we are denied. Let us compare ourselves and see what the position is when we talk about regional integration.

Mr. Speaker, on the question of constitutional rights which is also something in the same issues of the **Guardian** in his independence message on the occasion of the Independence of Trinidad and Tobago on the question of constitutional rights. His views are recorded on page 2 of the newspaper.

“It has become fashionable to say that what is called Westminster democracy is not suited to developing countries. This argument used to be condemned as downright racialism when it was used by the imperialist countries to justify colonialism and oppose self Government.

Now the same argument is used by the nationalists themselves. What the alternative is it is not clear. Those who propose the one-party state have not been able to justify it on the ground that it guarantees any greater national stability or protection of individual rights.

Day after day we read of take-overs by military governments, but this only means that ultimately another military personality takes over from the former and civilian rule continues to be rejected.

At the same time we can see from the world today that merely to have a democratic constitution is not enough; the very constitution designed to protect individual rights can be used to suppress those rights.

I should hope therefore that as many of our citizens as possible will take an interest in and participate in the current exercise of constitution reform now before the joint Selection Committee of both Houses of Parliament”

We are also talking about constitutional reform but where is it being worked out? Within the sanctum. He is talking here of a broad based situation and we are in Guyana so different from our CARICOM neighbours. We have it in the bosom of our Ruling P.N.C. Party are we not very different from our neighbours in this respect?

On the question of state control which the Government is getting into more and more, we know of the E.T.B., Guytrac which is taking over books and stationery, Sprostons, so many of the others that are locally based. I shall say nothing further on it because I feel it is right to talk to the Minister about it. But let me read what this learned gentleman had to say about state control. He said:

“Too often, as so many of us know, control by the Government becomes control by a small group acting almost in isolation from the rest of the society except in claiming a right to public funds for which no account is given.”

Like the E.T.B. so far we have had no account of the workings of the E.T.B. presented. I merely say this as one example. This is what the learned gentleman said of a small clique.

“I for one would be most unhappy to see such an extension of so-called state power suppressing individual initiative and voluntary effect, whether in production or in education or in social services generally.

More than once on my recent trips abroad, I encountered criticism that in Trinidad and Tobago we were not making the best use of our resources.

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I replied that if we include in this our human resources we are making much better use of our resources that we would do under a vast extension of state control and state intervention at the expense of individual and group effort.”

These are words from a respected Caribbean leader that we should really ponder over; we should search our concessions.

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A further incident caused me to wonder and to ask questions about Caribbean integration when I attended on Friday last a function at the Umana Yana hosted by the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice in honour of another Caribbean institution, the Caribbean Council of Legal Education. I was standing among a very big gathering of delegates who were discussing particularly the Exchange Control legislation and the problems in Guyana and Mr. Speaker, they... [Cde. Hoyte: “Guyanese or non-Guyanese delegates?”] The people whom we are getting together under this Bill, the people in Caribbean institutions, the Bill before us is to permit Guyana to help finance Caribbean institutions. That is a Caribbean institution, the Caribbean Council of Legal Education. A majority of those, I am sure, who were present there at that meeting at the Umana Yana were from the Caribbean and they really expressed condemnation – that is the only word I can find for it – for the existing harsh currency controls here in Guyana. They complained bitterly that when they went into the shops and tendered travellers’s cheques or tendered Caribbean currency, the sales clerks jumped back in complete astonishment and dismay at the sight of that kind of money and said: “No, no, no! One year in jail! We can’t touch it! Go to the Bank of Guyana. We can’t touch it!” This was contrary to what exists in so many of our Caribbean territories and the visitors were really surprised at it. [Interruption]

I hear one hon. Minister saying that these delegates bringing in money should have their money seized at the airport. Now, how can we have Caribbean integration when a Minister of the government is advocating that the money that visitors to Guyana are bringing in must be seized at the airport? How can they speak of integration if they express this sort of thing? These visitors

were not even sure that they could find an authorized dealer to change back their money before they left the country. Because if they had changed X dollars and they spend X - \$5 here – they would need to convert the remainder into foreign currency because Guyana currency is not good overseas. If they have more than G\$15 on them when they leave it will be seized because they cannot take out more. If they validly take out G\$100 they are allowed to come back in with only G\$15 so therefore what they would have to do is reconvert into foreign currency. I have been advised that they cannot even take it out. The point I am making is this: if they have Guyana currency and they cannot find an authorised dealer to change it before they leave then they have to give it away.

I understand that there is an authorised dealer at Timehri but I also understand – and I would like an understanding from the hon. Minister that this is not so – that on several occasions people have gone there to try and convert their money back into foreign currency and there has been nobody there to attend to them. So what do they do in those circumstances? I would very much like to get a statement by the hon. Minister that there is always before a flight somebody at the Timehri Airport to change back monies so that the visitors to this country can keep within the law of the land. I would very much like an assurance on this point.

SO, Mr. Speaker, if we are talking about Caribbean unity, what about something being done towards getting a common Caribbean currency? Maybe this is something the hon. Minister should put forward to his colleagues in the other CARICOM countries and let us try and see how far we can progress towards that sort of thing. [Interruption] Let the hon. Minister of Finance tell us; he is the expert. Unlike the hon. Minister Hoyte I do not claim to know everything; I do not claim to be omnipotent. That is why I have advisers. If the hon. Minister says he knows everything and what he does not know is not knowledge, obviously the hon. Minister is omnipotent; we do not think that we can make claims along those lines. I do not make claims that in every single field I can be an expert but I act on the advice that I have received from experts. Let us bear in mind that I am paid from taxpayers' money and I have a duty and obligation to put forward the views given to me by the experts I have consulted. If it were not for that, then I would advise the Government to abolish the post of Leader of the Opposition forthwith so that I do not have to come here and listen to the 'mouthings' over there which, with

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all due respect to Your Honour, I would not describe as “scrap and utter nonsense.” Without that respect, however, I would have been tempted to use stronger terms.

