

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1977

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 120th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

WEDNESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 1977

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (50)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P., Prime Minister
(Absent - on leave)

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (9)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development
(Absent - on leave)

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

Ministers (5)

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

Ministers of State (9)

- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., M.P., Minister of State for Agriculture
- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent - on leave)

- Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi) (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- * Cde. W. Haynes, M.P., Minister of State for Consumer Protection (Absent - on leave)
- * Cde. A. Salim, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (6)

- Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Development (Absent)
- Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Government Chief Whip
- Cde. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Social Development
- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing (Absent)

Other Members (19)

- Cde. L.M. Branco, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
- Cde. S. Jaiserrisingh, M.P.
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. M. Nissar, M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye, M.P.
- Cde. J.G. Ramsom, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P., M.P.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., M.P.

Members of the Opposition (16)

(1) People's Progressive Party (14)

Leader of the Opposition (1)

- Cde. C. Jagan, M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent - on leave)

Deputy Speaker (1)

- Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip
 Cde. N. Persaud, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.
 Cde. L. Lalbahadur, M.P.
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Cde. R. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Dindayal, M.P.
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.
 Mrs. E. Da Silva, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain)
 Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (A. Knight)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Cde. Burnham for one month from 24th January, 1977,
- (ii) Cdes. Reid and Hoyte for that sitting,
- (iii) Cde. King from 15th to 27th February, 1977, and
- (iv) Cdes. Baird, Haynes, C. Jagan, Basir and Nokta, for that sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Speaker (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Committee of Selection, held on Friday, 21st January, 1977.

(PARL: 5/5 VI)(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the Prime Minister

Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Guyana Telecommunication Corporation for the year ended 31st December, 1974.

(GSC: 9/404/2)(Circulated)

- (3) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources:

Report on the working of the Miners Assistance Fund for the period 29th May to 31st December, 1975.

(MAF: 5)(Circulated)

- (4) By the Minister of Finance:

Inter-American Development Bank (Amendment of Agreement) Order 1977, made under section 7 of the Inter-American Development Bank Act, 1976 (No. 11), on the 27th of January, 1977, and published in the Gazette on the 29th of January, 1977.

(TJ I.A.D.B.)(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Question No. 8

Cde. Dindayal asked the Minister of Works and Housing the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister of Works and Housing say whether Cde. Ralph Van Sluytman, M.P., who has since 1968 been occupying a Government building which was supposed to house a doctor at Charity, is paying rent or not?

The Minister of Works and Housing gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The building in question at Charity was not earmarked for a doctor's quarters, and it was not occupied by Cde. Van Sluytman in 1968.

Cde. Van Sluytman occupied the house in 1970 and he pays a rent for the house.

A Supplementary Question was asked by Cde. Dindayal.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) SAINT PETER'S TEMPLE (INCORPORATION OF TRUSTEES) BILL 1977 - Bill No. 1/1977 published 8.1.77/ 15.1.77 and 22.1.77

On a motion by Cde. Fowler, seconded by Cde. Jaiserrisingh, the following Private Bill was withdrawn.

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SAINT PETER'S TEMPLE IN GUYANA AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

(2) SHOPS (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 - Bill No. 3/1977 published 5.2.77

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Labour, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE SHOPS (CONSOLIDATION) ACT.

(3) HOUSING OF LABOUR WORKERS ON SUGAR ESTATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 - Bill No. 4/1977 published 5.2.77.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Labour, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE HOUSING OF LABOUR WORKERS ON SUGAR ESTATES ACT.

(4) SUGAR INDUSTRY SPECIAL FUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1977 - Bill No. 5/1977 published 5.2.77

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Prime Minister, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE SUGAR INDUSTRY SPECIAL FUNDS ACT.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - RECOMMENDING RATIFICATION OF AN ACCESSION TO INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS AND CONVENTIONS

On a motion by Cde. Reapu Daman Persaud, seconded by Cde. Ally, the following motion was deferred at that sitting:

WHEREAS, as of June 1976, Guyana had not ratified or acceded to -

- (a) the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which came into force on January 3, 1976;
- (b) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which came into force on March 23, 1976, and
- (c) the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which had been adopted by the General Assembly on December 21, 1965 and entered into force on January 4, 1969;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that Guyana should ratify and be signatory to these important documents.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly urges the Government to ratify and accede to the Covenants and Conventions as early as possible.

ITEM 2 - GUARANTEE OF LOAN FROM CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO LIAT (1974)

On a motion by the Minister of Finance the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

WHEREAS Leeward Islands Air Transport Limited (1974) (otherwise known as Liat (1974)) is a Company incorporated in Antigua, the shareholders being the Governments of the territories of the Caribbean Community with Guyana holding 6.06094 per cent of the equity in the issued share capital of the Company;

AND WHEREAS Liat (1974) requires moneys to repay the sum of five million, eight hundred and forty-three thousand, two hundred and seventy United States dollars (U.S. \$5,843,270) to the Industrial Bank of Venezuela representing the proceeds of a loan by that Bank to Liat(1974);

AND WHEREAS by virtue of the Caribbean Development Bank having indicated its willingness to make available to Liat (1974) by way of a loan the sum of five million, five hundred and nine thousand, six hundred and forty United States dollars (U.S. \$5,509,640) for the purpose of effecting repayment to the Industrial Bank of Venezuela, subject to a guarantee being given by Guyana to Liat (1974), this National Assembly by Resolution No. LXXVII on 5th December, 1975, authorised a guarantee being given by Guyana to the Caribbean Development Bank in the sum of one hundred and ninety-two thousand, eight hundred and thirty-seven United States dollars (U.S. \$192,837) in accordance with the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974;

AND WHEREAS the Caribbean Development Bank has indicated its willingness to make further available the additional sum of three hundred and thirty-three thousand, six hundred and thirty United States dollars (U.S. \$333,630) to complement the aforementioned sum of five million, five hundred and nine thousand, six hundred and forty United States dollars (U.S. \$5,509,640) for the similar purpose of the repayment to the Industrial Bank of Venezuela, subject to a guarantee being given by Guyana in the sum of fifty-five thousand, and seventy-three United States dollars (U.S. \$55,073);

AND WHEREAS the Caribbean Development Bank and Liat (1974) are a lending agency and a regional institution, respectively, within the meaning of the state Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly authorises the Minister of Finance or such other person duly authorised by him, acting on behalf of the Government of Guyana, to give a guarantee for the aforesaid purpose in accordance with the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act 1974, to the Caribbean Development Bank in the sum of fifty-five thousand and seventy-three United States dollars (U.S. \$55,073).

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.20 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

S. Narain
22.2.77.
S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
22nd February, 1977.