



NORTHERN REGIONAL LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
DEBATES

First Session

7th, 8th and 9th July, 1952

DEBATES

IN THE THIRD MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE NORTHERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, LUGARD MEMORIAL HALL, KADUNA
ON THE 7TH, 8TH AND 9TH OF JULY, 1952

PRESENT

The President, C. R. Niven, Esq., M.C.

GOVERNMENT BENCH

The Acting Civil Secretary, Northern Region,
The Hon. A. R. Bailey, Esq.

The Legal Secretary, Northern Region,
The Hon. L. Brett, Esq.

The Acting Financial Secretary, Northern Region,
The Hon. J. H. D. Stapleton, Esq.

The Minister of Natural Resources,
The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.

The Minister of Works,
The Hon. Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sardaunan Sokoto.

The Minister of Social Services,
The Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makaman Bida.

The Minister for Community Development,
The Hon. Bello, M.H.R.

M. V. Backhouse, Esq., M.B.E.

CENTRAL MINISTERS

The Minister of Social Services,
The Hon. Shettima Kashim, M.B.E., M.H.R.

The Minister of Works,
The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, O.B.E., M.H.R.

The Minister of Natural Resources,
The Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.H.R.

ELECTED MEMBERS

<i>Province</i>	<i>Member</i>
Adamawa . .	Mallam Ahmadu, M.H.R., Lamdo Mubi Mallam Bello Malabu, M.H.R. Mallam Ibrahim Demsa Mallam Muhammadu Dan Burani
Bauchi . .	Mallam Jauro Gombe, M.H.R. Mallam Buba Gombe Mallam Abubakar, Chiroman Bauchi Mallam Yakubu Wanka, M.H.R. Mallam Muhammadu Kabir Mallam Bawa Bulkachuwa, M.H.R.

Province	Member
Benue ..	E. G. Gundu, Esq., M.H.R. T. Ayilla Yogh, Esq., M.H.R. J. M. Yogh Agera, Esq. Mallam Cia Aka Mallam Pagher Muc G. W. Gambe, Esq., M.H.R. Mallam Maikondo Igbon Benjamin Akiga, Esq.
Bornu ..	Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. Abba Kyari Kura Abba Kyari Shuwa Alhaji Shehu Buhari, M.H.R. Abba Habib, M.H.R. Mallam Umara
Ilorin ..	Mallam Sa'adu Alanamu, M.H.R. Mallam Ahman Pategi, M.H.R. Mallam Yahaya, M.H.R.
Kabba ..	Alhaji Ali Negedu Alhaji Abdulmaliki, M.H.R. G. U. Ohikere, Esq. P. S. Achimugu, Esq., M.H.R.
Kano ..	Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi, Chiroman Kano Mallam Maje Mallam Muhammadu Bashari, Wali of Kano Alhaji Shehu Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sarkin Shanu Mallam Bello Dandago, M.H.R., Wakilin Waje Alhaji Inuwa, Galadiman Kano Mallam Muhammed Munir, M.H.R. Alhaji Nabegu Mallam Ibrahim Musa Gashash, M.H.R. Mallam Ibrahim, M.H.R., Wazirin Gumel Mallam Yusufu, Galadiman Hadejia Mallam Sambo, M.H.R., Chiroman Hadejia Alhaji Abubakar Dokaji Mallam Muhammadu, M.H.R., Magajin Gari, Kazaure Alhaji Usman Gwarzo, M.H.R. Mallam Aliyu Ma'ajin Gumel Mallam Jibir Daura Mallam Muhammadu Gauyama, M.H.R., Madakin Hadejia
Katsina ..	Alhaji Usman Liman, M.H.R., Sarkin Musawa Alhaji Muhammadu Sada Nadada, Sarkin Sullubawa Mallam Muhammadu Bashar Daura, M.H.R. Mallam Abdulmumuni, Galadiman Katsina Mallam Isa Kaita, M.H.R. Mallam Muhammadu Danmallam, M.H.R. Mallam Muhammadu Dodo Mallam A. O. Ladan, M.H.R.
Niger ..	Mallam Abdu Anache, M.H.R. Mallam Hassan Abuja, M.H.R.

Province	Member
Plateau ..	David Lot, Esq., M.H.R. Mallam Michael Audu Buba, M.H.R. Moses Nyang Rwang, Esq. Patrick Fom, Esq. Mallam Auta Ninzam
Sokoto ..	Mallam Junaidu, Wazirin Sokoto Mallam Abubakar, M.H.R., Madawakin Sokoto Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, M.H.R. Mallam Haruna, M.H.R., Sarkin Gobir Kalgo Mallam Muhammadu Bida, M.H.R. Mallam Sulemanu, M.H.R., Sarkin Kudun Gusau Mallam Yahaya Gusau, M.H.R. Mallam Muhammadu Tureta, M.H.R. Mallam Aliyu, M.H.R., Magajin Garin Sokoto Mallam Muhammadu Bello, Magajin Rafin Gwandu Mallam Bawa Yelwa, M.H.R. Mallam Ibrahim, M.H.R., Magajin Garin Argungu
Zaria ..	Mallam Sambo, Sarkin Fada Mallam Muhammadu Sani Maigamo Mallam Sanusi, M.H.R., Mutawallin Zaria Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Editor

SPECIAL MEMBERS

Major H. E. Wilson, E.D.
Mallam Dauda Haruna Kwoi
S. O. James, Esq.
J. C. Obande, Esq.
Alhaji Sani Giwa
Mallam Usman Nadanko

ABSENT

Mallam Muhammadu Inuwa Wada, M.H.R., Elected Member, Kano Province
Mallam Muhammadu Lapai, M.H.R., Elected Member, Niger Province
Mallam Muhammadu Maccido, Elected Member, Sokoto Province
E. W. Pearce, Esq., Special Member
F. E. Okonkwo, Esq., Special Member
J. B. Davies, Esq., Special Member

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday, 7th July, 1952

PRAYERS

The House met at 10 a.m. The President took his seat and read prayers.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF NEW MEMBERS

Oaths were administered to the following new Members :—

1. The Acting Civil Secretary.
2. The Legal Secretary.
3. The Acting Financial Secretary.
4. Mr J. C. Obande.
5. Alhaji Sani Giwa.
6. Mallam Usman Nadanko.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President :

I have two announcements to make to this Honourable House. The Committee of Selection met on the 20th of February and made appointments under Standing Orders 59, 60 and 63. These appointments were published in the Supplement to the Votes and Proceedings of 19th February. The Committee of Selection also met on the 20th of April under the Chairmanship of the Civil Secretary during my absence, and made appointments under Standing Orders 70 and 71. The Clerk of this House has informed the Members of the names of the persons appointed to these Committees.

The Clerk of the House has received messages of goodwill to the House from Mallam Muhammadu Inuwa Wada and Mallam Mubannadu Lapai, both of whom are in the United Kingdom at the moment and are unable to attend the meeting.

PAPERS LAID

The Acting Civil Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following papers :—

1. Address by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly.
2. A Bill entitled the Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1952.
3. A Bill entitled the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1952.
4. A Bill entitled the Magistrates' Courts (Appeals) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1952.
5. A Bill entitled the Interpretation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1952.
6. A Bill entitled the Goldsmiths (Amendment) Ordinance, 1952.
7. A Bill entitled the University College Hospital Ordinance, 1952.
8. A Bill entitled the Survey Ordinance, 1952.
9. A Bill entitled the Veterinary Surgeons Ordinance, 1952.
10. A Bill entitled the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1952.

11. A Bill entitled the Pensions (Retired and Transferred Government Officers employed by Statutory Corporations) Ordinance, 1952.
12. A Bill entitled the West African Examinations Council (Nigeria Status) Ordinance, 1952.
13. A Bill entitled the Land Development (Provision for Roads) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1952.
14. House of Assembly Debates, February Meetings.

The Acting Financial Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following papers :—

1. The Proposed Order in Council—the Direct Taxation (Capitation Tax) (Variation) Order in Council, 1952, varying Schedule A to the Direct Taxation Ordinance.
2. The Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Finance.

The President :

I propose to ask the indulgence of the House to vary the order of items on the Order Paper, and to call upon the mover of the second Motion on today's Order Paper to move his motion now rather than during the course of Public Business. Mallam Ibrahim Imam.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name—that this House do send a message of condolence to the son and other members of the family of the late Mr and Mrs A. J. Knott for the great loss sustained by their death and to express the heartfelt sympathy of all the Members of this House.

Sir, looking today to the various seats in this House I remember a prominent figure who used to occupy one of them. One cannot but exclaim in a solemn voice—"Oh, death where is thy sting, oh grave, where is thy victory?" Mr Knott is no more with us. Mr Knott was an officer with an immense capacity for duty; his social ability was made pronounced by his pleasing and courteous disposition at all times; his high sense of justice and his untiring and unswerving devotion. What a deplorable thing this was to us all more especially to those who have had some dealings with him. His loss is certainly a great blow to us all. Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Social Services (The Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makaman Bida) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

The President :

This, Honourable Members, is an occasion on which I am permitted to address the House. I am quite sure that every Member in this House would like to rise and support this motion personally. So I will take it upon myself to speak for you all. I also speak for myself and for the members of all Services of the Northern Region.

The first time I met Mr Knott was nearly twenty years ago when he was a very thin young man. He was appointed to me to help in the first audit of Native Treasuries and he and I worked out a great deal of the procedure which is at present used in the Treasuries. From that time he

never lost his interest and knowledge of Native Authority finance and shortly after he came back from the Gambia where he spent some years, he came into the financial side of this Secretariat.

It is an under-statement to say that he left a great impression upon the finances of the Northern Region. Much of the present financial procedure he created himself or discussed and hammered out with his assistants; but what was perhaps more important from the general point of view was the urgent and vigorous action that he took to secure that the Northern Region at all times got a reasonable proportion of revenue. Honourable Members have no idea of the amount of work which Mr Knott put in behind the scenes. This country owes a very great debt to Mr Knott.

As we all know, he was a very amiable man and a man who liked his fellow men. He had a great sense of humanity and he had a great contempt of red tape. He was out to help and not to obstruct. He had enormous opportunity for obstruction but he never used it, and in addition to that he had a vast knowledge of this Northern Region. In his mind he carried whole columns of Native Administration balance sheets and he was always right. He also had a great honesty and integrity of purpose and in all this his wife helped him and backed him up. Honourable Members, two great figures in this country have passed on, and we shall not forget them. I do not propose to put this question in the usual way because I am quite sure there would be no one who would disagree. I ask Honourable Members to rise in their seats for a minute in honour of Mr Knott.

The House observed a minute's silence.

The Acting Civil Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to move for leave to present the Bill entitled "The Native Authority (Definition of Functions) Law, 1952" which has been published in the Northern Regional Gazette.

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

The President :

The question is that leave be given to the Acting Civil Secretary to present the Bill entitled "The Native Authority (Definition of Functions) Law, 1952". Those in favour say "Aye" those of contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The President :

The second reading of this Bill will be taken later in today's meeting.

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, since sufficient notice to comply with Standing Order 37 has not been given of the Bill entitled the Dogs (Prevention of Rabies) Law, 1952, I beg leave to defer presentation at this stage and to give a formal notice now in accordance with Standing Order 20.

The President :

The question is that leave be given to the Minister of Natural Resources to defer the Dogs (Prevention of Rabies) Law, 1952. Those in favour say "Aye", those of contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 20 (4) :

The Minister of Social Services (The Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makama Bida) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg leave to move a Motion standing in my name in the Order Paper : that Standing Order No. 20, rule 4, be suspended in respect of the Motions standing in the names of the Minister of Works and the Minister of Social Services on the Order Paper. Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

Mallam Hassan Abuja, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to second.

The President :

The question is that the Motion moved by the Minister of Social Services that Standing Order No. 20, rule 4, be suspended in respect of the Motions standing in the names of the Minister of Works and the Minister of Social Services be approved. Those in favour say "Aye", and those of contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The Minister of Works (The Hon. Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sardaunan Sokoto) :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name which reads as follows :

Be it resolved "that a humble address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor informing him that the Report of the Joint Select Committee of the House of Chiefs and the House of Assembly on the development of Local Administration is acceptable to this House".

Mr President, Sir, we have of recent witnessed the introduction of sweeping changes in the system of local administration in the Eastern Provinces and proposals for almost as drastic changes in the West. The North has nothing to match against these spectacular moves and it is perhaps because of this that it has become the fashion in other Regions to regard the North as backward and hide-bound by tradition. Indeed, there are some people in the North who hold this view and who think that we should follow the example set by the other Regions. But I do not believe that they are very numerous nor that they have studied the matter very deeply. Consider, Sir, the history of the Regions. Fifty years ago in the East the unit of local administration rarely extended beyond the village, whereas in the North our units covered much the same large areas as they do today. The East inherited from the past no such strong foundations upon which to build ; hence the need to complete new structures. The daily growth of a tree passes unnoticed by those that see it every day and it is only by casting their minds back along the years that they can realise the extent of its gradual development. It is even so with our system of local administration. The traditional form has over the years undergone a series of gradual changes designed to adapt it to more modern conditions and conceptions of government. The old form is still there, though much changed, and still commands the old loyalties and respect upon which stable government so much depends. It was in this gradual way that the British Constitutional monarchy developed from an absolute monarchy and has become perhaps the most stable form of government that the world has hitherto known. The secret of its success that the new was grafted on to the old and became part of it.

Conditions in the world today change much more rapidly than they used to do and this country has progressed more in the last ten years than it did in many years preceding. It follows from this that the rate at which the institutions which guide and mould our lives, adapt themselves to new conditions must be increased. Ten years ago there were not many who were adequately equipped to play a useful part in public life and to contribute their share to the solution of the problems which confronted the administration of the country, at every level. Thanks to the schools and training centres there are many more today who are not only able but eager to assist our traditional leaders in the discharge of their duty of government ; a duty which becomes more onerous as modern conditions render life more complicated.

