

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORTS

/Volume 11/

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSION (1986) OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA.

1st Sitting

14:00 hrs Monday, 1986-02-03

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker (1)

*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P.

Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government – People’s National Congress (61)

Ministers in the Cabinet (10)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H. Green, M.P.,

Prime Minister

Other Vice-President and First Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P.

Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister
and Attorney General

Other Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister (2)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P.,

Vice-President, National Mobilisation,
and Deputy Prime Minister

Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P.,

Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture
Deputy Prime Minister

Other Deputy Prime Minister (2)

Cde. W.A.L.H Parris, C.C.H., M.P.,

Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and
Development

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P.

Deputy Prime Minister, Agriculture

Senior Ministers (4)

Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P.

Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent)

*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P.

Minister of Finance

*Cde. S. Prashad, M.P.,

Minister of Transport

*Cde. W.S. Murray, C.CH., M.P. (Absent- on leave)

Minister of Trade

Other Ministers (11)

*Non-elected Member

Senior Ministers (3)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.,
Ministry of Manpower, Housing and Environment
Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West Charles, M.P., (Absent – on leave)
Minister of Health
Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Ben, M.P.,
Minister of Information and the Public Service

Ministers (4)

Cde. Urmia. E.H. Johnson, M.P.
Minister within the Ministry of National Mobilization (Absent – on leave)
*Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P.
Minister of Youth and Sport within the Ministry of Education
Cde. C.G. Sharma, .A.A., J.P., M.P.,
Minister within the Office of the President.
*Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P.
Minister within the Ministry of Education

Ministers of State (4)

*Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of
Manpower, Housing and Environment
Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of Agriculture
Cde. D. Sawh, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of Forestry.
*Cde. Faith A. Harding, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of Planning
and Development

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

Cde. A.K. Habibulla, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the President
Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Home Affairs
*Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Education

Government Chief Whip (1)

Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P.,
Government Chief Whip

Other Members (24)

Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.
Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton, M.P.
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad-Raman, M.P.
Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
Cde. Amna Ally, M.P.
Cde. L. Arthur, M.P.
Cde. J.A.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
Cde. G.W. Chin, J.P., M.P.
Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.

Cde. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P.
Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
Cde. B. Persaud, M.P.
Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

Cde. E. Mohamed, M.P.
Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroun/Supenaam)
Cde. Enid E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo
Islands/West Demerara)
Cde. I. Ally, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. Patricia A. Daniel, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/
Berbice)
Cde. B.L. Domingo, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper
Essequibo)

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P.,
Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P.,
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (6)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.,
Minority Chief Whip
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A.

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. M.B. Henry

14:00 hrs

PROCLAMATION SUMMONING THE SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

The Clerk: Comrades and hon. Members, it is now 2 O'clock and it is time for ... this Session of Parliament to commence in accordance with a Proclamation which was made by the President and which I will now read.

"PROCLAMATION

GUYANA
Sead No. 6 of 1986

No. 2 of 1986
By the President of the Co-operative
Republic of Guyana

H.D. Hoyte,
President

WHEREAS by Proclamation dated 30th October, 1985, issued under article 70(2) of the Constitution, the Fourth Parliament of Guyana was dissolved on 31st October, 1985;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by article 69(1) of the Constitution that each session of Parliament shall be held at such place within Guyana and shall begin at such time, not being later than four months from the end of the preceding session if Parliament has been dissolved, as the President shall appoint by proclamation:

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of article 69(1) of the Constitution, I do hereby appoint the Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Georgetown, Guyana, as the place where a session of the Fifth Parliament shall be held as aforesaid and 2 o'clock in the afternoon on 3rd day of February, 1986, as the time when such session shall begin.

Given under my hand and the Seal of
Guyana, at the Office of the President
Georgetown, Guyana, this 7th day
of January, 1986, and in the
sixteenth year of the Republic.

By the President's Command

(Sgd.) B.W. Vigilance
for Head of the Presidential Secretariat

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

The Clerk: I will now call the names of those persons who have become Members of the National Assembly. Will Members please stand as their names are called.

