

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WHICH OPENED ON APRIL 05, 2002

SESSION 2002

VOLUME 1

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 28, 2002

10.00 A.M.

The House of Representatives having assembled, and it being the first meeting of the Second Session of the Seventh Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Clerk of the House read the following Proclamation:

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

No. 4 of 2002.

[L.S.]

By His Excellency ARTHUR N. R. ROBINSON, T.C.,
O.C.C., S.C., President and Commander-in-Chief
of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

ARTHUR N. R. ROBINSON
President

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas it is provided by subsection (1) of section 67 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago that each session of Parliament shall be held at such place within Trinidad and Tobago and shall commence at such time as the President may by Proclamation appoint:

Now, therefore, I, ARTHUR N. R. ROBINSON, President as aforesaid, do hereby appoint the Red House, Port of Spain, Trinidad, as the place at which the Second Session of the Seventh Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago shall be held and 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday the 28th day of August, 2002, as the time at which the said Session shall commence.

Given under my Hand and the Seal
of the President of the Republic
of Trinidad and Tobago, at the
Office of the President, St. Ann's,
this 22nd day of August, 2002.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Clerk of the House: Hon. Members, it is my duty to call upon this House to elect a Speaker.

Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar (Siparia): Madam Clerk, on behalf of the 18 UNC MPs, I would like to register, for the record and for all of us gathered here, that we are participating in these proceedings without prejudice to any rights or remedies we may have because it is our considered view that this sitting is unconstitutional and therefore we are here under objection. I thank you. And Madam Clerk may we, please, ask for a prayer if there is none on the Order Paper? Thank you.

Mr. Winston Peters (Ortoire/Mayaro): Almighty God, we give thanks to you, the creator of the universe, and humbly beseech you to direct and prosper this deliberation of the Members of the House here assembled for the advancement of your glory and the trust and welfare of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. Grant that peace and happiness, truth and justice may be established among us for all generations.

Madam Clerk: Are there any nominations?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Hon. Patrick Manning): Madam Clerk, in the name of Almighty God, in the name of my country, and forged from the love of liberty, I nominate for Speaker, Hector Ormsbie Naughton McClean.

The Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education (Hon. Hedwige Breaux): Madam Clerk, I beg to second the nomination of Mr. Hector Ormsbie Naughton McClean.

Madam Clerk: Will there be any further nominations?

Mr. Ganga Singh (Caroni East): Madam Clerk, I beg to propose Mr. Wade Mark of 3739 NUGF Circular Drive, Real Spring, Valsayn, to take the Chair of this honourable House as Speaker. [*Desk thumping*]

Miss Gillian Lucky (Pointe-a-Pierre): And Madam Clerk, if it pleases you, I beg to second the nomination of Mr. Wade Mark.

Madam Clerk: Will there be other nominations? Since there are no further nominations, I propose to the House that Mr. Hector Ormsby Norton McClean take the Chair of this House as Speaker. All in favour say "Aye".

Government Members: Aye.

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Madam Clerk: Any against?

UNC Members: No.

Mr. Basdeo Panday (*Couva North*): Division.

Ayes 18 Noes 18

AYES

Valley, Hon. K.

Manning, Hon. P.

Rowley, Dr. The Hon. K.

Imbert, Hon. C.

Robinson-Regis, Hon. C.

Narine, Hon. J.

Joseph, Hon. M.

Williams, Hon. E.

Bereaux, Hon. H.

Boynes, Hon. R.

Achong, Hon. L.

Beckles, Hon. P.

Rahael, Hon. J.

Job-Davis, Hon. E.

Hart, Hon. E.

James, Hon. E.

Hinds, Hon. F.

Callender, Hon. S.

NOES

Singh, G.

Lucky, Miss G.

Panday, B.

Persad-Bissessar, Mrs. K.

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Panday, S.

Peters, W.

Yetming, G.

Baksh, S.

John, C.

Ramnath, K.

Khan, Dr. F.

Nanan, Dr. A.

Rafeeq, Dr. H.

Ramsaran, M.

Partap, H.

Baksh, N.

Sharma, C.

Moonilal, Dr. R.

Madam Clerk: Hon. Members, 18 Members voted for and 18 Members voted against. The Motion is declared lost. I therefore propose to the House that Mr. Wade Mark do take the Chair of this House as Speaker. All in favour say “Aye”.

[No response from Members]

Madam Clerk: Any against?

Hon. Members: No.

Madam Clerk: Division.

Noes 36

NOES

Valley, Hon. K.

Manning, Hon. P.

Rowley, Dr. The Hon. K.

Imbert, Hon. C.

Robinson-Regis, Hon. C.

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Narine, Hon. J.
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Lucky, Miss G.
Panday, B.
Persad-Bissessar, Mrs. K.
Panday, S.
Peters, W.
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Baksh, S.
John, C.
Ramnath, K.
Khan, Dr. F.
Nanan, Dr. A.
Rafeeq, Dr. H.
Ramsaran, M.

Election of Speaker

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Partap, H.

Baksh, N.

Sharma, C.

Moonilal, Dr. R.

Madam Clerk: Hon. Members, no Member voted for and 36 Members voted against. The Motion is negatived. I must, therefore, Members, call upon the House once again to elect a Speaker. [*Pause*] Will there be any nominations? [*Pause*] Any further nominations?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Hon. Patrick Manning): Madam Clerk, I would like to advise you and Members of this honourable House, and members of the national community, that I propose to advise His Excellency the President to dissolve Parliament with effect—[*Desk thumping*] thank you very much, gentlemen, ladies—from midnight tonight. General elections will be held in Trinidad and Tobago on Monday, October 7, 2002. [*Desk thumping*]

The Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Hon. Kenneth Valley): Madam Clerk, in view of the announcement by the hon. Prime Minister, I move that this sitting be discontinued.

Madam Clerk: As you know, no formal votes could be taken in the House apart from the election of a Speaker, but I think the House would agree that there is no need to continue this sitting any further.

10.13 a.m.: *Sitting discontinued.*