Before the war the voice of this new class with its Western education began to be heard in public affairs and shortly the traditional Native Authority Councils were enlarged and enriched by the inclusion of some of its members. This was the beginning. There followed in many areas the formation of district and village councils which gave the common people a share in local administration and enlarged the field open to the newly-educated generation.

In 1950, Sir, it was felt that the time had come to take stock of the situation. Mr Maddocks and Mr Pott were commissioned to examine and to report upon the stage of local government reached in each province in the North. I expect the House is familiar with their report. The next step taken was the setting up of the Joint Select Committee of the Northern Regional Council to consider and report upon the further development of local administration. Local administration is a dull and lifeless business unless the people take an interest and an active part in it, and the task before the Committee was to find the best method of enabling the people to do this. The Committee came to the conclusion that this end would best be achieved by retaining and building upon the existing and largely traditional framework of village, district and Native Authorities. The Committee did not attempt to make recommendations which would be applicable to all Native Authorities with their varying administrative structures ; this was manifestly impossible. Instead it set out statements of principles which it was thought would be of assistance in determining the broad lines on which development should be pursued. These statements of principle include provision for elected village and district councils for considerable delegation of responsibility to both and for delegation of financial responsibility to district councils, which are, of course, already responsible for the management of district council funds. At the Native Authority level the principles to be followed in the creation of Outer Councils are set out, and it was recommended that sole Native Authorities should become Chiefs-in-Council. This last measure would not be an innovation ; it would give legal recognition to the current practice of Sole Native Authorities in seeking the advice of their councils in all administrative matters, which itself was in accord with tradition. This recommendation has recently been put into effect.

I, myself, Sir, was a member of the Committee and I have given long and careful thought to the matter. The object to be achieved by a reform of local administration at this time is to enable the people to take a much fuller part in their own administration and thereby to bring home to them a realisation of their civic rights and of their duty to the State which is inseparable from the full enjoyment of those rights. We can set about attaining this object in one or two ways. Firstly, we can copy the example of the East, wipe the slate clean, overthrow the present structure, forged as it was in the furnace of experience and start afresh. Secondly, we can retain the present

time-tested structure to which we are all accustomed and modify it to suit our new requirements. This second course is that recommended by the Committee. The general principles which it has recommended allow of variation to suit the most advanced and the least developed of our Native Administrations ; they allow of variations to suit the different types of Native Authority—Chiefs in Council, Chiefs and Council, and Councils. Above all the present structure is known to the common man who is to be called upon at all levels to help make it work. From experience we know that it does work, it is something we have inherited from the past and to which we have added from time to time. It is our own. Would we be wise to do away with what we have ourselves built up in favour of a system of administration designed by people with different customs to suit different circumstances, or in favour of some other system not yet designed and quite untried ? I do not think so, Sir. Oh no, I do not.

I, therefore, beg to move, Sir, that a humble address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor informing him that the Report of the Joint Select Committee of the House of Chiefs and House of Assembly on the development of local administration is acceptable to this House. Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister for Community Development (The Hon. Bello, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to oppose. There is all desirability of debating this Report in this House and this is nothing more than a report and we cannot accept it like this. It is a Report by a Joint Select Committee of the previous Houses. The desirability of debating this in this House is well-known to everybody. Everyone of us here knows that the Local Administration needs complete overhaul and for this the Honourable Tafawa Balewa moved a Motion which had an enormous support of this House. The Honourable Member has just mentioned about the Maddocks-Pott Report notwithstanding that the Commission to which Pott and Maddocks were appointed is contrary to the decision of the resolution because both Maddocks and Pott are civil servants and so cannot constitute an independent commission. Whereas the Honourable Tafawa Balewa is.....(interruption).

The Minister of Works (The Hon. Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sardaunan Sokoto) :

On a point of explanation, Sir, I think the intention of the Motion is to let everybody in the House to say what he wants. This does not debar anybody from airing his views.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I am not complaining on the debating of the Report. I should like to read from the Debate of this House in August 1950 page 91—'Be it resolved that this House respectfully recommends to His Excellency the Governor that he be pleased to appoint an Independent Commission to investigate the system of Native Administration in the Northern Provinces and to make recommendations for its modernisation and reform and that Report and the recommendations of the Commission before their acceptance by the Governor'. In this respect (1) the Commission was not independent, (2) the Report was not discussed by the public because when Messrs Pott and Maddocks toured the country they met only the N.A. Staff who run the Local Administration which we want to overhaul. The N.A. Staff are a part of the public and therefore the question of Pott's and Maddocks' Report

does not comply with the request. In the course of his speech the Minister has referred us to what is being done in the Eastern and Western Regions. I am assuring this House that we are not taking any leaf from any of the other Regions. We have our Local Government before the Europeans came here. But in what form was it ? We are much better off now than we were before the advent of the English men. I am not calling for Local Government which is being practised in England—I hate the Local Government to which we have a different background. We have our institutions ; we have our Local Government. What we need is reform ; there shall be and no fear that the Chief will be displaced by anybody. The Emirs will be in a better position than before. Nobody in this House doubts that the King of England is the most respected person in this world and yet he does not take part in the administration of his country. I want this House to realise that even if we reform the Local Government the tradition which we have longed to establish will not be destroyed. If we have any hatred in our blood for our Emirs the English would not have found us here with them. I have a sort of reserved respect for them. It is in my blood so does not vanish at all. Referring to the present system of Administration especially the Chief-in-Council as the Honourable Minister has just referred it is very easy to say Chief-in-Council but is it practical ? It is very difficult. It is just an ornamentation on paper. What we want is to give powers to the Councillors and the Emirs shall have no right to veto any decision taken by the Councils. We also want Outer Councils to make bye-laws, etc. The Village and District Councils should be made very very strong and everybody in the Native Administration must know his right and all titles be defined. Mr President, I beg to oppose.

Patrick Fom, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I support the Motion.

Mallam Bello Dandago, M.H.R., Wakilin Waje :

Mr President, Sir, I have a contrary view to the last speaker. I do not know what the Commission did in other provinces but the two Commissions did actually contact independent views and Native Authority officials in my town Kano. What more power the Village Councils need at the present, I do not know. They have been given ample opportunity to learn by this Report. We learn by doing and I want the gentlemen to understand and this House will agree with me considering the educational standard of this country that the Report is a step forward. What this Committee recommends is quite suitable to the Region. Sir, the Region has no time to wait and set up another commission which will take two years at least before the Report comes up.

I have one suggestion with regard to page 9 of the Committee Report, paragraph 6 about bribery and corruption. The practice hitherto has been that always it is the man who receives bribery who is punished. With due respect to the Legal Secretary it is criminal to give and to receive both in English and Moslem Laws. I am asking this House, Mr President, Sir, to consider what would be done to a man who incites an official by giving him something.

Mallam Abba Habib, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I oppose the last speaker. For many months the public has shown dissatisfaction over certain points in connection with this matter, and it is going to be unjust if it is presented to the Lieutenant-Governor without being debated in this House.

The President :

Before we go any further I should say to Honourable Members that I agree with the Minister that this is an opportunity of debating the Report. I think that it is the intention of the Executive Council.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, on a point of explanation I should like to make myself more clear to the Honourable Member from Kano.

The President :

The Honourable Member is not entitled to make a second speech he can correct a mis-statement, but Honourable Members are not allowed to make two speeches in the course of a debate.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I should like to make clear something misquoted. I do not know if this is in order.

The President :

There is a difference between a speech and a mis-statement. I do not know what is in the Honourable Member's mind—he only knows that himself and if he thinks that it is a genuine statement which is only going to last a few seconds then he has the floor of the House, but if it is a long and discursive observation then he has not.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I do not intend to reject the Report but I wish it to be debated in this House.

The Legal Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, on a point of order. This Motion was deliberately framed to give this House an opportunity of debating the Report. If Honourable Members have anything to say, now is the time to say it.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I am very grateful to the Legal Secretary.

Mallam Yakubu Wanka, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, in rising to oppose this Motion I find it absolutely necessary for me to say a word or two. This Honourable House may agree with me that the question of Local Government is the very thing that occupies the minds of the general public in the Northern Region. I think it is a mistake for the Government just to give us this Motion within two days after our arrival. This Motion should have been sent to us about a month ago at home so that we could have a chance of discussing it with our people and when we come here we know exactly whether to support or reject. However, I shall have to say something about this. The Report of the Joint Council is most unsatisfactory. The position of our Emirs remains unchanged. Their position today should be at least Chief-and-Council, but the phrase "Chief-in-Council" means nothing and it is very unsatisfactory. This Report was just designed to suit the Native Authorities and the Government and it does not suit us at all. We have seen about two months ago, the sort of changes that are to be made in the Eastern and Western Regions in Local Government, and we know very well that the question of Local Government in the North is more serious than in either of the other two Regions. But very little or practically nothing has been done in the Northern

Region to improve the Local Government. Well, I have only to say, Sir, the question of Local Government needs a complete overhaul. We do not mean the present set up should be condemned altogether. We like our Emirs, our District Heads and Village Heads, but much of their powers should be handed over to Councillors. They should just be figure-heads and nothing more. Mr President, Sir, within a year or so to come, I hope something more reasonable will be done by the Government to satisfy the general public of this Region. What has been done today so far is most appalling. Mr President, Sir, I cannot help stating that I do not support.

The Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I think it will help if the Legal Secretary will explain to the House the definition of a "Chief-in-Council".

The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, O.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, the Bill which is coming before the House
(*interruption*).

The President :

Yes, I am aware of that. We are going to get into slight confusion over this Motion. I agree that it would be a good thing if the Legal Secretary would explain the matter, as otherwise we may waste a lot of time on something which is a misunderstanding.

The Legal Secretary :

Well, Sir. A Chief-in-Council is obliged to consult his Council in the same way as the Lieutenant-Governor is obliged to consult the Executive Council, but the final responsibility for decisions rests with the Chief to a rather greater extent than it would with the Lieutenant-Governor and his Executive Council, and in certain circumstances the Chief may over-ride the advice of his Council. A Chief-and-Council is more like the permanent president of the Council and he is bound by the decision of the majority of the Council.

The President :

The sitting is suspended for fifteen minutes.

The House resumed at 11.45 a.m.

The President :

The debate continues.

The Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, O.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, there seems to be some misunderstanding over the intention of the Minister of Works. As you pointed out, to the House, Sir, the intention of the Motion is to give Members an opportunity of debating the Report of the Joint Select Committee. I remember that when the resolution was passed in the old House of Assembly it was later agreed, Sir, by the Northern Regional Council, that is, the House of Assembly and House of Chiefs, that it would be rather unwise to have an independent Commission of enquiry as the Motion asked. The reason, Sir, was that after a very careful examination of the dangers of an independent Commission, there is a fear, that if we invite an independent Commission as suggested in the resolution there may be, a possibility that the Commission would seek to make a drastic day-break with the present organisation and, Sir, we have all the time been saying in the North that we want to retain at all times our

present traditional pattern, and though we are anxious for reforms we must still retain the very strong foundations and for this reason, it is agreed that a Joint Select Committee of the two Houses should be appointed. Now I am, Sir, or I was Sir, a member of that Committee and do not think that any member of the Committee would say that the Report of the Committee was complete (*hear-hear*) but this is because, that we want to go progressively and there is a great wisdom in this House if Members were to see that we do not bring in reforms which would disturb the happiness of the masses. I have never thought, Sir, that the reforms as suggested by the Committee are final and that they will never come again for amendment later on. I think it is the feeling of everybody here that it would be better if, when we have a thing to try to consolidate it before we jump on to another thing. I feel, Sir, that the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee form a working basis and I would ask the House, to accept the Motion. Now, Sir, in the debate on the Motion so far, I think certain things need to be referred to. The first is that there seems to be an idea that Messrs Maddocks and Pott constituted a Commission—that was not the case. They were appointed, Sir, to produce a factual report so that the Committee might be able to see what is going on in other parts of the country other than their own. Now the other thing, Sir, is the word "local" in the Motion. Well, I know, Sir, the Nigerian Government accepted a change from the word "native" to "local" some time ago, but still, Sir, we are to be informed of the legal implications of the change. Mr President, Sir, I do not want to challenge certain statements made by the Minister of Works, but I just want, Sir, to correct a wrong impression which some of the points he raised might create outside. It is never, Sir, the intention of anybody in the Northern Region, to wipe out the present Native Administration organisation. I agree, Sir, that there may be a few people not Northerners but who are resident in the North who try to see that this happens, and, I do not think that anybody in the Northern Region would like to see the North is treated in exactly similar lines as the East and the West. What we want in the North, Sir, is to build on what we already have so that, whatever advancement we make in the future we shall have ease in our minds that we have something of our own to be proud of. Sir, I think this House should also record its appreciation to the far-sightedness of the Northern House of Chiefs. Sir, all the people in the North realised long ago that our Emirs and Chiefs had never given to themselves the powers given them under the Native Authority Ordinance; and, Sir, their readiness to accept to the change from Sole Native Authorities to Emirs-in-Council is I think very progressive. (*Hear-hear*). I hope, Sir, that the Council will accept the Motion as proposed by the Minister of Works.

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.):

Mr President, Sir. I am rising to support the Motion. It has been explained to the House that the intention of the Motion is to give opportunity to Members to discuss and express their opinions on the Report. In the course of the speeches of Members who have already spoken I have heard that the present set-up needs complete overhaul and we are prepared to listen to the proposals and suggestions how this overhaul is going to be done. The Honourable Legal Secretary has explained the definition of Chief-and-Council and Chief-in-Council. I think the present set-up in most parts of the country which is Chief-in-Council is already in existence. Although the words "Sole Native Authority" were in the law but in practice Chief-in-Council is practised in most parts of the country. I myself was a member of a Native Authority and I had the experience.