But, sir, the position is that these people who have visited Guyana recently have expressed their concern and their worry. Caribbean leaders have expressed views divergent to those concerning the path along which Guyana is going.

2:45 – 2:55p.m.

May I take this opportunity to mention to the hon. Minister of Finance that he did promise this House that the currency restrictions would be reviewed particularly with respect to travel with CARICOM countries. After all, it is impossible for Guyanese to visit their Caribbean brothers and sisters on G\$15. You cannot even cash the \$15.

I would ask that the hon. Minister bring us up-to-date as to what is being done in respect of the review of the financial situation to ease, perhaps, the restrictions even if it is only in respect of travel within the countries to promote Caribbean integration which, as I said, is one of the objects of the P.N.C. The objective, “to work for the closest possible association of Guyana with her Caribbean neighbours”, will be only words unless we have a little bit more than what is printed on the back page of the *New Nation*.

These are some of the things that deeply perturb us when we talk about Caribbean integration institutions. We believe in that but we wonder how genuine the Guyana Government is in the light of its pronouncements and also its actions. Why is it that we have to have the pronouncements, the Russian pattern, in Guyana?

Mrs. DaSilva: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few words to clarify something that my Leader has not, perhaps clearly put across so that we can get the Members on the other side of the House to look into the interest of the citizens of this country. I would want to ask the hon. Minister of Finance, in view of the very many recent cases we have had in the newspapers of people appearing before the Court for breaches of the Exchange Control Regulations – not offering currency to the authorised buyer – and the hon. Minister did...

The Speaker: Hon. Member that has no relevance to the matter we have under consideration.

Mrs. DaSilva: Excuse me, sir, it has to do with CARICOM. I am coming around to that. I am going on to thank the Government for having given people the facilities...

The Speaker: It has nothing to do with charges of carrying currency out of the country.

Mrs. DaSilva: I am merely leading up to the point I want to make and that is to ask the hon. Minister, if Your Honour will permit me...[Interruption]

The Speaker: Please proceed hon. Member.

Mrs. DaSilva: I have not been to Timehri recently but I would like to ask the hon. Minister if there is a notice up for people leaving Guyana and coming to Guyana to know the requirements according to law, that is, to fill in a form to declare the amount of currency they have in order that they can comply with the regulations. There ought to be a notice they can read to let them know that they must declare their currency when they come in, in order that they can take back out what they bring in.

The Speaker: Hon. Minister.

Cde. Hope (replying): Cde. Speaker, I am not sure exactly what I am supposed to respond to. I spoke on a Bill dealing with the Guarantee of State Enterprises, bring in regional institutions in the Act of that Bill. The hon. Members of the Opposition, having spoken for more than half an hour, said nothing about the Bill.

The Speaker: That is not accurate. The hon. Members did support the Bill.

Cde. Hope: I stand corrected, Cde. Speaker. Having reminded me that the hon. Members have supported, there is nothing for me to say except to answer on question which Mrs. DaSilva raised a moment ago related to Exchange Control.

There are facilities at the Timehri Airport for the exchange of Guyana dollars into foreign currency within the limits permitted by law. The bank is there. The bank is required to be open

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for all flights. There might be a flight here or there which the bank will miss, flights which are due at 10 in the night and do not come in until 5 in the morning. I do not think that the hon. Members wish us to impose that kind of duty on the staff, that is, to go there for 10 o'clock and remain there until 6 o'clock the next morning. The fact is that the bank is there and it has facilities to exchange currency within the limits of the law.

With regard to advice when visitors come to the country, they are requested to declare their currency, including cheques and drafts. In fact, they are given a form to fill and they are assisted in the completion of that form which, if done, would ensure that they report all the currency they have brought in. The only currency which would be subject to seizure would be Guyana dollar notes. This is the only currency subject to seizure in excess of \$15. Because the law says that no person is permitted to import or to export Guyana currency beyond a certain amount.

Similarly, on departure, each individual is given a form for completion which form also, if completed favourably, will ensure reports of the currency and drafts and cheques that he is travelling with. So there is no room for doubt and if any person coming into the country has any difficulty, I am sure the Customs Department or the Immigration Department, which ever supervises the completion of the document, is usually willing to assist in its completion.

The hon. Member raised a question as to whether there is any notice. There is no need for a notice. The form is clear. But I have, in fact, instructed the bank – I have not been up to the Airport recently to see what extent it is done – to put a notice on the wall of the airport in the same areas where visitors deplane and enter the Airport and would normally stand awaiting the Immigration and the doctor. This notice is to the effect that the Co-op Bank has an office on the premises to take care of those persons who need to deal in currency.

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These instructions have been issued in order to facilitate travellers but there is no onus to do it and perhaps we are not too sure whether there is the necessity but we have done that in the hope that it will assist. I think that is all I wish to say.

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Bill read a Second time.

Assembly in Committee.

Bill considered and approved.

Assembly resumed.

Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

The Speaker: Cde. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Cde. Ramsaroop: Cde. Speaker, Monday's Order Paper will be circulated. I accordingly move the adjournment to Monday 29th September, 1975 at 2 p.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 2:57 p.m.
