

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 156th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 10TH APRIL, 1978

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (66)

Speaker

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (49)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P., Prime Minister

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development

Senior Ministers (8)

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

- \* Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour
- \* Cde. H.D. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
- \* Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance
- \* Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Minister of Works and Transport
- \* Cde. G.A. King, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection
- \* Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent on leave)
- \* Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice

Ministers (5)

Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P., Minister of Information

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House

- \* Cde. C.V. Mingo, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
- \* Cde. V.R. Teekah, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture
- \* Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

\* Non elected Minister

Ministers of State (9)

- 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, Ministry of Economic  
Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime  
Minister
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional  
(Mazaruni/Potaro)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional  
(Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Health,  
Housing and Labour
- Cde. R.H.D. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of National  
Development (Absent)
- \* 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 (4)

- 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  
Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of  
Education, Social Development and Culture

Other Members (21)

- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P.
- Cde. W.G. Carrington, M.P.
- Cde. L.A. Durant, 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.
- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., M.P.
- Cde. M. Nissar, M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye, M.P.
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, M.P.

Members of the Opposition (16)(i) People's Progressive Party (14)Leader of the Opposition (1)

- Cde. C. Jagan, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

\* Non elected Minister

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent - on leave)

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.  
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip  
 Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.  
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P.  
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.  
 Cde. L. Lalbahadur, M.P.  
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P.  
 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)

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

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

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain, A.A.)  
 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 Cdes. Hoyte and Clarke for that sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Prime Minister:

- (1) Annual Reports and Accounts (2) of the Guyana Airways Corporation for the years 1975 and 1976.  
(GSC: 2/404/2)(Circulated)
- (2) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Housing Corporation for the year ending 31st December, 1976.  
(GSC: 7/404/2)(Circulated)
- (3) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Telecommunication Corporation for the year ending 31st December, 1975.  
(GSC: 9/404/2)(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 1      CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 8/1978  
published 1.4.78

Correction of Typographical Error

The word "of" at the beginning of the sixth line of the new paragraph (3) of article 73 of the Constitution, as proposed for substitution by Clause 2 of the Bill, was corrected to read "and".

Second Reading

The Prime Minister moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO EFFECT  
CERTAIN ALTERATIONS TO THE  
CONSTITUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
ARTICLE 73 THEREOF.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.56 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1978.

Cde. Collymore, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and Mr. Singh spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.52 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 7.04 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1978.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Members of the People's Progressive Party withdrew from the Chamber.

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Cde. Zaheeruddeen	Mr. Abraham
Cde. Wrights	Mr. Singh
Cde. Willems	
Cde. Van Sluytman	
Cde. Taylor	
Cde. Sukul	
Cde. Sukhu	
Cde. Stoby	
Cde. Rayman	
Cde. Ramson	
Cde. Ramsahoye	
Cde. Nissar	
Cde. Kasim	
Cde. Jonas	
Cde. Jaiserrisingh	
Cde. Hussain	
Cde. Gill	
Cde. Fowler	
Cde. Durant	
Cde. Carrington	
Cde. Bynoe	
Cde. Corrica	
Cde. Prashad	
Cde. Ambrose	
Cde. Ackman	
Cde. Thomas	
Cde. Chowritmootoo	
Cde. Bancroft,	
Cde. Nascimento	
Cde. Duncan	
Cde. Ramsaroop	
Cde. Field-Ridley	
Cde. Reid	
Cde. Burnham	

34

2

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 put and carried on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Cde. Zaheeruddeen	Mr. Abraham
Cde. Wrights	Mr. Singh
Cde. Willems	
Cde. Van Sluytman	

**Carried**

**Forward:** 4

2

	<u>FOR</u>	AGIANST
Brought		
Forwards:	4	2
	Cde. Taylor	
	Cde. Sukul	
	Cde. Sukhu	
	Cde. Stoby	
	Cde. Rayman	
	Cde. Ramson	
	Cde. Ramsahoye	
	Cde. Nissar	
	Cde. Kasim	
	Cde. Jonas	
	Cde. Jaiserrisingh	
	Cde. Hussain	
	Cde. Gill	
	Cde. Fowler	
	Cde. Durant	
	Cde. Carrington	
	Cde. Bynoe	
	Cde. Corrica	
	Cde. Prashad	
	Cde. Ambrose	
	Cde. Ackman	
	Cde. Thomas	
	Cde. Chowritmootoo	
	Cde. Bancroft	
	Cde. Nascimento	
	Cde. Duncan	
	Cde. Ramsaroop	
	Cde. Field-Ridley	
	Cde. Reid	
	Cde. Burnham	
	34	<u>2</u>

Clause 2 was put and carried on the following division:

	<u>FOR</u>	AGAINST
	Cde. Zaheeruddeen	Mr. Abraham
	Cde. Wright	Mr. Singh
	Cde. Willems	
	Cde. Van Sluytman	
	Cde. Taylor	
	Cde. Sukul	
	Cde. Sukhu	
	Cde. Stoby	
	Cde. Rayman	
	Cde. Ramson	
	Cde. Ramsahoye	
	Cde. Nissar	
	Cde. Kasim	
	Cde. Jonas	
	Cde. Jaiserrisingh	
Carried		<u>2</u>
Forward:	15	

/...

	FOR	<u>AGAINST</u>
Brought Forward:	15	2
	Cde. Hussain	
	Cde. Gill	
	Cde. Fowler	
	Cde. Durant	
	Cde. Carrington	
	Cde. Bynoe	
	Cde. Corrica	
	Cde. Prashad	
	Cde. Ambrose	
	Cde. Ackman	
	Cde. Thomas	
	Cde. Chowritmootoo	
	Cde. Bancroft	
	Cde. Nascimento	
	Cde. Duncan	
	Cde. Ramsaroop	
	Cde. Field-Ridley	
	Cde. Reid	
	Cde. Burnham	
	34	2

Assembly resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Bill was read the third time and passed as printed on the following division:

FOR	AGAINST
Cde. Zaheeruddeen	Mr. Abraham
Cde. Wrights	Mr. Singh
Cde. Willems	
Cde. Van Sluytman	
Cde. Taylor	
Cde. Sukul	
Cde. Sukhu	
Cde. Stoby	
Cde. Rayman	
Cde. Ramson	
Cde. Ramsahoye	
Cde. Nissar	
Cde. Kasim	
Cde. Jonas	
Cde. Jaiserrisingh	
Cde. Hussain	
Cde. Gill	
Cde. Fowler	
Cde. Durant	
Cde. Carrington	
Cde. Bynoe	
Carried Forward:	
21	2