In my opinion what matters very much is the unity of the members of the Council. Whether the case is the Chief-in-Council or the Chief-and-Council, I think if the members of the Council are themselves united I think the Chief will not reject the suggestion or the proposal of the Council and so I lay very strong emphasis on the unity of members of the Council. If they themselves are united there is no fear of the Chief rejecting the proposals. But what I do not like to see myself from what I heard from most of the Members is that they favour the system of Chief-and-Council and my objection is that I do not want to bring the Chiefs to the same level or status—as the other members of the Council. The explanation of the Honourable Legal Secretary made it quite clear when he said that the Chief is bound by the majority of the Council in the system of the Chief-and-Council. In the system of the Chief-in-Council also, the Chief is obliged to consult the Council and so if the members of the Council are united together I am quite sure the Chief will take their advice and in my mind if that is the case the Chief is bound by the Council. But if the Councillors themselves are not united and take different views and they are divided no one would expect the Chief to keep quiet and see the interest of his country spoiled. And also the Chief-in-Council which is the proposed set-up of the administration was in existence before the Europeans came to this country and was supported by the tradition. My Honourable friend Mallam Ibrahim Imam has said in his speech that he is not going to compare the set-up in the North to those in the other Regions or to those in the other countries, but he was referring to the King of England and he was comparing the set-up of the Northern Region to that of the United Kingdom. He was going so far as to say that the King of England has no say in the administration of the country. Well, the Chiefs should be held in very high respect for many reasons. I would not like to see myself that a Chief in his Council is being argued not constructively but just because the members of the Council are brought to the same level—the same status—as himself. I would not like to see this. If we in this House are trying to get something which the Native Authorities would work on for the interest of the public, I think this Report will be a basis for working it. I entirely agree with my Honourable friend Mallam Abubakar Tafawa Balewa when he said that this Report when it was introduced it was nothing but a basis on which the Native Authorities would work on and to amend it in the light of experience. My own opinion is that if anything is to be done for the Native Authorities to work on it must be something which is very simple for the mass of the people to understand. Whatever power is given to the Native Authority if the masses do not know it in my opinion it is nothing but harm. So let us take this thing which, in my opinion is something simple which the masses can understand. Because the system was formerly in existence in this country, and let us use it as a working basis. Mr President, Sir, I beg the House to adopt the proposals of the Minister of Works.

Mallam A. O. Ladan Baki, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, in my opinion this is an out-dated Report; and if it is to be accepted by this House at all, another Select Committee should be set up to examine the conditions. Or we should reject the Report until a Minister of Local Government is appointed. I oppose the Motion.

G. U. Ohikere, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, before I make some comments I beg to say that there is some misunderstanding on the two sides—that is, on the side of the Government Bench and also on the side of most of the speakers. The

[Mr. Ohikere]

[Motions]

Government Bench has misunderstood some of the Members. The Government Bench thinks that the Members wish for the complete overhaul of the present set-up with Sole Native Authorities or Native Administration—we are not wishing for the complete overthrow of the Native Administration—we want to reform it. (*Hear-hear*). There is no difference between Sole Native Authority and Chief-in-Council which is just like this when the Chief is Sole Native Authority, he could do something without consulting anybody then as Chief-in-Council he could consult somebody but he would do his will. What is the difference there? We want Chief-and-Council. In my side we have just got it and it was with bloodshed, (*hear-hear*), and it would not be the pleasure of this House or the Government that the others get it with bloodshed. In my own area, we are not used to the system of Sole Native Authority—but it was imposed on us. So those from those parts of the Northern Region where it was in force before the British came should also consider the other parts of the Region where it was not. Now, this present system—Sole Native Authority—is the greatest drawback of the Northern Region. I should say that this House is more constituted than the former House. The former House was composed of nominated Members but most of us here are by election. Whatever we say here are the feelings of the people who elected us. What the former House did was to satisfy their nominators. Therefore, we would like to defer this matter and go back to our homes, consult our electorates and in the next session we shall bring our decisions—whatever agreement we come to with our electors. I am sure there are many provinces in which only Native Authorities were consulted during the time when the Commission was going round. Now, by this change, we are not going to bring our Chiefs low. I will agree with the system of Sole Native Authority or the Chief-in-Council if the Chiefs were all perfect or if they were gods, but as they are human beings I disagree. This is the age of the common man and we are now bringing out our feelings and we want a change. Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, there seems to be a lot of confusion. There is one Motion before the House and before that Motion is passed or rejected we have gone into some other matters. To refer back to the Motion, Sir, both the proposer and the opposer—they have more or less a common aim—they both want our old regime, but they need reform. This Report has gone out to a certain extent to meet this purpose. So I ask that both the proposer and the opposer and the whole Members of this Honourable House to accept the Motion and to let us go on to the discussion of the reports as suggested by the Minister of Works. Nobody will refuse to accept this Report as a basis of discussion on this subject if we want to discuss a question we always have some sort of notes to guide us. These reports are guiding notes. Why cannot we get on to them? We can accept them, amend them, reject them or do whatever we think fit. I do not think it is wise that this House should continue to argue on this question in this way bringing out points which have nothing to do with the Motion at the moment. So may I repeat, may this House pass this Motion and get on to debating facts in the Report. Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

The President :

I explained to this House that I was prepared to accept this Motion as covering a debate on the Report. Any person who debates the Report is not out of order and quite a number of Honourable Members have done so and have not been ruled out of order, as the Honourable Member must have noticed.

[Acting Civil Secretary]

[Motions]

The Acting Civil Secretary :

As you have just said, Sir, this is the opportunity for the House to debate the Report and to say what parts of it they like and what parts of it they do not like. I am proposing to speak later on on the introduction of the Bill entitled "The Native Authority (Definition of Functions) Law, 1952". The two things are concerned with one another and what is being said now will concern to some extent the debate on the Bill, but I would like to speak briefly now in order to correct what appears to me to be misapprehension. I have heard, Sir, that one or two Members have appeared to be under the impression that the Report recommends the retention of Sole Native Authorities. That is not the case. As Members will see from paragraph 1 (e) on page 5 of the Report, it is stated quite clearly. "It became apparent in the course of these discussions that the traditional authority of a Chief in the Northern Provinces prior to British occupation was exercised with the advice and support of an equally traditional Council." Furthermore the Sultan of Sokoto in the House of Chiefs in February 1952, moved the following resolution :—"That this House recognises that the traditional authority of a Chief in the Northern Region is in fact exercised with the advice and support of his Council and therefore recommends that every Sole Native Authority in the Northern Region shall be known and described as a Native Authority-in-Council and that such legislation as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing intentions be introduced." Now you will observe that the Sultan of Sokoto said that in places where at the present time there are Sole Native Authorities, they should be known as Native Authorities-in-Council. There are parts of the country where it is not the tradition to have Native Authorities-in-Council but to have Native Authorities-and-Councils. If it appears necessary, Sir, I can enlarge upon this question in introducing the Bill, but I do, Sir, suggest to the House that this Report is a basis on which to work for the further development of Local Administration in the Region. Practical steps have already been taken in all provinces to implement the recommendations; steps have been taken to develop Local Government machinery in each province on the lines best suited to its traditions and circumstances. It has been realised in carrying out these practical steps that one of the most important purposes must be to broaden the whole basis of Local Administration. The principal aim has been to secure representation at descending levels of all shades of opinion upon Councils which are responsible both to the Native Authority and to the people whom they represent. Throughout the Region work has been begun and in some places is well advanced to broaden Local Administration and to form Councils on which local representation will be in the majority. I, therefore, suggest for the earnest that early consideration of the House that this Report is, as I have already said, a basis on which to work and that, if it is not accepted, the result will be that we shall have to have another Report and further delay before anything can be done. Mr President, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

Patrick Fom, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I have been hearing many speeches in this debate on the report. It was a fact that the two officers were selected to go round the whole of the Northern Region. It was a fact that the report was made by only the Chiefs who are the so-called Native Authorities. The Northern Region is comprised of different tribes and different customs, as my friend the Honourable Member from Kabba has mentioned in his speech that what we want is to refine this report and to amend where necessary—whether it takes us two years or more—Rome was not built in a day according

to the English proverb. Therefore, we are ready to wait for two years or more and to see that the people are satisfied with the report and everybody agrees with it. We have been elected by the people and therefore we must do something to suit them, especially Plateau which for many years ago had their own native laws and customs ; a Chief would not take upon himself to do anything without consulting the people. Therefore, I am pleading that this House should consider something suitable to suit the people of the Northern Region according to their tribal customs, and I think that has also been done in some other parts of the world including Europe. Mr President, I beg this House to consider this carefully, especially regarding different tribes with different customs, because it will look unfair to have people grumbling in the villages against the Chief especially among those people who had such custom and it is not a bad custom as a Chief would get more support from them. Mr President, I beg to take my seat.

Benjamin Akiga, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I wish to suggest to this House that the debate on this motion be deferred because most of us are elected Members and would like to consult our constituencies—we would like to sound their opinion and then bring that opinion to this House, but I should like to say a word before we get on. The Constitution of local government does not need a complete overhaul, it only needs some reform in certain parts. Where it is necessary that will be easier and also better. Let us take the example of this Hall which has been well constructed and admired all over the country. Somebody may come later and appreciate the building but bring up some criticisms ; he might suggest the transfer of some windows or some doors or some other things which, in his opinion, would be better. Somebody else might bring another suggestion that he would not like to break the whole hall. He would only suggest some repairs and that would be very simple and could work because that would take only a short time instead of taking a very long time to destroy the house, and the building, and we might have an increase in wages and in the cost of materials or we might like an expert architect to build the house and it would be a very long time to build, but if he were to make some minor alterations it would be easier. So the Constitution of local government does not need a complete overhaul it only needs some alterations, and in those parts where we do not agree with what has been arranged by the District Officers then we would get together and amend ; the same too with the Native Authorities wherever the system is faulty. That is how our country advances and every single detail is gone into, and I would only like to invite the attention of the House to the point expressed by the last speaker that the country consists of various tribes. Nigeria is one country which has various tribes and various customs and each tribe have their own ways of life which they prefer to the ways of others because they suit them, so they cannot be changed altogether. That is my humble suggestion.

The Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I was not only a member of the drafting committee which produced the report which is now before the House but acted also as their secretary. The Honourable Member is aware following the report of Mr Maddocks and Mr Pott there were set up provincial conferences where the public opinion was expressed. This report, which is now before the House was not framed through the Committee's own initiative—it was based on the recommendation from the provincial conferences. All the matters raised by the Honourable Members the committee gave them very

careful thought ; that is the reason why they see the position of the Chief in Council is different from the Chief and Council. Mr President, Sir, I support the motion.

Mallam Isa Kaita, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise not to oppose the motion but in supporting the motion I have one reservation and one only. All the people and the Chiefs in the Northern Region will certainly welcome the death and decent burial of the phrase "Sole Native Authority" but I am sorry to say that the Honourable Legal Secretary's definition of the phrase "Chief in Council" will not be acceptable to all the Chiefs and people in the Northern Region. I am not in doubt of the expert definition of the phrase at all, but I am not happy to hear what he said, that the Chief may override the decision of his Council, and at the same time, he said, that the Chief is obliged to consult his Council. The Honourable the Minister of Works has told us that the report is designed to modernise conditions on the modern conception of Government and also that the Chief should—I am quoting the Minister of Works—he also said something like this—"that the Chief should seek the advice of his Council in all administrative matters according to tradition", and also he went on to say something like this, 'that, the report is out in order to enable the people to take a more fuller part in their administration', but I doubt if this phrase "Chief in Council" is adopted, that the Honourable the Minister of Works' gallant words should be put in action. I strongly put to this House that the phrase "Chief in Council" should have a decent burial, perhaps more decent than that of the phrase "Sole Native Authority" and that the phrase "Chief and Council" should be adopted. The Minister of Natural Resources said, that in the past the Chief was always the Chief in Council—that was, before the coming of the white man. I very much hope he meant that the Chief was Chief and Council, not Chief in Council, because at that time how could a Chief override the advice of his Council. The Council had put him there and they could also see that he was chucked away if he did not take their advice (*hear hear*). Mr President, Sir, I beg to support the motion.

Mallam Ahman Pategi, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I should have liked to support the proposal but I feel that I have some three points to make. In the first place I take it that the mover of this motion has already realised that this House is only in favour of the terms 'Chief and Council', not 'Chief in Council' to which I agree because the coming of the Europeans gave more power to the Chiefs than they used to have, because in the past the Chiefs could not override the decisions of their Councillors (*hear hear*). What changed this ? The British administration. But the young educated man now realises that he should regain what he has lost before, that is why the educated elements and the illiterate elements could not agree. What the Minister of Natural Resources said about the unity of the Councillors is really true but is difficult to get easily and if you see this goes on smoothly it is because there are many educated elements in the Council but those who are not educated regard the Chiefs as semi-gods. Well, these people really have to take and swallow whatever the Chief tells them. (*Interruption*).

Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, on a point of explanation, Sir, I would like to refer the Honourable Member to page 6 of the Report which reads as follows :—

"It was suggested that in view of the fact that the term 'Chief in Council', which in English has a very definite and precise legal significance is foreign to the Hausa language, it would be desirable to provide perhaps by an amendment to the Native Authority Ordinance a statutory definition of the phrase in order to overcome this difficulty; such a definition would specifically establish the right of a Chief similar to that of a Governor in Council for reasons stated to the Resident of the Province concerned to diverge from the advice of his Council. If the Resident considered that the Chief was wrong in diverging from the advice of his Council he would advise the Chief accordingly. If the Chief disregarded this advice the Resident would report the matter to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for decision."