Members who were elected following the elections on 9th December, 1985, and whose names were announced by the Elections Commission on 24th December, 1985:

PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (42)

Hamilton Green
Amna Ally
Mohamed Ally
Lennox Arthur
Agnes Bend-Kirton-Holder
Bissoondai Beniprashad
James Bovell-Drakes
Viola Burnham
Neville Calistro
Ranji Chandisingh
Ginewing Chin
Robert Corbin

Mortimer Cumberbatch
 Elaine Davidson
 Mohamed Idris Dean
 Cyricula De Jesus
 Edith Deygo
 Harry Doobay
 Clarice Edwards
 Jennifer Ferreira
 Eugene H.A. Fowler
 Claude L. Geldes
 Joyce Gill
 Azamudeen K. Habibulla
 Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn
 Rashleigh Jackson
 Urmia Johnson
 Jailall Kissoon
 George Marshall
 Edwina Melville
 Joyce M. Munroe
 Stella Odie-Ali
 William H. Parris
 Basil Persaud
 Seeram Prashad
 Mohamed Shahabuddeen
 Gowkarran C. Sharma
 Dharamdeo Sawh
 Jeffrey Thomas
 Enerva Trotman
 Robert E. Williams
 Richard Van-West Charles

PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (8)

Cheddi Jagan
 Janet Jagan
 Reepu Daman Persaud
 Sheik Feroze Mohamed
 Clinton Collymore
 Harripersaud Nokta
 Isahak Basir
 Cyril Belgrave

UNITED FORCE (2)

Michael Anthony Abraham
 Marcellus Fielden Singh

WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (1)

Eusi Kwayana

As their names were called, the Members answered, with the exception of the following, who were absent at the time of the call:

Cde. Richard Van-West Charles
 Cde. Janet Jagan
 Eusi Kwayana

The Clerk: Persons who were elected by the Regional Democratic Councils on 10th January, 1986:

Basil Domingo
 Yusuf Khan
 Ebid Abrahams
 Rudy Bishop
 Bhagmatee Latchminarayan
 Inchan Ally
 Nellie Charles

Stanley McGarrell
Magnus Stephens
Patricia Daniel

As their names were called, the Members answered.

The Clerk: Persons who were elected by the National Congress of Local

Democratic Organs on 10th January, 1986:

Rose Semple
Esau Mohamed

As their names were called, the Members answered.

The Clerk: Persons who are not elected Members of the National Assembly, who have been appointed as Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries and whose appointments were announced:

Carl Greenidge
Roy Fredericks
Donald Ainsworth
Winston Murray
Deryck Bernard
Faith Harding
Jean Persico

As their names were called, the Members answered with the exception of Cde. Winston Murray who was absent at the time of the call:

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk: Members of the National Assembly, your first duty is to elect a person to be a Speaker of the National Assembly. I therefore accordingly invite nominations.

The Prime Minister (Cde. Green): I wish to nominate Cde. Sase Narain to be ~~Speaker~~ Speaker of the National Assembly.

Mr. Feilden Singh: Seconded.

The Clerk: Comrades, and Hon. Members, there is one nomination. Cde. Sase Narain has been nominated by the Prime Minister, Cde. Hamilton Green and the nomination has been seconded by Mr. Feilden Singh. There being no other nominations, I, in accordance with the Standing Orders, declare Cde. Sase Narain to be Speaker of the National Assembly. Applause.

The Clerk contd.]

I will now invite the Proposer and Secunder of Cde. Sase Narain to escort him to the Chair.

The Prime Minister and Mr. Feilden Singh, escorted the Speaker to

to the chair.]

The Speaker in the Chair:]

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Speaker: Comrades and hon. Members, the National Assembly's immediate duty is to elect a Member of the Assembly to be the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. I therefore invite nominations accordingly.

The Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General (Cde. Dr. Shahabuddeen): Cde. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to nominate my good friend Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud for election as Deputy Speaker of this honourable Assembly.

Mr. M.F. Singh: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to second that nomination. He may not be a lawyer but I think he knows more about Parliamentary procedure than a lot of people in this Assembly.

The Speaker: Comrades and hon. Members, Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud has been nominated by Cde. Shahabuddeen and the nomination has been seconded by Mr. Feilden Singh. There being no other nominations, I declare Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud to be duly elected as the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. Applause

OATHS

The Speaker: Before we can take part in the further proceedings of the National Assembly, we will have to make and subscribe the Oath which will now be administered by the Clerk of the National Assembly, first to the Speaker, then to the Deputy Speaker, and then to the other Members. Cde. Clerk, please proceed.

