

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FOURTH SESSION

1972

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 2nd 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, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1972

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, S.C., Prime Minister  
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture (Absent - on leave)  
The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture  
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Works and Communications (Absent - on leave)  
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 O.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  
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 (Absent)  
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 (Absent)  
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.  
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue  
 Mr. E.F. Correia  
 Mr. M. Corrica  
 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

Members of the Opposition (23)People's Progressive Party (17)

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

United Force (3)

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

Independents (3)

- Mr. R.E. Cheeks (Absent)  
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose  
 Mrs. L.M. Branco

OFFICERS

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers. .

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Dr. Reid for three weeks from 20th November, 1972, and
- (b) Mr. Hoyte and Mr. M.F. Singh for that day's sitting.

(ii) Letter from Leader of the Opposition re Mr. E.L. Ambrose and Mrs. L.M. Branco

His Honour informed the Assembly that the Clerk had received a letter dated 14th November, 1972, from the Leader of the Opposition informing him that Mr. E.L. Ambrose and Mrs. L.M. Branco were no longer Members of the People's Progressive Party.

Mr. Ambrose and Mrs. Branco had advised the Office that they would be sitting as independent Members in the Assembly.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Prime Minister:

Public Corporation (Broadcasting) Order 1972 (No. 76), made under section 34 of the Public Corporations Ordinance 1962 (No. 23 of 1962), on the 27th of September, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 30th of September, 1972.

(18/1/1)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Works and Communications:

(a) Guyana Water Authority Act 1972 (Commencement) Order 1972 (No. 73), made under section 1 of the Guyana Water Authority Act 1972 (No. 3 of 1972), on the 11th of September, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 16th of September, 1972.

(GN-1-/8/5 (TJ))

(b) Annual Report of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year 1970.

(C 12/4/7 II)(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Mines and Forests:

Agreement dated 22nd February, 1972, between the Government of Guyana, Guyana State Corporation, Guyana Timbers Limited, and Commonwealth Development Corporation, providing for the acquisition by the Guyana State Corporation of Guyana Timbers Limited.

(CMF: 26/10)(Circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Finance and Trade:

- (a) Loan Agreement between the Government of Guyana and the United States of America for New Amsterdam Streets and Approaches and Canje River Bridge Project - A.I.D. Loan Number 504-L-011.  
(G:304 LL/58)(Circulated)
- (b) Customs Duties (Exemption from Import Duties) (No. 3) Order 1972 (No. 72), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 31st of August, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 9th of September, 1972.  
(G.551 (11))(Circulated)
- (c) Customs Duties (Exemption from Import Duties) (No. 2) Order 1972 (No. 74), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 8th of August, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 23rd of September, 1972.  
(G:551 (34)C)(Circulated)
- (d) Consumption Tax Order 1972 (No. 82), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act 1969 (No. 13 of 1969), on the 20th of October, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 21st of October, 1972.  
(G:669 II)
- (e) Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order, No. 2 of 1972 (No. 86), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, 1969 (No. 13 of 1969), on the 3rd of November, 1972, and published in the Gazette on the 4th of November, 1972.  
(G:669 II)
- (f) Financial Paper No. 5/1972 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates for the period ending 31st October, 1972, totalling \$7,188,422.  
(2/5 VI)(Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister named Thursday, the 23rd of November, 1972, as the day for consideration of the Financial Paper in Committee of Supply.

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

Printing Equipment and Newsprint for New Guyana Co. Ltd.

The Leader of the Opposition sought leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing the question of the issuing of licences for the importation of

printing equipment and newsprint for the New Guyana Company Limited, publishers of the Mirror newspaper.

His Honour the Speaker did not allow the claim as he was not satisfied that the matter qualified as one which could properly be raised on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### Presentation and First Reading

- (1) PUBLIC CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1972 - Bill No. 10/1972 published 15.11.72

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC CORPORATIONS ORDINANCE 1962.

- (2) SUGAR INDUSTRY SPECIAL FUNDS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1972 - Bill No. 11/1972 published 15.11.72

The Minister of Finance and Trade, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO MAKE SPECIAL PROVISION FOR THE MAKING OF DISBURSEMENTS OUT OF THE SPECIAL FUNDS ESTABLISHED BY THE SUGAR INDUSTRY SPECIAL FUNDS ORDINANCE AS EX GRATIA PAYMENT OF PENSIONS TO LABOUR WORKERS IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

#### PUBLIC BUSINESS

##### ITEM 1 - COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

On a motion by the Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House, seconded by Mr. Ram Karran, the following Members were nominated to comprise the Committee of Selection, with His Honour the Speaker as Chairman, in terms of Standing Order No. 70(1)(b):

The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House  
 Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary,  
 Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth  
 Miss M.M. Ackman, Government Whip  
 Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.  
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P., Opposition Whip  
 Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P.  
 Mr. M.F. Singh

MOTIONS

ITEM 2 - MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDER NO. 23(3)

The Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraph (3) of Standing Order No. 23 be suspended to enable the National Assembly to proceed, at its Sitting on Monday, the 20th of November, 1972, upon the motion, notice of which was published on the 16th of November, 1972, in Notice Paper No. 1, seeking approval of the Government's Policy adumbrated in the President's Address.

ITEM 3 - MOTION TO APPROVE OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ADUMBRATED IN THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mr. Corrica moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of the Government's Policy adumbrated in the President's Address for the present Session of Parliament which was made to the Assembly on Tuesday, the 14th of November, 1972.

Mr. Zaheeruddeen seconded the motion.

The Leader of the Opposition was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

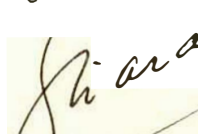
At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Leader of the Opposition concluded his speech.

Mrs. DaSilva, Mr. Hamid and Mr. Bholu Persaud spoke to the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.30 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 21st of November, 1972.

  
S. NARAIN  
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.  
21st November, 1972.