The President :

The Honourable Minister is out of order—he already made a speech. This amounts to a second.

Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to withdraw.

Mallam Ahman Pategi, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, well, in view of that if we want to have good and strong Councillors as suggested by the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, how can they be elected if they are nominated by the Native Authority nothing practical has been done then. I can remember that when discussions were held at Kaduna and Ibadan on this constitution I remember many people criticised the system of nominations. The reason is that the nominated members might fear expressing opinions which would be unsuitable to their nominators, so what we favour is a system of election in which members would be elected directly so that they could express the feelings of their electorate and not of their nominators. That is why I think when it was realised that the former Members of the House of Assembly were nominated by Native Authorities it was favoured that we should adopt the system as produced by the new Constitution. So in the system of Local Government I do not think it is fair for the Chief alone to elect his Councillors. My second point is that not all of us have got the papers here, so if the President agrees I should like the Clerk to give those Members who have not come with their copies so that we want to debate the Motion brought by the Honourable Minister of Works. I assure him that many Members would support him as I have, but I have got one fear. What we fear is that if the House resolves into Committee now we have no time to give prior notices of motions and if raised in the Committee they might be ruled out, so we could accept this Motion in principle pending going into Committee.

The President :

The sitting is suspended until 3 p.m.

At 3 p.m.

The President :

The debate on a Motion by the Minister of Works is resumed.

Mallam Sa'adu Alanamu, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to make a few personal remarks on this very important matter. I consider it very important because it affects all walks

of life in this Region. It has bearing not only on the present generation but even on the future generation. Many speakers have said earlier today that they were not aware that this matter would be brought forward here this morning, and that we are not quite prepared for it. I think this is quite right. I strongly suggest that the consideration of the Report be deferred until a future date. This will enable many of the Members to consult their people and they will not be able to say that it is thrust on them. Let it be deferred to another time; the truth will prevail. I see no reason for fear from any side of this House of deferring the matter until a future date. Arguments for and against the consideration of the Report will flow in constantly and there will be no end to them. I therefore suggest as the conclusion of my speech, that the question should now be put that the consideration of the Report be deferred until a future date.

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Maigamo :

Mr President, I support the last speaker.

The President :

I am not prepared to accept a Motion at the moment, that the consideration should be deferred. The House may wish to vote on the Motion as it now stands. When I suspended the sitting I think that the Honourable Abubakar Imam was on his feet.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I think the Government Bench is afraid and some of the Unofficial Members are afraid too. But, what are we afraid of? It was the old House which was composed of the members of Emirs' Councils, who paid their allegiance to the Emirs, their employers, and the then Sole Native Authorities who first brought this question of Native Administration reform. Now, when these could forsake their loyalty, and voted against what they were practising at that time, how then can we not support them, by bringing suggestions of reforms such that will be a counter measure for the fears that prompted them to have the courage of taking that line of action? When the motion of Native Administration reform was unanimously passed by the old House, everybody went about saying that it was the motion of Mallam Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. Some were thus throwing mud at his face and others were praising him. But it was not his motion; it was the motion of the old House which was unanimously approved. Now, if circumstances could so force the old House to demand revision, then I think it is our duty to see that the revision made goes to the extent of serving the purpose for which it is made.

We are proud of our Chiefs; we want to retain them. There is no voice in this House which has ever dreamt of saying that we should do away with our Chiefs. But, if we accept this Report as it stands now, it is then a line taken to reduce their dignity, power, and respect in the eyes of the common man. One Minister got up to say that if the members of an Emir's Council refuse the decision taken by the Emir, they can unite and say, "We do not agree". We do not want that idea of shouting at the decisions taken by our leaders. No, that is contrary to our culture and contrary to the doctrine of Islam. As such, we should do all we can to see that the dignity of our Chiefs is preserved. What is happening in Egypt now? Almost ever three months the Prime Minister is deposed and another is put up. But nobody has ever heard of mud being thrown at the face of King Farouk. Why? Simply because he does not sit to argue with his people. We have now in the Chair, the President. If he were to come down to our level we

shall be arguing with him and saying, "We do not agree with you, Mr President". But now what happens? When he opens his mouth to speak, we all listen with respect. We listen to his advice and guidance, simply because he is not put on the level of us here. Put him down here, and see what will happen!

If we look at what is coming now in the country, we ought to think twice. People have been reading in the past what some newspapers were publishing. Young people have begun now to throw mud at the face of our Emirs. Now, will the Government Bench assure us, that by insisting on us to pass this Report as it is, they will defend our Emirs and uplift their prestige? It is the age of the common man! We have been given a chance to come here and represent them. The reform of Local Government ought to have come before the introduction of the new Constitution. We were late; we put the cart before the horse. Now, we want to make the Local Government run quickly to meet what is happening now. But look, some people say, "No, we must go on keeping the cart before the horse".

We are proud of our Chiefs and anybody who wants to put them on the level of the common man, and anybody who tries to throw mud at their faces, will meet with stubborn resistance from us. We all agree that the Report should be taken to the Lieutenant-Governor. It is a Report of a million words, but out of those words we want one word of only two letters to be taken out. We want the word "in" to be substituted for "and". That is all. But the Government says no, they want the full million words to stay. If the House supports the Government on this question, everybody must know that we have come to the level-crossing and we must beware of trains! Mr President, Sir, I beg to support.

Mallam Muhammadu Bashari (Walin Kano) :

Mr President, Sir, a lot has been said on the question of Chief and Council. If that stands as is suggested, Chief and Council, it means that we are discarding a lawful system. The name of the Chief should not be abused. He should not be called Chief because he is not the Chief. He is only one of the Councillors. Even among the Councillors he is weak. He has no say. He has to follow what the Council has said. That is one point. But I think Chief in Council is a system that has been in existence for many years. It is not a custom to say Chief in Council. It is a law. For God has said to the Prophet that he should always seek the advice of his people. On this system the law has been based with regard to Emirs, Chiefs and Judges. If the Chief has brought a point, his Councillors will point out criticisms or make suggestions if they have any. If he agrees to what they have said he will accept it. When the Europeans came to this country they found us using this system, a Chief in Council. It is a law. The question of putting right what has been wrong gives them more pleasure than anything else. Everything that goes wrong should be put right unless the amendment is contrary to the religion. We note that even in the Central system of legislation it is the Governor-in-Council. It shows that we are on the same lines. Why are we going to demolish all this which we already know is legal. The second point is that we are under British government. We all know that British government always defends the religion of the people. My view is that this Chief in Council is stronger. If there are other places who think that this system of Chief in Council is not suitable to them, well, they can have another system. That is all.

Moses Nyang Rwang, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I want to explain something in this matter which has been discussed in the morning. I have heard some Members say that people have been asked to give their opinion. I think that has been done in other places but not in Plateau Province. The reason why I say that is I think that when Mr Maddocks and Mr Pott came to the Province they stayed in Jos Division only. Only three of us were called up before them. One of us was a Chief. They suggested Village Councils in order to allow the common man to air his views and they asked me for an opinion on that. I said it was well that the common man should be allowed to say something in moulding his Government. But they did not say anything concerning Chief in Council. My opinion on the question of Chief in Council is that we are put in much more darkness than we were put before. Those Village Councils will not be of any use. I feel it is better if it is done as Chief and Council. It is now the age of the common man. The time when it should be said "Chief in Council" has already passed. In the North it is not everywhere that this custom exists. I would like to repeat, because one Member has said that in the whole Northern Region there are many tribes, and it is true that the custom of one people should not be applied to another. This is not our custom to have Chief in Council. It is Chief and Council. That is what we know in Plateau Province. It is not in my opinion right to say Chief in Council, because now Government says the Chief has full power to do anything. We want Chief and Council. It is up to the House to decide now. It is the age of the common people.

Mallam Audu Anace, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I think we are still in ignorance of the definite meaning of Chief in Council and Chief and Council. Does it mean that Chief in Council can do whatever he likes without consulting his Councillors? If that is the case, I would not advise this House to adopt this term. But if the meaning is that the Chief is obliged to consult his Councillors on all matters of administration, then I see no cause for argument. It is not in all parts of the Northern Region that we find Chiefs in Council. Even in the places where we find Chiefs in Council it is said that it was by their permission and they were carrying out this according to their tradition. Even in the past when Chiefs in Council were evolved in those Provinces and those Divisions, it was those Councillors that appointed that Chief to preside over them. They do not do anything without consulting the common people. That is what we have been told. That is what we are being made to understand in those places that are concerned. Mr President, Sir, with your permission I would like to quote from page 6 of the Report :—

"It was suggested that, in view of the fact that the term 'Chief in Council' which, in English, has a very definite and precise legal significance, is foreign to the Hausa language, it would be desirable to provide, perhaps by an amendment to the Native Authority Ordinance, a statutory definition of the phrase in order to overcome this difficulty : such a definition would specifically establish the right of a Chief similar to that of a Governor-in-Council, for reasons stated to the Resident of the Province concerned, to diverge from the advice of his Council. If the Resident considered that the Chief was wrong in diverging from the advice of his Council he would advise the Chief accordingly. If the Chief disregarded this advice the Resident would report the matter to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council for decision.

"If the Resident considered that a decision of the Chief in Council was likely to prejudice the peace, order or good government of the area,

he could order that the decision be suspended pending his immediate report thereon to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council for his decision.'

By that one can understand that the Chief has to consult his Council on everything, and there is no suggestion here that the Chief is Sole Native Authority. What we all do not like is that the Chief should act alone. If the term does not imply that autocratic powers be given to a Chief, then I support this term.

Mallam Dauda Haruna Kwoi :

Mr President, Sir, I find that I have to support two sides. I have to support the Government because I am nominated by the Government and I have to support the Members because it is my feeling. This system applies in the North. If this nomination system is made the practice in the North, all those nominated Members will speak in the same way as I do now because they will have to support the Chiefs because they are nominated by the Chiefs, and outside they will support the common people. So I should suggest that the whole nomination system should be reviewed. We have it from our records that there was no Chief who was recognised as Chief who over-ruled the decisions of the people. There were even Chiefs who sat in their palaces and only the important Councillors consulted the public and then took to the Chief decisions arrived at by the public, and he could not over-rule those decisions because he was elected by those people who loved him. I think we should revise the system so that our Chiefs should be responsible to the people who elected them. It is easy because if they are made responsible to the people then everything will be all right. The main obstacles which Government should overcome are shyness and fear. I think these are the main obstacles in the whole of Nigeria. So I strongly suggest that this Local Government should be revised because it is most important in the Northern Region. If it is well organised, then this Council will run smoothly. Otherwise this Council will have to be dissolved after five years. Even those who go out on propaganda against authority have only this Local Government as their weapon. So I should suggest that the Government should take the initiative before those people get a chance of criticising the Government. They should overcome those obstacles, very difficult as they appear.

I must speak about the pagan areas. By pagans, I do not mean those who do not profess to have religion. In such areas, there are Moslems and there are Christians and there are those who follow their customs. They all live peacefully with their people. But there has been a great disagreement between these people because the Government machinery is getting very weak now. I do not know where we go in the next election. But I strongly advise that the Government should keep an eye to see that it is carried out justly, which would be to their best advantage. That is my feeling.

The President :

There is a point which I think I should clear up because it affects the whole House and Members of this House, and that is that an Appointed Member or a Special Member is appointed to represent certain interests. He is not appointed to support the Government attitude. I think the best example of that is in the Honourable Mr James, who said a lot of things in the old House which were certainly not things which Government told him to say, and we are very glad to see him back again here.

Mallam Michael Audu Buba, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move four amendments.

The President :

I am afraid the House cannot accept amendments upon a Report of this kind. The Honourable Member can say what he likes about any passage in the Report and that will be recorded. But the House cannot accept amendments as such, altering phrases in the Report. The Honourable Member is at liberty to say what he likes about any passage in the Report.

Mallam Michael Audu Buba, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, as I have no power to amend anything in the Report, I do not want to say anything.

E. G. Gundu, Esq., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I wish to associate myself with those who are opposed to the term Chief in Council. I trust this House will agree with me that we have no other ulterior motive behind our objection to the term Chief in Council. Mr President, Sir, I suggest that this House will accept the Report on the Development of Local Administration after it has been duly amended in the Committee of this House.

The Hon. Shettima Kashim, M.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, I feel the big and loud noises made in the Eastern and Western Regions have coloured the debate before this House. In the course of their speeches, some Honourable Members made mention of development of Local Administration in the West and in the East. But for the diversity of customs, traditions and backgrounds in the different parts of Nigeria, there would not have been three Regions in Nigeria. Honourable Members must remember that what is acceptable to the other two Regions cannot be accepted in the Northern Region. One Honourable Member very rightly said that even before the advent of Europeans in this country we had our own system of administration, based on religious and traditional system. The system was sound and healthy and could be boasted of as democratic. In the course of years the administration lost some of its qualities and hence the request for reform. This Report we are debating on is so composed that if accepted and implemented, we will regain those qualities which have been lost. The Report was accepted by the former Government and work has already been started in every part of the country. Our only advice on this part of the House is that we take this Report as a working basis, and if in the light of experience it wants any improvement or modification, it can still be done. But I do not think we are doing justice to the country if we reject it at this moment. Mr President, I support that the Report be accepted.

The President :

I call upon the mover to reply, if he wishes to do so.

