

**THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**[VOLUME 5]**

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE  
CONSTITUTION OF GUYANA**

**15<sup>th</sup> Sitting**

**2.00 p.m.**

**Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1971**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Speaker**

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

**Members of the Government**

**People's National Congress**

**Elected Ministers**

The Hon. L.F.S. Burnham, S.C.,  
Prime Minister

Dr. the Hon. P.A. Reid,  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture

The Hon. M. Kasim, A.A.,  
Minister of Communications

The Hon. H.D. Hoyte, S.C.,  
Minister of Finance

The Hon. W.G. Carrington,  
Minister of Labour and Social Security

The Hon. Miss S.M. Field-Ridley,  
Minister of Education

The Hon. B. Ramsaroop,  
Minister of Housing and Reconstruction (Leader of the House)

The Hon. D.A. Singh,  
Minister of Housing and Reconstruction

The Hon. O.E. Clarke,  
Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon. C.V. Mingo,  
Minister of Local Government

### **Appointed Ministers**

The Hon. S.S. Ramphal, S.C.,  
Attorney-General and Minister of State (Absent)

The Hon. H Green,  
Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply (Absent)

The Hon. H.O. Jack,  
Minister of Mines and Forests

### **Parliamentary Secretaries**

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Absent)

Mr. P. Duncan, J.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. W. Haynes,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. A. Salim,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. J.R. Thomas,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply

## **Other Members**

Mr. J.N. Aaron	
Miss M.M. Ackman, Government Whip	
Mr. K. Bancroft	
Mr. N.J. Bissember	(Absent – on leave)
Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.	
Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue	(Absent)
Mr. E.F. Correia	
Mr. M. Corrica	(Absent)
Mr. E.H.A. Fowler	
Mr. R.J. Jordon	
Mr. S.M. Saffee	
Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman	
Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.	(Absent – on leave)
Mrs. L.E. Willems	

## **Members of the Opposition**

### **People's Progressive Party**

Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition	
Mr. Ram Karran	
Mr. R. Chandisingh	
Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C.	
Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker	(Absent)
Mr. E.M.G. Wilson	(Absent)
Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P. Opposition Whip	
Mr. G.H. Lall, J.P.	
Mr. M.Y. Ally	
Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P.	
Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.	
Mr. R. Ally	
Mr. E.L. Ambrose	
Mrs. L.M. Branco	(Absent – on leave)
Mr. Balchand Persaud	
Mr. Bholu Persaud	
Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.	
Mrs. R.P. Sahoye	(Absent – on leave)
Mr. V. Teekah	
<b>United Force</b>	
Mrs. E. DaSilva	(Absent)
Mr. M.F. Singh	(Absent)
Mr. J.A. Sutton	

**Independent**

Mr. R.E. Cheeks

**OFFICERS**

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

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

**The National Assembly met at 2 p.m.**

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair.]*

**Prayers**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER****Leave to Members**

**Mr. Speaker:** Leave has been granted to the hon. Member Mr. Zaheeruddeen from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1971 and to the hon. Member Mrs. Branco from today's Sitting.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS**

The following Papers were laid:

(1) (a) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1971 (No. 35), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, 1971, and published in the Gazette on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, 1971.

(b) Ninth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Guyana Electricity Corporation for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1963. [**The Minister of Trade (Leader of the House) on behalf of the Minister of Finance.**]

(2) Annual Report of the Geological Survey Department for the year 1970. [**The Minister of Mines and Forests.**]

**QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS****EX-GRATIA PAYMENT IN RESPECT TO THE LATE PAULINE GREAVES**

**Mr. Ram Karran:** Sir, I wish to ask the hon. Minister of Health the following question standing in my name:

Will the Minister say whether consideration is being given to the payment of compensation or an ex-gratia award to the children of the late Pauline Greaves of Campbellville who died as a result of the administration of an antitetanus injection at the Public Hospital, Georgetown?

If so, how soon will payment be made?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister.

**The Minister of Health (Dr. Talbot):** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Question I should like to say that consideration is being given to the making of an ex-gratia payment in respect of the death of the late Pauline Greaves. The payment will be effected as soon as all relevant details have been settled.

**Mr. Ram Karran:** Supplementary Question. Is the hon. Minister aware that the death of this woman occurred more than two years ago?

**Dr. Talbot:** The death occurred more than two years – many years ago – but representation was not made until September, 1969.

**Mr. Ram Karran:** Is the hon. Minister referring to representations made in this House?

*[The hon. Minister offered no reply.]*

**Mr. Ram Karran:** Can I repeat? Is the hon. Minister referring to representations made in the House or representations made by the relatives?

**Dr. Talbot:** Several representations were made in September 1969.

**Mr. Ram Karran:** Does the hon. Minister regard the number of years past a reasonable period for consideration to be made for some award.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran the last sentence of the reply by the hon. Minister says that payment will be effected as soon as all relevant details have been settled.

### URGENT QUESTION

**Mr. R.D. Persaud:** I should like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture a question. Under Standing Order 16 (1) I have the authority to do so. Standing Order 16 (1) states and I quote:

“A question shall not be asked without notice, unless it is of an urgent character and relates to the business of the day, and the Member has obtained the leave of the Speaker to ask it.”

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Member Mr. Persaud, Standing Order 16 (1), the very rule that you are reading says that “A question shall not be asked without notice unless it is of an urgent character or relates to the business of the day, and the Member has obtained the leave of the Speaker.” The important words here I should like to stress are “relates to the business of the day”.

