

TRANSITIONAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 1ST SITTING OF THE TRANSITIONAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
FIRST SESSION (1973 - 1980) OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 17TH OCTOBER, 1980,

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (62)

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (45)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister

Senior Ministers (11)

- Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and
Co-operatives (Absent - on leave)
Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Minister of Works and Transport (Absent-on leave)
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. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour
* Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent)
* Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance
* Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent)
* Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and
Minister of Justice
* Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent)
* Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer
Protection (Absent)

Ministers (2)

- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister - Regional (East Berbice/
Corentyne (Absent - on leave)
Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)

Ministers of State (10)

- Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi)(Absent)
Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West)(Absent)
Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/
Potaro)(Absent)
Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional
(Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)(Absent - on leave)
Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Social
Development and Culture (Absent)
Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sport, Ministry
of National Development (Absent)
Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/
West Coast Berbice)
Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of
Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
* Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of State for Information, Ministry
of National Development (Absent)
* Cde. H. Raehid, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister

* Non elected Minister

Parliamentary Secretaries (6)

- Cde. M.M. John, C.C.H., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
 Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture (Absent)
 Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection.
 Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives (Absent)
 Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Transport

Other Members (15)

- Cde. W.G. Carrington, C.C.H., M.P.
 Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
 Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
 Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
 Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
 Cde. A. Salim, C.C.H., M.P.
 Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
 Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
 Cde. H.B. Walcott, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
 Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, M.P. (Absent)

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

- Cde. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (12)

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

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

- Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.
 Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P. (Absent)

OFFICERS

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(1) Constitutional Changes

The Speaker informed Members that by a Proclamation which was made on 1st October, 1980, and published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette that same day, the new Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana came into operation on 6th October, 1980.

In terms of the Act which enacted the Constitution, the National Assembly was functioning as a Transitional National Assembly and would continue to so function until Parliament was dissolved.

All persons who had been Members of the National Assembly were Members of the Transitional National Assembly.

With the coming into operation of the new Constitution some changes had taken place in the Assembly -

- (i) The former Prime Minister who had been an elected Member of the National Assembly assumed the Office of President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and ceased to be a Member of the National Assembly,
- (ii) Cde. Ptolemy Reid who had ranked next in seniority after the Office of Prime Minister and who was an elected Member of the Assembly, became the new Prime Minister. He was therefore the leader of Government business in the Assembly,
- (iii) The Office of Leader of the Opposition had been re-designated Minority Leader.

As that day was the first occasion on which Members met since the new Constitution had come into operation, and as that was the first sitting of the Transitional National Assembly under that Constitution, the Speaker took the opportunity of welcoming all Members.

He also, on behalf of Members, extended congratulations and best wishes to the new President and to the new Prime Minister.

(2) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Cdes. Hoyte, Clarke and Van Sluytman for that sitting,
- (ii) Cde. Naraine for the period 15th to 21st October, and
- (iii) Cde. John who was still ill for a further period until 24th October.

Reply by the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister thanked the Speaker for his good wishes and in his remarks he congratulated him for the services which he had rendered in connection with the bringing into operation of the new Constitution.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

Rate of Interest Order 1980 (No. 62), made under section 6 of the Rate of Interest Act 1979 (No. 13), and published in the Gazette on 17th September, 1980.

(ST: 49/0^{TJ})(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

1. HOUSEHOLD SERVICE WORKERS (HOURS OF WORK) BILL 1980 - Bill No. 17/1980 published 8.10.80

The Minister of Health, Housing and Labour, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to regulate the working hours of household service workers and for purposes connected therewith.

2. INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 - Bill No. 18/1980 published 15.10.80

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

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

3. MISCELLANEOUS LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 - Bill No. 19/1980 published 16.10.80

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 certain laws.

PUBLIC BUSINESSBILLS - Second and Third Readings

1. GUYANA AND TRINIDAD MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 - Bill No. 15/1980 published 23.8.80. 30.8.80 and 6.9.80

Cde. Willems moved and Cde. Taylor seconded the second reading of the following Private Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Company Ordinance.

The motion was put and carried.

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

2. GUYANA AND TRINIDAD MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 - Bill No. 16/1980 published 23.8.80, 30.8.80 and 6.9.80

Cde. Willems moved and Cde. Taylor seconded the second reading of the following Private Bill:

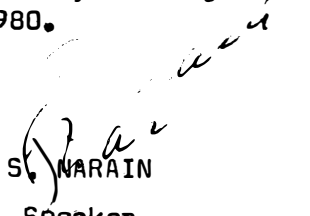
A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Fire Insurance Company Ordinance.

The motion was put and carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.23 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 24th October, 1980.


S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown
23rd October, 1980.