The Minister of Works (The Hon. Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sardaunan Sokoto) :

Mr President, Sir, I have been listening to this lengthy debate about the Motion I moved early in the morning. Not only I as the mover, but any sensible person who had been in the House listening to what is being said will have realised that most of the people have not been reading the papers they have been given. There is one person who is a member of a Native Authority Council, who has just said he wants his Native Authority to be made Native Authority and Council, although it is already Native Authority and Council. Does this show that he knows what is going on in his own home? Sir, as one Honourable Member has just been saying, this is

the age of the common man. It has always been the age of the common man. Similar arguments arose about a year ago. I went home, dug out a paper in order to prove to a gentleman that the Fulani rule was a democratic one. I am sorry I got to make him known although I did not like to (*No, no, do not disclose*). I agree. This Report is an elastic one. It has been made to suit all sorts of people in the country. When it was being prepared it was not merely confined to the Moslem areas. I should like to agree with a point raised by my Honourable friend, the Minister of Natural Resources. That is, there is a saying in Hausa, "Ba a mugun Sarki sai mugun bafade". In other words, we never have a bad Chief, but it is the people around him, that is the Councillors. I have been in N.A. Council since 1938 and know their tricks. Let Councillors have integrity and unity as he says. How would you expect a man or a Councillor who moves about the country corrupting himself, making all sorts of mal-practices, to come and advise the N.A. on matters contrary to its wishes? I do not like to go into detail about this, but I can produce 100 examples. When reading a file in the Secretariat, I read that an Emir asked his Council what would be a better choice from two people for appointment to go to the House of Assembly. One was progressive and also had modern education, and the other was just an ordinary Councillor. The Council advised him to take the ordinary Councillor. But the Emir thought twice and went to the Resident and informed him what had happened. The Resident asked him which his preference was. The Emir said, "I want the educated one who might be able to bring progress to the country". The Resident said "I will support you". And that went through. You see, that is an example of where the decision of the Native Authority had over-ridden the decision of his Council. Sir, I think most of the time was spent in trying to define Native Authority in Council and Native Authority and Council, which is only due to some Members' personal petty domestic complaints. This definition, as Honourable Members can see, is going to come before the House within a day or two. So I ask the House to accept the Motion.

The President :

The question is that the Motion standing in the name of the Minister of Works that an humble address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor informing him that the Report of the Joint Select Committee of the House of Chiefs and House of Assembly on the Development of Local Administration is acceptable to this House. Those in favour say "Aye". Those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The next Motion on the Paper, standing in the name of Mallam Ibrahim Imam is out of order since it would cause a reproduction of the debate we have just had. Mallam Ibrahim Imam has a second Motion which I now call.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

I am sorry to draw the attention of the Chair to this Motion which is now ruled out of order. The Motion is divided into two.

The President :

The Member can, if he wishes, produce another Motion which can be debated later on, which omits the part which is covered by the previous Motion.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Thank you, Sir. Mr President, Sir, before I move the Motion, I should like to ask the Civil Secretary whether it is not a gross discourtesy

on the part of Government to remove the preamble to my Resolution and to change the wording of my Resolution, which I am afraid has weakened the whole intention of my Resolution. It has taken out the nucleus. With the indulgence of the Chair I should like to read out my original Resolution.

The President :

As far as I recollect, when the Member's original Motion was sent to me there was no preamble. Anyhow, a preamble is quite unnecessary; a Resolution should be clear by itself and anything in a preamble should be later produced in the speech of the mover of the Motion.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, but is it Parliamentary procedure to change a Member's Motion without his consent?

The Legal Secretary :

Standing Order 20 Rule 6 deals with the form in which notices of Motions should appear in the Order Paper.

The President :

If the Honourable Member will read that clause he will see that the President is given power there to alter any Motion in any way. I myself sent the Honourable Member a telegram suggesting amendment to certain words because I thought it would help the Honourable Member in the debate. Perhaps the Member would move the Motion.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move the Motion, which is of course, not to my satisfaction, in the words said but not in my own words. The sense of the Resolution is very simple. It is a demand for a Minister of Local Government. A Minister of Local Government is a necessity in the Northern Region. Everybody here agrees; that this is the talk in the street, this is the public opinion, that the local administration must be reformed and democratised. So that everybody will take a fuller part in the government of the Region. I find that this will be very difficult if the appointment is not held by a Northerner. We have now got four Ministers on the Government Bench. None of these is for Local Government. I have just been made to understand by a person in this room that the responsibility for Local Government is in the hands of the Civil Secretary. In the Secretariat, Native Affairs is in the portfolio of Civil Secretary. How can we democratise Local Government when the portfolio is in the hands of somebody who is not a native of this country. I do not say that the Civil Secretary has no love for this country; he has, but a Northerner has more. It is essential for us to have a proper set-up for Local Government, in which case the necessity for a Minister of Local Government is well known. The Minister for Local Government in the Western Region, Mr Awolowo, has done well in bringing a Local Government Bill during the present session which is now taking place in the Western Region. It is a Local Government Bill where everybody is democratised. We shall not be crying about Chief in Council and Council, etc., if they are defined under a short title in a Local Government Bill. All these cries would stop. Native Authority Council will be defined. Village, District and Outer Councils will be defined. Everything will be defined. The relationship of the Administrative Officers to the Native Administration will be defined, so that Administrative Officers in the Region

will definitely know where they stand. The whole set-up is at present mixed up. When Lugard was here there was not, I think, a Sole Native Authority.....(Interruption).

The President :

Is the Honourable Member going to talk about the creation of the appointment of a Minister? We seem to have got away from the point. The Member is talking about the Motion which has just been finished.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, it is now the view of the public that we must have a Minister of Local Government. This has got a strong backing of public opinion because Members are quite sure—and I am sure even the Government Bench is sure of that. (Cries of "No"). I am making a Resolution that a Minister of Local Government be appointed out of the Elected and Special Members of this House, as there is a provision for more Ministers under section 125 of the Order in Council, which says that a maximum of six Ministers be appointed amongst the Elected and Special Members of this House. But so far there are only four Ministers. An oversight might have crept in on the part of the Government.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move that this House urges the need for a Minister of Local Government from amongst the Elected and Special Members of this House, as provided in section 125 of the Order in Council. I beg to move.

Mallam Yakubu Wanka, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to support the Motion. The question of Local Government is no doubt of very great importance in this Region. For this reason a Minister of Local Government is very essential. The sooner we get one the better. I beg to second.

The Minister for Community Development (The Hon. Belló, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, in reply to this Motion, on behalf of the Government, I find myself in some difficulty. Although the Honourable Member has told us what he wants, he has not made it at all clear why he wants it. As Members know, we have had recently a report from a Select Committee of the two Houses on the subject of Local Government and the Government has been studying the matter very carefully. Even now a Committee has been set up working under the Legal Secretary. I can assure the House that we have not failed to notice that the West and the East have Ministers of Local Government but we see no reason why we should follow the same example for the problems here are very different from what they are in the East and the West. Here, in the North, we have long enjoyed a system of Government which has its roots deep in our history. It has been developing all the time in response to new needs and our present task is to see that this ordered progress can continue. In the East and in the West, on the other hand, they have decided more or less to replace the existing system of Local Government with a completely new system. That is the main reason why they have Ministers of Local Government. I would remind the House that Northern Nigeria is the home of indirect administration, i.e., the Government does not itself do all the work. The majority of services are left with the N.As. to carry on with the minimum of supervision and control. Northern Nigeria is the home of this system and the idea was transplanted

from here to the East and the West. If the system has not worked so well there as it has in the North we are sorry and we do not blame them for deciding to make a change and to borrow from England a different set of institutions and to have a special Minister to supervise their functions. But the very fact that Local Government has flourished so much more vigorously in the North would make it much more difficult and dangerous for us to make such a change. For the part which Local Government plays in the North is very much greater than in the other Regions. Native Authorities here carry out many duties which, in those Regions, are the concern of the Government. In some of the bigger Emirates there is hardly an institution run by the Government. It is all N.A. Schools, Medical work, the Police, the Prisons, the Roads,—all are maintained and organised by N.As. Sometimes the Government provides the funds, as we know, but the work is done under N.A. supervision. What are the duties of a Minister of Local Government going to be in relation to all these activities? At present they are concerned indirectly, because this is indirect administration, but it is still the concern of individual Ministers. Are they to be withdrawn from their portfolio and all placed in the portfolio of a Minister of Local Government? This would be much more than anyone could undertake and would involve a complete change in the Regional administration as well as in the character of the Local Government. Besides, I ask myself, what would be the position of the N.As. in such a system? Over a large part of the Region the Native Authority is the religious leader of his people as well as the leader in secular affairs and, in many matters, carries out functions which are not the concern of the Government. Is the Member proposing to make the N.As. subject to the direction of a Minister of Local Government? Is this what the House wants? I am sure it is not. The work of the Government and the N.A. touch at many points and even overlap. Every one of the Regional Ministers finds himself in constant contact with the machinery of the Native Administrations we know and so do the N.As. themselves. This machinery calls for improvement and modernisation. As Members of the Executive Council, it is the responsibility of each one of us to advise on the changes which are necessary. Our duties are not limited to the particular aspects of the Native Administrations which our portfolios bring to our attention. It is our duty to advise on the machine as a whole. I wish to assure the House that we are not neglecting this duty.

I wish, Sir, to make one final point. Nearly all of us in this House, without exception, have been closely associated with the work of the Native Administration, either now or in the past. We have recently had before us a Report of the Joint Select Committee to consider Local Government. We have the experience necessary to weigh the recommendations in that Report. We do not need an expert, a Minister of Local Government, to do this for us. It is a responsibility which is not beyond our powers and we should not try to avoid it. Let us continue to overhaul and develop our system of Local Government of which we have every reason to be proud, but let us follow the path we know. We must avoid the temptation to copy ready-made devices from elsewhere and like good craftsmen we must carry on our own traditions. The Honourable Member who has moved this Motion has given us an opportunity of discussing these matters. He has done us a good service. On behalf of the Government, I ask him to withdraw the Motion, since it has served its purpose, otherwise I shall ask the House to join in rejecting it.

The President :

The sitting will be suspended for 15 minutes.

At 4.50 p.m.

The President :

The Debate is resumed on Mallam Ibrahim Imam's Motion.

Abba Habib, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I was very surprised to hear, before the break, that a Minister was asking us to reject the appointment of a Minister of Local Government. Hearing from the public it is quite essential that we should have a Minister of Local Government. I believe the aim of the British Government is to bring progress into this country. When I say into this country I mean Nigeria and Nigeria is divided into three Regions. When some Regions of Nigeria have Ministers of Local Government I can see no reason why we should not have one, for if we do not take such a step at the moment we are bound to fail the future generations. We shall be left in an awkward position when Nigeria gets independence. We can observe that, five years ago, nobody thought that we would be having our Ministers. Do we lack the brains? I think we should not be cowed down by fear. Somebody has said—what will be the position of the Chiefs if we get a Minister of Local Government. What is the position of the Chiefs at the moment? I believe their positions are not changed. Mr President, I beg to support the Motion.

Mallam Bello Dandago, M.H.R., Wakilin Waje :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion with all my energy. When the time does come, and it has not yet come, perhaps I will be the first person to second or propose to move a Motion like this. It is the considered view of the people in this Region, at least within the life history of this House, that creating a so-called Minister of Local Government is unnecessary. Mr President, we seem to like to get too much, too soon. The Constitution itself is new, hence it is called the new Constitution. People holding Ministerial positions are new in it. Sir, let them and let us gain more practical experience in handling matters before we play with fire. Mr President, if it is fear it is a justifiable fear. The mover of the Motion as a Nigerian, knows what I am afraid of. Sir, it is not the time to create such a post.

The Minister for Community Development (The Hon. Bello, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, on a point of explanation. I should like to adjust the statement made in my speech. I said in the East and the West on the other hand, they have decided more or less to replace the existing form of Local Government, but I do not mean to include the West who do not mean to completely change the form of their Local Government.

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, I am rising to oppose the Motion. The Minister for Community Development has asked why a Minister of Local Government is wanted and I have not yet heard why he was wanted from any one. Honourable Members have assured us on many occasions that they are not emulating the other Regions' activities. I doubt very much if this is the case. Will the Honourable Mover of this Motion assure the House that it is the wish of the public to have a Minister of Local Government? I myself agree with him when he said the two vacancies as provided by the Constitutional Instrument should be filled. But did the people in his

constituency ask him that one should be for Local Government. As I understand from the speeches of one or two of the Members, a Minister of Local Government is required to deal with Councils. Did the members of the Village Councils, District Councils and Native Authority Councils ask that a Minister of Local Government should be appointed? And I am quite aware that the Honourable Mover is a member of a Native Authority Council. Did the members of the Native Authority Council ask him to come here and ask for a Minister of Local Government to be appointed? If he was not, I advise him, Sir, very strongly, to withdraw his Motion, go back to his constituency, consult with the other people and get their views first. I oppose this Motion very strongly.

The President :

Does the Honourable Member wish to reply to the debate?

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I give a further chance to the House for debate.

The President :

No Member wishes to speak.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I am very surprised to hear from the Government Bench now asking me whether I have been advised by the Advisory Council of Bornu to ask for the appointment of a Minister of Local Government. The answer is "No". But I am afraid that when this Minister was appointed, I do not think the Bornu Advisory Council was consulted on the subject. Mr President, Sir, I should like to refresh the memories of this august House, more especially of the Government Bench. It was the year 1949 when I came to the House of Assembly as an additional Member. I raised this question of appointment of Ministers in the Northern Region when we were having a sort of joint meeting with the Emirs. I was strongly opposed. I called for a vote. It was voted. I got 4 supporters out of 92 Members. The Honourable Member who has just spoken went to the extent of saying that we should find money somewhere else to pay Ministers when they are appointed. But not Nigerian money. And I regret to say that during last February we passed a Budget in favour of salaries to Ministers. *(Interruption)*

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, on a point of order. Is the Honourable Member referring to me? I did not mention about salaries. What I mean is, is the Honourable Member referring to my speech?

