

Differences bog down Assam ministry-making

From Our Staff Correspondent

GAUHATI, MARCH 7—The exercise of ministry-making in Assam drifted into rough weather at a late hour last night and the swearing-in of the Chief Minister-designate, earlier scheduled for today, had to be deferred till March 12.

The Press was told around midnight last night that the oath-taking of the ministry was postponed "due to some procedural wrangle". Though the Governor had invited Mr. Golap Borbora, who had been elected the leader of the 62-member JLP bloc yesterday evening, to form the new council of ministers and take oath of office and secrecy.

It was gathered this morning that there was no procedural controversy relating to the oath-taking, but there was a last-minute confusion about the personnel of the would be ministry—a wrangle, as someone in the Janata election office here explained, "among some leaders within the party", without elaborating it.

Mr Golap Borbora, the source said, would now get his list of would-be ministers approved by the party's high command in New Delhi, where he was pro-

ceeding this afternoon. He would take the oath on March 12 along with most—if not all—of the other members of the new ministry, according to the present schedule.

Meanwhile, the Janata Party's State Election Committee and the Organisational Committee were having a closed-door meeting here this noon to dispose of certain important business. The business, it is gathered, included selection of nominees for the

impending election of three Rajya Sabha members, the principle that should govern the selection of personnel of the ministry and a review of the procedure followed in the election of the JLP leader yesterday.

Mr Borbora was faced with a difficulty last night, it is said, since two of the personnel chosen by him for constitution of the ministry declined to join it. It is, however, not clear if these two were from amongst

the four others, who had been reported to be aspirants for leadership. It had been heard that as many as 34 signatures had been collected for one of the five candidates, though yesterday's secret ballots did not go in his favour.

A leader in the Janata Election Office today also indicated that the first session of the new legislature would commence on March 22 instead of March 13, as had been scheduled.

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Mr. Jagan Mohan and Mr. Anant Huzar were elected as speaker and deputy speaker, respectively, of the assembly.

Mr. Golap Borbora joined the 1977 government during the school days. Later, as a school teacher in Dibrugarh, he came in contact with the then underground leader, late Ajoy Avul Ali, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and others.

He joined the Congress (socialist) party in 1945 and later, joined the socialist party.

He was elected nine times between 1947 and 1977 in Assam as well as in Delhi. He was a secretary of the All-India Students Union in 1965 and became a member of the Rajya Sabha between 1971 and 1977.

Mr. Borbora is a prominent trade union leader and has been active in