The oath of office was administered to and made and subscribed by the following members:

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Deputy Speaker
 Cde. H.Green, M.P., Prime Minister
 Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice President,
 First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General
 Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Vice-President, National
 Mobilisation, and Deputy Prime Minister
 Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P., Vice-President, Education
 and Social Development, and Deputy Prime Minister
 Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister,
 Planning and Development
 Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Agriculture
 Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance
 Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Transport
 Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Manpower, Housing and Environment
 Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister of Information and the
 Public Service

Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of
 National Mobilisation
 Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of Youth and Sport
 within the Ministry of Education
 Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister within the
 Office of the President
 Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Education
 Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry
 of Manpower, Housing and Environment
 Cde. J.T. Kisson, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry
 of Agriculture
 Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of
 Forestry
 Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of State within the
 Ministry of Planning and Development
 Cde. A.K. Habibulla, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of
 the President
 Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Home Affairs
 Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Education
 Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P., Government Chief Whip
 Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.
 Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P.
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
 Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad-Rayman, M.P.
 Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
 Cde. Amna Ally, M.P.
 Cde. L. Arthur, M.P.
 Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
 Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
 Cde. G.W. Chin, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. M. Cumberbatch, M.P.
 Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.
 Cde. Cyrilda A. De Jesus, M.P.
 Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
 Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
 Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P.
 Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
 Cde. B. Persaud, M.P.
 Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.
 Cde. E. Mohamed, M.P.
 Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P.
 Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P.
 Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P.
 Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P.
 Cde. Y. Khan, M.P.
 Cde. Enid E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P.
 Cde. I. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. Patricia Daniel, M.P.
 Cde. B.L. Domingo, M.P.
 Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P.
 Cde. M. Stephens, M.P.
 Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.
 Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
 Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
 Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.
 Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

⁶
 Absent - Cdes. W.S. Murray, Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles and Janet Jagan⁷

The Speaker: Comrades and hon. Members, now that we are properly and fully qualified, we can proceed with our other business on the Order Paper, which we will begin with Prayers.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the following Prayer:

"Almighty God, we, who are here gathered together, do most humbly beseech Thee to guide us in all our consultations, so that we may together build a land where knowledge is free, where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, and where words come from the depth of truth.

Grant us, O God, Thine aid and guidance, so that we may deal justly with the several causes that come before us, laying aside all private interests, prejudices and personal preferences, so that the result of our counsels may be to the glory of Thy Blessed Name, the maintenance of true religion, the preservation of justice, the safety, honour and happiness of the President and the peace and prosperity of Guyana.

Grant us, O God, the vision so to lead, that all the people of this fair land may enter into that state of brotherhood and unity, where the mind is led forward by Thee into everwidening thought and action."

REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker: Comrades and hon. Members, before we proceed with the further business on the Order Paper, I would like to take advantage of this first opportunity to extend to you my most sincere thanks for electing me to preside over these proceedings. It is indeed a very great honour which you have continued to confer upon me. My grateful thanks I also give to the proposer and seconder of my nomination.

When the Members of the last National Assembly met in the Supreme Congress on the 30th of October, 1985, we were informed by the President that Parliament would be dissolved on the following day and that the general and regional elections would be held on the 9th December, 1985. Those of us who were there at the time not only bade farewell to each other, but we extended good wishes for success in returning.

Following the results of the elections, 31 of the former Members have not been successful in coming back and we have 32 new Members. I would like to place on record my thanks to the last Assembly for the assistance and co-operation given to me. I also extend best wishes to those who have failed to return. I would like to pay a special tribute to my Deputy in the last Parliament who is no other than

Cde. Ram Karran. As we may all know, Cde. Ram Karran first became a Parliamentarian in 1953, that is just over 32 years ago. He has given long and dedicated Parliamentary service and I know that we will all miss him. We wish him good health in his retirement.

I am happy to see 40 of the former Members here again with us and I welcome them back. I also extend a special welcome to the 32 new Members among whom is one who first became and served as a Parliamentarian during 1953 and who has now returned again to Parliament. We welcome him back too. I extend congratulations to all of you upon your becoming Members of the National Assembly. I also wish to congratulate Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud on his election as Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

This is the fourth time that I have been elected to be the Speaker of the National Assembly and my service in the Chair to date spans a period of 15 years. The experience which I have gained during these years has served me in good stead and has enabled me to note the many problemmatical areas in our proceedings and in our procedures. This experience will also enable me to serve you better.