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, at that time I asked that my views might be considered as minority report. When they went to Ibadan for the General Conference—the Select Committee of the House—they opposed the appointment of Ministers. But later they came to agree and now they are the Ministers who opposed the appointment before. I am not wishing to become one of them because I would like to be opposing the Government all the time because a Government without opposition is not healthy. So instead of withdrawing my Motion I would just leave it like this, and posterity will tell.

[President]

[Motions]

The President :

The question is that this House considers that the subject of Local Government should be the responsibility of a specific Minister of the Northern Region. Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No".

The "Noes" have it.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I call for a Division.

Over 15 Members rose in their places to support the Honourable Member.

The House divided and voted as follows :—

<i>Ayes</i>	<i>Noes</i>
25	56
Abba Habib	Abba Kyari Shuwa
Abba Kyari Kura	Audu Anace
Abdulmaliki	Abdulumuni
Abubakar Imam	Abubakar Madawaki
Agara, J. M. Y.	Achimugu, P. S.
Ahmadu Lamdo Mubi	Ahman Pategi
Cia Aka	Alhaji Shehu Ahmadu
Auta Anza Ninzam	Benjamin Akiga
Buba Gombe	Alhaji Ali Negeedu
Dauda Haruna Kwoi	Aliyu Gumel
David Lot	Aliyu Sokoto
Wuam Gambe	Bawa Yelwa
E. G. Gundu	Bello Dandago
Ibrahim Imam	Bello Malabu
S. O. James,	Haruna S/Gobir
Jauro Gombe	Hassan Abuja
Michael Audu Buba	Ibrahim Argungu
Moses Nyang Rwang	Ibrahim Gumel
Pegher Mue	Ibrahim Demsa
Muhammadu Bashir Daura	Maikandio Igbon
Muhammadu Danmallam	Jibir Daura
G. U. Ohikere	Junaidu Wazirin Sokoto
Patrick Davou Fom	A. O. Ladan Baki
Yakubu Wanka	Maje Abdullahi
T. A. Yogh	Muhammadu Danburam
	Muhammadu Kazaure
	Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa
	Muhammadu Bushari
	Muhammadu Munir
	Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi
	Muhammadu Dodo
	Muhammadu Bello
	Muhammadu Bida
	Muhammadu Tureta
	Alhaji Nabegu Kano
	Sa'adu Alanamu
	Sambo Ciroman Hadejia
	Sambo S/Fada
	Sanusi Zaria

[President]

[Motions]

Noes—continued

Sulemanu Isa
Umara Maiduguri
Alhaji Usman Gwarzo
Major H. E. Wilson
Yahaya Ilorin
Yusufu Galadiman Hadejia
M. V. Backhouse
Hon. Ahmadu Sardauna
Hon. Aliyu Makama
Hon. Bello Kano
Hon. Muhammadu Wali
The Financial Secretary
The Legal Secretary
The Civil Secretary
Alhaji Sani Giwa
Mallam Usman Nadanko
Alhaji Abubakar

Abstain

12

Alhaji Shehu Buhari	Ibrahim M. Gashash
Isa Kaita	Alhaji Muhammadu Sada Nadada
Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi	Muhammadu Sani Maigama
Alhaji Usman Liman	Yahaya Gusau
Hon. Abubakar T. Balewa	Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu
Hon. Shettima Kashim	Mr Obande

The President :

The Votes cast were—for the "Ayes", 25, for the "Noes", 56 and 12 abstained. The "Noes" have it.

The Minister of Social Services, (The Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makaman Bida) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg leave to move a Motion standing in my name in the Order Paper of the day, which reads as follows :—

Be it resolved :

(a) That amounts up to the sum at any time invested under the name of the Northern Region Scholarship Fund may be realised on the instructions of the Financial Secretary with the advice of the Northern Region Scholarship Board, and paid into a Suspense Account in the Northern Regional Treasury for disposal as and when required by way of scholarships to students of Northern Nigerian origin to higher training institutions in Nigeria and abroad.

(b) That any profit or loss or expenses sustained in connection with the withdrawal of the fund be credited or debited to the fund as the case may be".

In moving this Resolution, I crave the indulgence of the House for I wish to take this opportunity to explain fully the whole question of award of scholarships. This is a matter which I believe has been disturbing the minds of the educated elements of this Region, and about which there has recently been a number of articles in the Press, asking for details of scholarships or plans for scholarships in the North. Mr President, Sir, to begin

with I would like to remind the House that there are three Resolutions governing this fund. The first Resolution was adopted at the March Budget Session of 1949 when it was agreed to establish a Northern Region Scholarship Fund. It was agreed to put aside for that purpose £25,000 each year for a period of eight years. It was also agreed that the disposal of the funds should be subject to the Resolution of the House of Chiefs and of the Northern House of Assembly, and that no payment should be made from the Fund for a period of five years or such modified period as the two Houses should by Resolution determine. In implementation of this Resolution, the two Houses adopted on the 7th September and 15th September, 1949, respectively, the following Resolutions :—

“That this House do advise His Excellency the Governor that the annual payments of £25,000 provided by the Nigerian Government under the Northern Region Scholarship Fund should be withdrawn each year and transferred to a special Fund in the Colony's Main Accounts, and that the Accountant-General should invest such payments and further, that any interest earned by the investments should be credited to the Fund and reinvested as and when it is received, and further, that any profits earned or losses or expenses sustained in connection with the investment should be credited or debited to the Fund as the case may be and further, except as heretofore stated, no transaction in connection with the Fund or its investment is to be credited without a resolution of the House of Chiefs and the Northern House of Assembly or by such rules and regulations as the two Houses may from time to time determine for the administration of the Fund.”

The Executive Council is now asking the House to adopt the Resolution to realise the funds, not because any student has yet been refused a scholarship because of lack of funds, but because it thinks that the time has now come when the Regional Scholarship Board should be established to award scholarships to candidates who might not be considered suitable for the award of Central Government scholarships. To show that funds have always been available I would like to explain to you the existing policy and procedure for the award of scholarships. The existing procedure is that all applications are now submitted initially direct to the Civil Service Commissioner at Lagos who then convenes meetings of the Regional Public Service Boards in order that they may interview candidates from the respective Regions and make recommendations to the Central Public Service Board. There is also available a sum of £1,000 a year in the Regional Educational estimates which can be used to help deserving students. Now, the future procedure will be different. A Northern Region Scholarship Board has been set up. It will not be in competition with the Central Public Service Board but will be complementary to it. All applications for awards from *bona fide* Northerners, i.e., persons belonging to indigenous tribes and born in the North, will be addressed to the Secretary, Northern Region Scholarship Board. Applications from candidates of non-Northern origin, but resident in the Region, should be addressed either direct to the Civil Service Commissioner or to the Region of their origin. The Northern Region Scholarship Board will meet quarterly to consider applications and will forward the names and papers of those who appear qualified to the Civil Service Commissioner for consideration. The Northern Region Scholarship Board will consider whether awards from Regional funds may be given to candidates who are unsuccessful before the Central Public Service Board, or to candidates whose names are not forwarded for one reason or another. The Northern Region Scholarship Board will also consider applications for Arabic scholarships and all deserving

cases for special awards to promising boys to enable them to enter public or secondary schools in the United Kingdom. They will also consider special awards to craftsmen who require special training in their crafts, either in Nigeria or overseas and applications from women for teacher training, domestic science training, nursing and midwifery training. One of the first things which the Board must decide is the extent it wishes to rely on the Central Public Service Board in liaison with British Universities and training institutions. While availing itself of the resources of the Central Board it may wish to set out supplementary machinery of its own in co-operation with the Nigeria Office or other institutions in London. That will be the procedure in the Northern Provinces in the future. As I said at the beginning I have received numerous letters and questions from Members of this House asking me for my plans for award of scholarships and drawing my attention to announcements made in other Regions. I would therefore, at this point, like to explain why I do not make wordy promises. I have some hard words to say but I should be failing in my duty to the House, and to the Region as a whole, if I did not say them. No Minister, in whatsoever Region of this country he may be, can produce any efficient short term scholarship scheme, no matter how much money the Regional Government may make available for that purpose. There are some things in life which money cannot buy and a University education is one of them. We in Nigeria must accustom ourselves to that fact and the sooner we do accustom ourselves to the harsh reality the better it will be for us. British Universities are dedicated to the pursuit of learning and they are jealous of their independence and their high educational standards. They are not influenced by politics in this country or elsewhere and their insistence on high standards is the reason why the value of the education they give is so universally recognised. Let us not deceive ourselves. Certainly we need large numbers of highly qualified Northern Nigerians but there is no ready and easy way of achieving this vital need. We shall only obtain large numbers of graduates after some years of hard work devoted to that end by the Government and Education Department. Most of all, our scheme will depend on students who are now in Secondary Schools. Unless they are prepared to put aside all complacency and are ready to support us in order to acquire knowledge, all our efforts will be in vain. I have found this spirit in some Provinces but not in all. It is the duty of all Members of this House to try to spread this spirit among our young men and I would like to add that we will not promote the spirit if at any time any one of us appears to condone any form of indiscipline in schools and training institutions.

Now, I come to the question of qualifications needed for admittance to Universities. The candidate has first to pass a Matriculation test and the standard now normally required is a Pass in the General Schools Certificate with Passes in three subjects at the lower level and two at the advanced level. Having persuaded the governing body of the University that he is qualified to enter then he has to persuade the faculty of that University to accept him into it and he is unlikely to be accepted unless one subject in his advanced Certificate is a faculty subject. It is not therefore going to be easy to find candidates in appreciable numbers to enter into Universities in this Region, or from either of the other two Regions. From what I have said you will see that boys and girls who attain Cambridge School Certificates at Nigerian secondary schools are not, by virtue of their certificate, qualified to enter British Universities. Their certificate may give them exemption from the lower level from the General Certificate of Education but it does not exempt them from subjects at the advanced level. This is the first problem we

must attempt. A period of coaching of probably two years is necessary to prepare students for these higher subjects in order to qualify them for entry to a degree course.

I will now describe the action we are taking to meet these difficulties.

The President :

I am afraid I must interrupt the Honourable Member. Under Order 4 (3) the President interrupts the business fifteen minutes before he closes the sitting. I propose, however, as we have no unopposed business, to invite the Minister to conclude his speech before the House rises today. There is one other Motion on the Order Paper which is in the name of Mallam Muhammadu Inuwa Wada. I understand that Mallam Bello Dandago is representing him in this respect. Normally if the end of a sitting comes before a private Motion is reached, that Motion fails and is lost, so it does not appear again, but if the Honourable Member wishes to press for this Motion I am sure the House will give leave for it to be taken later.

Mallam Bello Dandago, M.H.R., Wakilin Waje :

Mr President, Sir, I wish to press.

The President :

In that case I propose to take it tomorrow after the conclusion of the debate on the present Motion. Strictly speaking, Tuesday is the prerogative of the private member and again, strictly speaking, this Motion, which is a Government Motion, should not come up on Tuesday, but as it is of considerable importance, I feel that the House would like to go on with the debate rather than break it off and go on at a later date.

The House will resume tomorrow with a debate on this Motion. Finally, on the Order Paper for today we have one second reading of a Bill ; I propose to put that at the end of the Order Paper for tomorrow in case the House gets through the Motions quicker than I think they will. Is that agreeable to the Government Bench ? *(Unanimous agreement).*

The President :

Perhaps the Honourable Minister of Social Services would like to go on with his speech to the conclusion.

The Minister of Social Services (The Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makaman Bida) :

I will now describe the action we are taking to meet these difficulties. The Principal of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology has agreed to arrange a suitable pre-University Course provided we can produce a sufficient number of students in any one year with good Certificates. I am also investigating the possibility of arranging for selected students with the Certificates to have special education in England in order to qualify them for degree courses. We have discussed with the Secretary of State the possibility of asking certain overseas institutions if they will conduct special courses for students from this Region. Students completing these courses will take the normal degree but they will have to spend one or two years longer on the course than English students taking the same examination. Enquiries are also being made in North Africa, the Sudan and Parkistan for Arabic scholarships. Here again a pre-University course will be required. There is a very indication that the supply of the candidates suitable for pre-University training will improve rapidly. At present only one Boys' Secondary School, Zaria, and one Girls' Secondary School, Queen of Apostles Convent, Kaduna,

are entering candidates for the School Certificate examination. During the next three years Keffi Secondary School and the three Voluntary Agency Secondary Schools will be entering candidates. These Voluntary Agencies are—St. John's College, Kaduna, The Grammar School, Offa, and the S.U.M. Secondary School, Gindiri. Later, other Secondary Schools will be entering candidates and our choice will be correspondingly increased. Our chance of finding students for degree courses at the Universities will then be much better than it is today. At the same time I wish to remind you that every horse is not a race horse, nor is every pupil in a secondary school a potential University student.

So far I have dealt only with scholarships to Universities. This is the type of scholarship which is now being demanded vehemently in the Press and by Members of this House. There are many other types of scholarship which can, and should be, awarded, provided that suitably qualified candidates exist and, most of all, come forward. Here again the standards demanded, particularly that of the technical institutions, is very high and the Principals are reluctant to lower their standards. Again I have made tentative enquiries to find out what can be done to meet our special difficulties.