**Mr. R.D. Persaud:** I am seeking your permission now.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Member Mr. Persaud, I am informed that we have no specific rules here for such provision and with a case such as this we fall back on the procedure as obtained in the Parliament in England. The procedure there is that at least some notification ought to have been given to me as well as out of courtesy to the Minister. In those circumstances I will not permit you to raise the question.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON  
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA**

**The Leader of the Opposition (Dr. Jagan):** Mr. Speaker, I have brought to your attention to a matter of grave importance and great urgency with respect to the intake of students for the forthcoming year at the University of Guyana and I hope at the appropriate time, with your leave, to discuss this matter this afternoon.

**Mr. Speaker:** In my opinion the matter is not one of urgency and in addition to that the House is asked to suspend its Standing Orders to permit this. May I quote what is put here?

“It has been learnt that no financial provision has been made for the University of Guyana’s academic year...”

May I inform you that Estimates were passed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1970 and approved - \$1 million, as well as a supplementary which was passed on the 15<sup>th</sup> June, 1971 for \$800,000? In addition to that, it has been held in the House of Parliament in England that eight days would not

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be a matter of urgency. Here we are on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July in connection with a matter raised in October.

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In those circumstances, I regret I do not think the matter is one of urgency.

**Dr. Jagan:** The amount you mention as voted provision for the University is, we understand, for the school year 1970 – 1971, which comes to an end this term, and the intake of students will be in the vicinity of 150. We understand that 600 students are eligible for entry. No provision is made for that. That is what I am talking about.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS – FIRST READING

The following Bill was introduced and read the First time:

Bauxite Nationalisation (Modification) Bill, 1971. [**The Minister of Mines and Forests.**]

### PUBLIC BUSINESS

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER No. 46 (2) and (3)

**The Minister of Mines and Forests (Mr. Jack):** I move the suspension of paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order No. 46 to enable this item to be dealt with at this Sitting.

**Dr. Jagan:** I wish to make an observation of this request. I wish to raise an objection on principle. This House is constantly being called upon to suspend the Standing Orders on matters such as this. We have said over and over again, we are disposed to granting the periodic request, but this is becoming a regular practice. Last night my colleagues were meeting to discuss this matter. I had in my office a whole pile of the Notices and Bills from the Clerk. They were not dispatched to Members. I do not think this is the way this should be done. Surely, the Government should have been in a position to say that the House will be meeting today and that this Bill would be taken, and the Bill would have been sent out early.

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**Mr. Speaker:** This refers only to the country members of the party. Not to those who reside in Greater Georgetown.

**Dr. Jagan:** The greater number of our members belong to outside of Georgetown and this refers to all our Members of this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Jagan, are you finished?

*Question put, and agreed to.*

*Standing Order 46 (2) and (3) suspended.*

### **BILL – SECOND AND THIRD READINGS**

#### **BAUXITE NATIONALISATION (MODIFICATION) BILL**

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to make certain modifications to the Bauxite Nationalisation Act, 1971, consequent on the incorporation of the Guyana Bauxite Company, Limited. [**The Minister of Mines and Forests.**]

**The Minister of Mines and Forests (Mr. Jack):** Section 10 of the Bauxite Nationalisation Act, 1971, makes provision for the Guyana Development Corporation to be deemed to be the employer of existing employees of any bauxite undertaking which is nationalised pursuant to the provisions of the Act. With the incorporation of the Guyana Bauxite Company, Limited, and its identification as the entity to carry on any bauxite undertaking which has been nationalised, it is necessary that section 10 of the Bauxite Nationalisation Act, 1971, should be modified accordingly.

This is a very simple Bill and it is really intended to ensure that there is absolutely no confusion on the minds of the workers at the time of vesting. I move the Second Reading of the Bill.

*Question proposed, put, and agreed to.*

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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.*

### ADJOURNMENT

**The Minister of Trade (Leader of the House Mr. Ramsaroop):** Your Honour, I respectfully move the Adjournment of the House to Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 1971, at 2 p.m.

**Mr. Ram Karran:** The hon. Leader of the House is aware that arrangements are being made for the Public Accounts Committee to meet on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> July. Having regard to that, how can he come here and suggest that we meet here on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> July? I do not think he is serious.

**The Prime Minister (Mr. Burnham):** It is normal for the Public Accounts Committee to meet in the morning. If the hon. Member does not know, it is his fault, that by tradition, the House takes priority over all Committees and they must adjust themselves to the convenience of the House. If he wants to get out of this Committee, let him say so. I have been a member of the Public Accounts Committee over and over again and the meetings have always been held in the morning.

**Mr. Ram Karran:** The hon. Prime Minister is quite incorrect. During the time since the Opposition has been in the Public Accounts Committee, and the Clerk will confirm that, all the

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meetings have been held on Wednesday at 2 o'clock because of the assurance by the Clerk that members' motions are likely to be taken on that day.

At a meeting of our members on the Public Accounts Committee with the hon. Leader of the House and the Clerk, it was agreed that the Public Accounts Committee should meet on Monday. I think Your Honour was also approached on this matter.

**2.25 p.m.**

Having agreed to Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> I cannot see how hon. Members of the House can come here and suggest that we meet on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the House.

**Resolved,** "That this Assembly do now adjourn until Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1971 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon." [**Mr. Ramsaroop.**]

*Adjourned accordingly at 2.30 p.m.*

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