I agree that there is need for improvement in certain areas. We have made a beginning with the Chamber and the adjoining rooms themselves. There have been general repairs, refurbishing, and re-painting and these have been from the roof, to the ceiling, to the floor. The slate on the badly leaking roof has been removed and replaced with zinc. The ceiling has been repaired and re-painted. The walls have all been cleaned and polished or painted. All the furniture here have been cleaned and re-polished. Accommodation for the Minority Members has been increased and improved with the provision of new and longer tables. Very much work to brighten our Chamber has been done since the dissolution of the last Parliament. I would like to record our thanks to the Government and also to the Prime Minister for arranging for the carrying out of the works. The Ministry of Works carried out the tasks but a great deal of the work was done by private contractors. I would therefore like to record my thanks to the Permanent Secretary and to the officials of the Ministry of Works for the great assistance which they gave. I would also like to thank the contractors and their various workers and also the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the other staff of the

Parliament Office for their assistance and co-operation in the exercise.

Another area of concern is the manner in which Members of Parliament dress for attendance at Sittings of the National Assembly. It is felt that there is need for improvement and steps are already being taken in this respect.

The behaviour of Members during Sittings has been another area of concern. Members must act with decorum and conduct themselves in a fit and proper manner. At this point I would like to quote the relevant Standing Order which states that a Member present in the Assembly during a debate -

- (a) shall enter or leave the Assembly with decorum;
- (b) shall not read books, newspapers, letters or other documents save such as relate to the business before the Assembly;
- (c) shall maintain silence while another Member is speaking, and shall not interrupt, except in accordance with these Standing Orders; and
- (d) shall otherwise conduct himself in a fit and proper manner.

It is my hope that this Assembly would function more efficiently and more effectively.

There are a few matters to which I would specially like to refer. These deal with the suspension of the Standing Orders, motions for the adjournment of the Assembly, the disposal of motions and questions submitted, and the contents of speeches. While provision exists for the suspension of the Standing Orders, these, in my opinion should be suspended only when absolutely necessary.

Matters which Members seek to discuss on motions for the adjournment of the Assembly must properly qualify for such discussion. They must be definite, they must be urgent and they must be of public importance and it is the Speaker who has been given the responsibility under the Standing Orders of being satisfied that matters qualify for discussion. If a matter does not qualify, the Speaker has no alternative but to refuse the claim.

Motions and questions submitted for debate and answers, respectively, have too often not been dealt with. The Speaker, according to our long established practice dating back to the fifties and the sixties, does not have the authority to place motions and questions on the Order Paper. This has always been the

responsibility of the Government. It is my hope that in this new Assembly motions and questions would be dealt with and disposed of.

On the question of the contents of speeches, Members must remember that they are required to confine their observations to the subject under discussion and that their remarks must be relevant to the matter and that repetition either of their own or of other Members remarks is out of order and cannot be allowed. Certain sections of the media seem to take great pride in attempting to say the Speaker disallows Members from speaking. Under Standing Order 32, Rule 9, it is stated that no Member shall be allowed to speak for more than thirty minutes. The rules so provide and that is what the Speaker enforces. It is my earnest hope that in this new Parliament we will work together in co-operation and that whatever bills or resolutions we pass would be for the betterment of the people of Guyana.

Comrades and hon. Members, I seek your co-operation in the performance of my duties and once again I thank you for electing me to be the Speaker of the National Assembly. /Applause/

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Appointments

The Speaker: I would like for the record to announce the various ministerial and other offices to which Members of the National Assembly have been appointed.

Cde. Hamilton Green has been appointed Prime Minister with effect from 13th December, 1985.

As Prime Minister, Cde. Green is , in accordance with the Constitution, the leader of Government business in the National Assembly.

Cde. Dr. Mohamed Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., has been appointed Vice-President and Attorney General, and designated Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Ranji Chandisingh has been appointed a Vice-President, and designated Vice-President, National Mobilisation, and Deputy Prime Minister, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., has been appointed a Vice-President, and designated Vice-President, Education and Social Development, and Deputy Prime Minister, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. W.A.L. Easlyn Parris, C.C.H., has been appointed a Senior Minister and Member of the Cabinet, and designated Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Robert H.O. Corbin has been appointed a Senior Minister and Member of the Cabinet, and designated Deputy Prime Minister, Agriculture, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Rashleigh E. Jackson has been appointed a Senior Minister and Member of the Cabinet, and designated Minister of Foreign Affairs, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Carl B. Greenidge has been appointed a Senior Minister and Member of the Cabinet, and designated Minister of Finance, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Seeram Prashad has been appointed a Senior Minister and Member of the Cabinet, and designated Minister of Transport, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., has been appointed a Senior Minister and Member of the Cabinet, and designated Minister of Trade, with effect from 27th December, 1985.