I hardly need to remind you that Nigeria is a young country. Although Arabic scholarship has flourished here for many generations, Western education is an exotic plant introduced very recently. It has done well to grow as well as it has but too much cannot be expected of it too soon. In introducing this Motion to the House I would like to point out that this money would not have been available for use now had it not been for the foresight of the Members of the old Legislative Council who, four years ago, saw the need for a Regional Scholarship Fund and who did their best to convince the Government to set aside money for that purpose. We are often criticised in this Region for not having made adequate provision for education. In this particular instance we were four years ahead of other Regions who have only recently followed our example and taken action on similar lines. If our school students will prepare themselves diligently for higher education and if Members of this House will exhort them all to demonstrate that zeal for learning that I have already found in some Provinces, I have no doubt that we will be able to spend this money wisely and to the lasting benefit of this Region. Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

The President :

The House will stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

(The House adjourned at 6 p.m.).

QUESTIONS

Monday, 7th July, 1952

QUESTIONS AND ORAL ANSWERS

Mr T. Ayilla Yogh, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg leave to ask No. 01 :—

(a) Whether the published Report of the Joint Select Committee of the Northern Regional Council on the Development of Local Administration is intended by Government for practical purposes?

(b) If so, whose duty is it to see that the Report is put into practice, and when?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

Mr President, Sir,

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Regional Executive Council is the body charged with general responsibility for policy in the Region. A start has been made in every Province to implement the recommendations of the Report but owing to the very varied conditions prevailing between and in the Provinces it is not possible to say when the recommendations will be fully implemented.

T. Ayilla Yogh, Esq., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg leave to ask question No. 03 of the Minister of Social Services :—

(a) Is the D.R.C.M. Hospital, Mkar, a Private or Public Institute, intended to serve Gboko and the 620,000 Tivs in the whole of Tiv Division?

(b) If so, is the Minister not convinced during his visit that the Hospital is incapable of meeting the very heavy demand for treatment due to the fact that it is under-equipped, under-accommodated and under-staffed?

(c) Does not Government consider it would be a good gesture if it provided a better hospital at Gboko, which is the Headquarters of Tiv Division and where the population is more condensed for the use of the whole community?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services (The Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makaman Bida) :

Mr President, Sir,

(a) The D.R.C.M. Hospital, Mkar, is a private institution operated by a Voluntary Agency, and registered under the Private Hospitals Ordinance. It is in receipt of certain assistance from public funds in the form of capital and recurrent grants, paid from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. As the Honourable Member is aware the Mkar Hospital is not the only hospital in Tiv Division, for there is a Government hospital of 110 beds at Makurdi which is now in the process of being extended.

(b) No, Sir. I was much impressed with what I saw of the work of this hospital during my visit, and I do not agree that it is incapable of meeting the admittedly heavy demands which are being made upon it and which

are a sure indication of its popularity with the people. Government will continue to give such assistance as may be to the Mission Authorities to enable them to extend and improve their facilities.

(c) No, Sir. Government's first duty is to see that available resources are distributed as fairly as possible between the various peoples of this Region according to their numbers and needs. Under the Colonial Development and Welfare plan new hospitals are being built or about to be built at Keffi, which is Government, at Wukari (Government), Oturkpo (combined Government under D.R.C.M.) and Makurdi hospital as stated is being extended. Thus Benue Province will in due course be served by four other hospitals in addition to Mkar—a not ungenerous provision in proportion to its population. During my discussion with the N.A. Council and my talk at which the Honourable Member was present, there was unanimous agreement that the hospital at Mkar which is only five miles from Gboko could serve that town satisfactorily. As the Honourable Member will agree it will be a waste of public money to build hospitals five miles apart no matter whether they are N.A., Government, or Voluntary Agency.

QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

S. O. James, Esq. (Special Member) :

33. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

(a) Is the Northern Regional Government proposing to make provision in the 1953-54 Estimates for the grant of scholarships overseas and to Ibadan University College to deserving Northern boys as has been done in the other two Regions in current financial year?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, how much money is it proposed to allocate and how many boys are to be awarded scholarships?

(c) Is the policy to be pursued annually?

(d) Is the Minister aware that scores of boys with Middle Six standard leave schools annually in the North and that most of these boys could be sent to British Workshops and other institutions for both theoretical and practical training in the various trades?

(e) If the answer to (d) above is in the negative, does my Honourable friend appreciate the urgency of this Region keeping pace with the other two Regions in all fields of endeavour?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

(a) Yes, Sir. Provision has been made in the Estimates of the Northern Region for several years past for financial assistance to students at higher Training Institutions.

(b) As much as is necessary. Five students at Ibadan University College are already in receipt of assistance. The number to be awarded further scholarships will depend on the number of suitable applicants. It is the policy of the Northern Regional Government that no Northern boy who has qualified for admission into a higher Training Institution should be prevented from entering through lack of funds, and if a greater number of students require assistance, and more funds are required than is shown in the Estimates, supplementary provision will be sought from this House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) I am not aware of the fact that scores of boys leave school annually with Secondary VI (the old Middle VI) qualification. Last year 34 boys left Zaria Secondary School after completing Secondary VI, of whom 9 obtained Cambridge School Certificate. None of these students elected to apply for entry to British Workshops. All are at present employed or undergoing further training for teaching and other professions.

(e) Yes, Sir. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement on the subject of scholarships for the Region I made to the Press on the 9th of June.

S. O. James, Esq. (Special Member) :

34. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

(a) With reference to Omnibuses plying between Jos and Bukuru, is the Government aware of the inconvenience suffered by the public as a result of these Omnibuses not running to any time-tables ?

(b) As many of these Omnibuses pack at one end until they can get passengers to fill them whilst passengers wait at the other end in vain, can something be done to ameliorate the inconvenience thus suffered by the public ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

(a) and (b). The Member is referred to the replies to Question 35.

S. O. James, Esq. (Special Member) :

35. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

(a) Will Government consider the advisability of bringing into force, on Jos/Bukuru/Jos run, section 49 (1) (b) of the Road Traffic Regulations 1948 ?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government apply the section immediately : if the answer is in the negative, why not ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is being examined and if it is considered practicable it will be implemented.

Mallam Bawa Yelwa, M.H.R., Elected Member, Sokoto Province :

36. To ask the Minister of Works :—

In view of the many complaints made by the public on the bad conditions of roads, what is Government doing about this ?

Answer—

The Minister of Works :

Government is aware that the condition of some of the roads in the Northern Region leaves much to be desired. This is mainly due to lack of engineering supervision, caused by the large amount of construction work in progress.

2. The steps being taken to improve the maintenance of the roads include :—

(a) Reorganisation of the present system of maintenance by hand labour, which it is hoped will become possible by the increase which has taken place in the number of engineers.

(b) The introduction, on the roads carrying heavy traffic, of mechanical maintenance equipment.

(c) The establishment of a school for the instruction of road overseers to be run by the Public Works Department.

(d) The tarring of roads carrying the heaviest traffic; there is an approved programme of 650 miles, in addition to 300 miles already done.

Mallam Bawa Yelwa, M.H.R., Elected Member, Sokoto Province :

37. To ask the Minister of Works :—

(a) When will the Yelwa-Rofia-Bussa road be opened ?

(b) What is the total amount of money spent so far ?

Answer—

The Minister of Works :

(a) It is not possible at this stage to say when the Kaiama-Bussa-Rofia-Yelwa road will be opened, as shortage of personnel makes it impossible at present to post any special staff for this work.

(b) Expenditure up to 31st March, 1952 was £500. Authority has been given to spend £5,000 in the current financial year, which will be used to begin work on the Oil River Bridge.

Mallam Bawa Yelwa, M.H.R., Elected Member, Sokoto Province :

38. To ask the Financial and Development Secretary :—

What are Government plans on the development of the towns on the banks of the River Niger and other rivers with regard to the improvement of their ports, and of their eroded banks ?

Answer—

The Acting Financial and Development Secretary :

Government has not formulated any plans for the improvement of ports and the control of erosion of the river banks in riverain towns. The Honourable Member will, however, be pleased to know that Government is fully aware of the importance of improving navigation on the Niger and Benue Rivers, and that efforts are being made to obtain expert advice on whether this is practicable. If it is, and if improvements are carried out, a general scheme for the improvement of port facilities to deal with heavier traffic may well have to be considered. In the meantime, however, it is felt that such a scheme would not be justified and that such improvements to ports and such measures for the prevention of erosion as may be necessary would be more appropriately carried out by the local effort of Native Administrations than by Government.

Pagher Mue, Esq., Elected Member, Benue Province :

39. To ask the Financial and Development Secretary :—

Why is there a difference in pay between the Chief of Tiv and the other Chiefs of the same grade in Benue Province ?

Answer—

The Acting Financial and Development Secretary :

There are 29 Second Class Chiefs in the Northern Region with annual salaries varying from £1,800 to £300. The amount of the salary of a Chief depends not on his grade or class, but on the population and size of the area he administers and on the financial resources of the Native Treasury concerned.

In Benue Province the Chief of Tiv administers an area with a population double that of the next most populous N.A. area, Idoma, and many times more populous than any of the other N.A. areas of the Province. Likewise Tiv Native Treasury has an ordinary revenue nearly three times greater than that of the next largest Native Treasury, Idoma, and over five times greater than any of the other Native Treasuries in the Province. Tiv Native Administration, therefore, has a more highly paid Chief than the other Native Administrations of Benue Province.

Pagher Mue, Esq., Elected Member, Benue Province :

40. To ask the Minister of Works :—

What would be the approximate cost for a permanent road to run from Makurdi-Lafia-Kafanchan to Kaduna ?

Answer—

The Minister of Works :

It is impossible without at least a rough survey to give an estimate of any reality for the construction of a road on the line suggested in the Question, and it is not felt that such a survey would be justified for a road which does not fit into the present approved road system. It is pointed out however that the present approved system provides for a road from Kaduna to Keffi which will provide a link between Makurdi and Kaduna on an even more direct line than that suggested in the Question. A contract for the construction of the Kaduna-Keffi road has been arranged ; Keffi and Makurdi are already connected by an all season road.

Alhaji Abdulmaliki, M.H.R., Elected Member, Kabba Province :

41. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

(a) Have the proposed Local Government reform recommendations become law in the Northern Region ?

(b) If so, which areas have been so far affected by the reform, and what is that is holding up action in the remaining places ?

(c) If not, why not ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

(a) Certain of the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on the development of Local Administration do not require amendment to the law for their implementation. It has, nevertheless, been considered desirable as an immediate step to modify the provisions contained in the Native Authority Ordinance, in order to set out clearly in the law the relationship between Chiefs and their Councils. A Bill for a Law to be entitled the "Native Authority (Definition of Functions) Law 1952" has accordingly been drafted and will be introduced at the current meeting of the Regional

Houses. In addition, the Executive Council of the Region has set up a Committee to examine and make recommendations for the amendment of all legislation affecting Native Administrations.

(b) Work on the implementation of the Joint Select Committee's recommendations has started in all Provinces.

(c) Does not arise.

Alhaji Abdulmaliki, M.H.R., Elected Member, Kabba Province :

44. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

(a) What are the figures for the blind, dumb and deaf in the Northern Region for the year 1951-52 ?

(b) What steps are being taken by Government to see that these unfortunate beings are sufficiently cared for ?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

(a) No accurate figures of the number of the blind are available. The number is thought to be in the neighbourhood of 80,000, but this must be regarded as a very rough approximation only. No figures at all are available for the deaf and dumb.

(b) The care of the blind, and of deaf mutes, like that of the aged and infirm, is, it is thought, primarily a communal and family responsibility, and is a proper field for voluntary effort, supplemented where necessary by local government aid. In pursuit of this view, Government has given active support to the British Empire Society for the Blind, of which branches are being or have been formed at various centres.

With regard to the more important aspect of preventing blindness Government has also been active, and "spot" ophthalmic surveys in Bornu and Plateau Provinces have done much to increase knowledge of the causes of blindness and consequently of how it can be cured.

Deaf mutism is unfortunately hereditary, and nothing can therefore be done to prevent an individual from getting it.

Alhaji Abdulmaliki, M.H.R., Elected Member, Kabba Province :

45. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

How many Welfare Centres are there in the Northern Region ?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

It is not clear to what the question specifically refers. There is at Zaria a Social Welfare Office, supervised by the Social Welfare Officer, Northern Region, and paid for by Government. It is Government's policy that progress in welfare will best be achieved by local endeavour and, for example, in pursuance of this policy, there is a Welfare Officer at Kano paid for from Native Authority funds.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

46. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

(a) Is Government aware that the land tenure in the North is complicated ?

(b) If so, will Government consider appointing a Commission to go into the matter and make recommendations that will lead to making the position clear ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

- (a) No, Sir.
(b) It is not proposed to appoint a Commission of Inquiry.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

47. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

- (a) Is it a fact that the Northern Regional Government is contemplating a plan by means of which the infirm could be helped ?
(b) If so, will the Honourable Minister explain how far that plan has been implemented ?
(c) If not, will the Minister explain why the Northern Government sees it fair to neglect those people and only remove them from the markets or streets when dead ?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

- (a) It is assumed that the question refers to the aged infirm. The Northern Regional Government is not contemplating any plans for their assistance.
(b) Does not arise.
(c) It is not considered desirable at the present stage of social evolution in Nigeria for the Government to accept any liability for the care of the aged infirm. This is essentially a family responsibility, and where this unavoidably fails, there is a proper field of activity for private charity, supplemented if necessary by the efforts of Local Government Authorities.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

48. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

As people suffering from venereal diseases are not now admitted as in-patients in Government Hospitals, are these patients not considered to be a nuisance to the general public by spreading the disease ?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

Patients suffering from venereal disease continue to be admitted as in-patients to Government Hospitals, as and when necessary. Modern treatment, however, is so speedy and effective that the majority of patients can be treated in out-patient Clinics without danger of spreading the infection.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

49. To ask the Minister of Natural Resources :—

- (a) Will the Honourable Minister explain what successes if any have been achieved so far in the experiment started in Sokoto of settling the Fulani herdsmen ?
(b) If none will the Honourable Minister explain why ?
(c) Is Government contemplating another attempt to settle such Fulanis somewhere in the North ?
(d) If so, where ?
(e) If not, why ?

