

FOURTH SESSION

1972 - 1973

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 31st Sitting of the National Assembly under the Constitution of Guyana, held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 28TH MAY, 1973

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (37)

Elected Ministers (12)

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister  
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture  
The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture  
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Works and Communications  
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and Social Security  
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information, Culture and Youth  
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House  
The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Health  
The Honourable D.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs  
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of State for the Public Service  
The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of Co-operatives and Community Development  
The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of Local Government

Appointed Ministers (7)

The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General  
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Public Affairs (Absent)  
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Mines and Forests  
The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education  
The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance and Trade  
Dr. the Honourable K.F.S. King, Minister of Economic Development  
The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Housing and Reconstruction

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Trade  
 Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Development and Agriculture  
 Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth  
 Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Communications

Other Members (14)

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

Members of the Opposition (23)People's Progressive Party (15)

- Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition  
 Mr. Ram Karran  
 Mr. R. Chandisingh  
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker  
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson  
 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. Balchand Persaud  
 Mr. R. Ally  
 Mr. Bholu Persaud  
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.  
 Mr. V. Teekah

United Force (3)

- Mr. M.F. Singh (Absent - on leave)  
 Mrs. E. DaSilva  
 Mr. J.A. Sutton

Independents (5)

- Mr. R.E. Cheeks  
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose  
 Mrs. L.M. Branco  
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.  
 Mr. L.A. Durant

OFFICERS

- Mr. F.A. Narain, Clerk of the National Assembly  
 Mr. M.B. Henry, AMBIM, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. M.F. Singh for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Minister of Finance and Trade:

- (a) State Pension Order 1973 (No. 46), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act 1971 (No. 24), on the 15th of May, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 26th of May, 1973.

(F. 5/1)(Circulated)

- (b) Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices)(Designation) Order 1973 (No. 47), made under section 2 of the Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) Act 1969 (No. 30), on the 15th of May, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 26th of May, 1973.

(F. 5/1)(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERSBy the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister, in a statement placed on record in the Assembly the information he had already conveyed directly to the people of Guyana in his broadcast on the morning of Saturday, 26th May, 1973, the seventh anniversary of Independence, that it was his intention to advise His Excellency the President that the National Assembly should be dissolved on 6th June, 1973, and that a General Election of Members of the Assembly be held on Monday, 16th July, 1973.

The Prime Minister presented to the Assembly the text of the broadcast which he had made.

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

The Leader of the Opposition sought leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing the availability of the Registration and Voters Lists.

His Honour the Speaker did not allow the claim as he was satisfied that an ordinary parliamentary opportunity would occur shortly during consideration of the Representation of the People (Adaptation and Modification of Laws) Bill 1973, when the matter could be raised.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First ReadingREPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (ADAPTATION AND MODIFICATION OF LAWS) BILL 1973 - Bill No. 9/1973 published 26.5.73

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 73 THEREOF FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE AGE OF MAJORITY FOR ELECTORAL AND OTHER PURPOSES AND FOR DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF MINISTERS WHO MAY BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG PERSONS WHO ARE NOT ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY; AND TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ADAPTATION AND MODIFICATION OF LAWS RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, FOR REDUCING THE AGE OF MAJORITY GENERALLY, AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

PUBLIC BUSINESSBILLS - Second ReadingITEM 1 - GUYANA TIMBER EXPORT BOARD BILL 1973 - Bill No. 5/1973 published 17.5.73

The Minister of Mines and Forests moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GUYANA TIMBER EXPORT BOARD AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, Mrs. DaSilva and Mr. Sutton spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Mines and Forests was replying when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.05 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Mines and Forests concluded his reply.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2 - The following amendment by the Minister of Mines and Forests was put and carried:

Insertion of the following immediately after the definition of the expression "forest produce" -

' "Minister" means the Minister assigned responsibility for forestry; ' .

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clause 3 was passed as printed.

Clause 4 - The following amendment by the Minister of Mines and Forests was put and carried:

Deletion of the words "As soon as practicable after" and substitution of the word "After" therefor.

Clause 4 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 5 to 15 were passed as printed.

Clause 16 - The following amendment by the Minister of Mines and Forests was put and carried:

Insertion of the words "or 7(1)" immediately after the symbol "(a)".

Clause 16 was then passed as amended.

Clause 17 was passed as printed.

The Schedule was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Mines and Forests, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

ITEM 2 - WALLS PENSION BILL 1973 - Bill No. 6/1973 published 19.5.73


In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of State for the Public Service signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION WITH RESPECT TO THE PENSION-ABLE SERVICE OF GEORGE WALLS.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.20 p.m., on a motion by the Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 29th of May, 1973.



S. NARAIN

Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

29th May, 1973.