Cde. Jeffrey R. Thomas has been appointed a Senior Minister, and designated Minister of Manpower, Housing and Environment, with effect from 13th December, 1985. Cde. Thomas was the Minister assigned responsibility for matters relating to the business of Government in Parliament.

Cde. Dr. Richard A. Van West-Charles has been appointed a Senior Minister, and designated Minister of Health, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn has been appointed a Senior Minister, and designated Minister of Information and the Public Service, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson has been appointed a Minister, and designated Minister within the Ministry of National Mobilisation, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Roy C. Fredericks, A.A., has been appointed a Minister, and designated Minister of Youth and Sport within the Ministry of Education, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. C. Gowkarran Sharma, A.A., has been appointed a Minister, and designated Minister within the Office of the President, with effect from 28th December, 1985.

Cde. Deryck M.A. Bernard has been appointed a Minister, and designated Minister within the Ministry of Education, with effect from 28th December, 1985.

Cde. Donald A.N. Ainsworth has been appointed a Minister of State, and designated Minister of State within the Ministry of Manpower, Housing and Environment, with effect from 13th December, 1985.

Cde. Jailall T. Kissoon has been appointed a Minister of State, and designated Minister of State within the Ministry of Agriculture, with effect from 27th December, 1985.

Cde. Dharamdeo Sawh has been appointed a Minister of State and designated Minister of State within the Ministry of Forestry, with effect from 28th December, 1985.

Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding has been appointed a Minister of State, and designated Minister of State within the Ministry of Planning and Development, with effect from 28th December, 1985.

Cde. Dr. Cheddi Jagan continues to be and to hold the Office of Minority Leader.

Cde. Azamudeen K. Habibulla has been appointed a Parliamentary Secretary, and designated Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the President, with effect from 28th December, 1985.

Cde. Stella Odie-Ali has been appointed a Parliamentary Secretary, and designated Parliamentary Secretary, Home Affairs, with effect from 28th December, 1985.

Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., has been appointed a Parliamentary Secretary, and designated Parliamentary Secretary, Education, with effect from 28th December, 1985.

Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira has been appointed Government Chief Whip, with effect from 1st January, 1986.

I have not yet been furnished by the Minority with the name of the Member who will function as Minority Chief Whip.

I extend my congratulations and best wishes to all of you on your respective appointments and assignments.

15:20 hrsLEAVE

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to Cde. Murray from today's sitting and until 14th February and Cde. Van West Charles until the end of this week.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following Bills were introduced and read the First time.

- (1) Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Bill 1986 - Bill No 1/1986
∟ The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development/.
- (2) Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 1986 - Bill No 2/1986.
∟ The Minister of Finance/.

PUBLIC BUSINESSAPPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

The Speaker: The Assembly will now nominate members to form the Committee of Selection and I invite nominations accordingly.

Cde. Thomas: Cde. Speaker, I beg to nominate the following members to be members of the Committee of Selection:

Cde. Beniprashad-Rayman
 Cde. J. Bovell-Drakes
 Cde. G.W. Chin
 Cde. J. Ferreira
 Cde. Habibulla
 Cde. S. Prashad
 Cde. G. Sharma
 Cde. J. Thomas
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud
 Cde. F. Mohamed

Cde. Collymore: Cde. Speaker, I beg to second it.

The Speaker: Cdes. S. Prashad, J. Thomas, G. Sharma, A. Habibulla, Cde. J. Ferreira, Cde. Beniprashad-Rayman, J. Bovell-Drakes, G. Chin, Reepu Daman Persaud and F. Mohamed have been nominated and seconded to be members of the Committee of Selection. I now declare those Comrades that I have just mentioned to be duly nominated by the Assembly as members of the Committee of Selection. Comrades and honourable members, this concludes our business for today. Cde. Leader of the House.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, "That this Assembly do now adjourn until Tuesday 4th February at 5.00 p.m. ∟ The Minister of Housing, Manpower and Environment/.

Adjourned accordingly at 15:28 hrs