Answer—

The Minister of Natural Resources :

(a) Considerable success has been achieved at Agangara in Sokoto Province in a scheme initiated by the Native Administration on the advice of the Provincial Veterinary Officer to provide facilities whereby a certain number of cattle can remain in their upland grazing area all the year round.

The dam, which was constructed to conserve water supplies, held adequate water and the grass cover was largely preserved from fire and provided adequate grazing for about 300 head of cattle which remained in good condition during last dry season. The experiment continues.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The settlement of the nomadic Fulani is a major aim of Government policy and at present is being given close consideration in connection with the relevant recommendations of the Nigerian Livestock Mission. The provision of adequate all the year round water supplies, introduction of grazing control and the problem of the Fulani tendency to be nomadic are all matters which will admit of no easy solution.

(d) The question of settling the Fulani is being examined by the Provincial and Native Administrations of all the provinces concerned, more especially in Bornu, Adamawa, Plateau and Sokoto Provinces.

(e) Does not arise.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

50. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

- (a) Will Government give an explanation of the whereabouts of the Brooke's Commission Report on Native Courts ?
(b) Is there any reason for such a long delay in releasing it ? If so, what is the reason ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

- (a) The Report of the Brooke Commission of Inquiry on Native Courts was addressed to the Governor. At His Excellency's direction, the Report is at present being considered by Residents and Native Authorities.
(b) The recommendations require careful and detailed examination, and the date of their release is a matter for the Central Government to decide. The House will have the opportunity of discussing any legislation necessary to implement the recommendations.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

52. To ask the Minister of Natural Resources :—

- (a) Is it a fact that neem trees do not grow well if they are planted in Zaria Province ?
(b) If so, what other trees are then being tried in the Province as shortage of wood is becoming more and more serious ?
(c) If none, why is it that these neem trees do not grow well in Zaria as they do in Sokoto and Bornu ?

Answer—

The Minister of Natural Resources :

- (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several varieties of exotic species have been tried in plantations but have not on the whole been very successful.

(c) Soil and climatic conditions in Zaria Province are very different from those in Bornu and Sokoto Provinces where conditions are much more favourable for the growth of *neem*.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

53. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

(a) In view of the fact that people do not understand the idea behind the establishment of a Township such as we have at Kaduna and Zaria, will Government consider abandoning the idea ?

(b) If not, will the Civil Secretary explain why the idea should be continued even in places like Zaria whose Native Treasury is not so rich as to overlook the heavy revenue which goes into Government Treasury derived from these Townships ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

(a) No, Sir. It is not considered that circumstances warrant the abandonment of the institution of Townships.

(b) Townships relieve the Native Authority of the responsibility of administering areas in which conditions and problems are entirely different from those in the areas over which the Native Authority has jurisdiction. It is quite incorrect to suggest that Government derives a large revenue from Townships. In fact, Government pays grants and other sums to Townships for certain services maintained by them.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

54. To ask the Minister of Natural Resources :—

(a) When is the Honourable Minister intending to visit Makarfi District of Zaria Emirate to see for himself the amount of sugar cane grown there ?

(b) As at present the local manufacturers get their sugar crushed by machines drawn by horses to make brown sugar, will Government consider :—

(i) introducing some cheap machines so that the industry might be carried on without the use of horses ; and

(ii) the possibility of making white sugar in order to attract overseas buyers instead of brown sugar ?

Answer—

The Minister of Natural Resources :

(a) I am unable at this stage to give any firm date as to when I may expect to visit Makarfi District.

(b) (i) A "Barron" horizontal sugar cane mill, driven by a "Petter" Diesel engine was installed at Maigana Farm this year to ascertain whether a power-driven crusher is an economical proposition compared with the horse-driven crusher. It is yet too early on in the experiment to reach any conclusion. The capital cost of a "Barron" crusher in 1950 was £110 and of a "Petter" engine, £151 ; estimated costs in 1952 are £152 and £175 respectively.

(ii) The possibility of making white sugar is also being investigated at Maigana. 850 lbs. have been made but the product is not entirely satisfactory and more research is needed. It seems unlikely at the present stage of development of the Nigerian Sugar Industry that we could compete in the world market for white sugar. Furthermore, account should be taken of the fact that the local demand for brown is still greater than the supply.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

55. To ask the Minister of Natural Resources :—

When will the Honourable Minister visit Zangon Katab District in Zaria Province to see for himself the amount of honey obtained there and consider the possibility of improving the Industry ?

Answer—

The Minister of Natural Resources :

I am unable to state a firm date as to when I may expect to visit the Zangon Katab District in Zaria Province. I am however well aware of the importance of this industry locally and of the efforts which have been made in the past by Mr J. E. Taylor and others to improve bee-keeping methods.

Consideration is already being given by the Regional Government to an expansion of this work and all Residents have been asked to supply information on the extent to which bee-keeping is carried out in their Provinces. It is hoped that when their replies have been received it will be possible to arrange a visit by Professor Edwards, a recognised authority on bee-keeping, of the Gold Coast University College, to obtain his advice on the most practicable lines of developing bee-keeping and the production of Honey and Wax.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

56. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

(a) Is the Honourable Minister aware that an average Northerner is not so rich as to be able to afford paying sixpence a day for each visit he makes to a Government Hospital for treatment and that a patient with a bad ulcer paying will have to pay thirteen shillings a month which amounts to seven pounds a year ?

(b) If not, will the Honourable Minister go through Hospital Registers and see what sort of people do regularly attend Hospitals for treatment ?

(c) If yes, will Government consider doing something to bring the uses of Government Hospitals within the reach of an average Northerner ?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

(a) No, Sir. The Hospital Fees Regulations, 1951, provide for those who are genuinely unable to pay by permitting the "Hospital Authority" to reduce or waive fees for treatment at his absolute discretion, and to excuse patients all subsistence charges by declaring them paupers. No case where the patient has been refused treatment because he was unable to pay the fees has so far been brought to the notice of the authorities. Almoners who have knowledge of local people, have been appointed and are doing good work in advising Medical Officers of the ability of individual patients to pay fees.

(b) Examination of the Out-patient Registers of most Government Hospitals will show that, while Government servants and their families preponderate, attendance is not confined to any particular class of the community.

(c) Does not arise.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

57. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

On what basis are Salary Scales of District Heads in the Northern Region determined ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

There are no rigid limitations or scales applicable to District Heads' salaries in the Northern Region. They are paid at fixed rates which have been evolved over a long period and which take into consideration many varying factors such as the area of the District, the population and its distribution, taxes, facility or otherwise of administration, stage of development and personal ability. It is not practicable to produce a formula covering such varying conditions and the rates differ accordingly all over the Region.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

58. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

When do deserving District Heads get promotions and how ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

There is no recognised channel of promotion for District Heads. A District Head may, however, be appointed to a senior district or to a more important post under the Native Authority. Such appointments would be subject to the efficiency and good conduct of the District Head, to there being a vacancy and to the customary rules for making them existing in the area. Appointments are made by the Native Authority and, where senior appointments and District Headships are concerned, are subject to the agreement of the Resident.

Cia Aka, Esq., Elected Member, Benue Province :

59. To ask the Minister of Natural Resources :—

(a) Why is it that prices of imported articles are fixed by the importers while those of our export crops are not fixed by the farmers themselves ?

(b) Whether in view of (a) above is it possible to form a Marketing Board of local peasant farmers to fix prices of their cash crops ?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the negative, what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that the buying agents pay the correct prices to the illiterate farmers ?

Answer—

The Minister of Natural Resources :

(a) The prices of imported articles, like the prices of export crops, are largely determined by the interaction of supply and demand.

(b) As the great majority of peasant farmers are illiterate and have no knowledge of the many factors which influence the price of their produce in the world markets, it would not be possible for them to fix the prices of their cash crops. To protect and promote their interests Government established the Marketing Boards for Groundnuts, Cotton, etc., in 1949 with the responsibility of marketing the main cash crops of Nigeria. These Boards are advised by Representative Committees on many matters, including more particularly the price to be paid to the farmer for his produce. The majority of the members of these Representative Committees are Nigerians of repute who are closely in touch with the farming community and well qualified to ensure that the price paid is in the best interests of the farmers.

(c) The correct prices are given the maximum possible publicity. The Provincial Administration has been asked to ensure that the price per ton of groundnuts is translated into the price for the appropriate local measure, e.g., petrol tin. This price is widely publicised and the danger of an illiterate farmer being cheated by an unscrupulous person is minimised.

Benjamin Akiga, Esq., Elected Member, Benue Province :

61. To ask the Financial and Development Secretary :—

Is Government launching similar development projects such as the Mokwa project in other provinces apart from Sokoto ?

Answer—

The Acting Financial and Development Secretary :

The Niger Agricultural Project at Mokwa is not a Government project. It is being carried out by a company called the Niger Agricultural Project Limited, which was incorporated under the Companies Ordinance in Lagos on 1st March, 1950. The share capital of the company was subscribed equally by the Government of Nigeria and the Colonial Development Corporation.

It is assumed that the project referred to in Sokoto is the Sokoto Mechanical Rice Scheme. Some other large scale agricultural development schemes which have been launched by the Government in other Provinces are as follows :—

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|---------|
| (1) The Shemankar Rice Scheme | .. | .. | .. | Plateau |
| (2) The Shendam Resettlement Scheme | .. | .. | .. | Plateau |
| (3) The Edozhigi Irrigation Scheme | .. | .. | .. | Niger |
| (4) Badeggi Irrigation Scheme | .. | .. | .. | Niger |
| (5) Kontagora Land Settlement Scheme | .. | .. | .. | Niger |

In addition the possibilities of mechanical rice cultivation in Jahun District of Kano Province, and at Yola in Adamawa Province are now being investigated.

Benjamin Akiga, Esq., Elected Member, Benue Province :

62. To ask the Minister of Natural Resources :—

Is it a fact that some District Heads do not welcome the idea of starting mixed farming in their areas ?

Answer—

The Minister of Natural Resources :

No, Sir, not to my knowledge.

Benjamin Akiga, Esq., Elected Member, Benue Province :

64. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

(a) How many Northerners have been promoted to Senior Service since the Nigerianisation Scheme was started ?

(b) How many Government Junior Service Officers have prospects and facilities to get promotions to Senior Service and what steps is Government taking so that similar opportunities might be available in N.A. Services ?

(c) Is Government aware that N.A. employees are always grumbling for lack of similar prospects to those enjoyed by Government employees in the Junior Service ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

(a) 22 Northerners have been promoted to the Senior Service since August 1948.

(b) Any Government Junior Service officer with the necessary qualifications may be considered for promotion to the Senior Service. As the Honourable Member is aware, it is exceedingly difficult to compare Native Administration and Government conditions of service although they have been and are being brought as close together as possible. For one thing, the types of post in the senior ranks of Government and Native Administration differ considerably. A District Headship, or similar post, in a large Native Authority might be regarded as the equivalent of a Senior Service post under Government. It must be remembered that Native Administration service is not a unified service and a Native Administration employee may serve his whole career with his home Native Administration and not be moved from one part of the country to another. The number of "Senior" appointments in each Native Administration must, of course, vary according to the conditions prevailing in the area, its population and its wealth.

(c) No, Sir.

Benjamin Akiga, Esq., Elected Member, Benue Province :

65. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

Is Government satisfied that Native Authorities employees receive fair consideration after long service with the Native Authorities ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

Yes, Sir.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 8th July, 1952

The House met at 10 a.m. The President took his seat and read prayers.

The Acting Civil Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, before we proceed to the orders of the day on the Order Paper for today I beg to move :

"That all proceedings on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order No. 4—Sittings of the House. As you are aware, we are somewhat behind-hand with the work that was set down for yesterday, there is a great deal down for today and you may consider, Sir, when the time comes that it would be expedient for the House to continue beyond the time set down in the Standing Order." Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister for Community Development (The Hon. Bello Kano, M.H.R.) :

Sir, I beg to second.

The President :

The question is that Standing Order No. 4 be suspended in respect of the business on the Order Paper for today. Those in favour say "Aye", those of contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The debate on the Minister of Social Services' Motion started yesterday will now continue.

The Legal Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, before we proceed with the debate I think we should draw the attention of the House to the Votes and Proceedings paper where it is said that the Acting Civil Secretary laid a number of Ordinances on the table of the House. What in fact he laid was the Bills for Ordinances.

The President :

The point raised by the Legal Secretary here is of course correct. The word should be Bills and not Ordinances.

Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, in supporting this important Motion which is before the House I wish to place on record my deep appreciation to Government for its great enthusiasm in the furtherance of education in the Northern Region. It is of course a credit to our new Government which has been only a few months in office, yet it is well prepared to take some measures against our educational problems which, I believe, is operating in the minds of millions of people in this Region. When I read the Motion on the Order Paper of yesterday, I was startled a bit as to what lines the Government had proposed to pursue on this most vital question. Of course, I would not support the idea of announcing the number of scholarships and then leave the matter in the air. It is gratifying to note that the Government has adopted the method which I would personally recommend—the best approach to the problem and that is the setting up of different machineries dealing with different applications for higher education. There have been

some articles in the press criticising the Government for not announcing the number of scholarships which it is proposed to offer. Well, it is very easy to criticise, but there is one important thing which people seem to have lost sight of, and that is the question of qualifications. The money, no matter how much it may be, will not by itself justify the entry to a University. The University, as pointed out by the Honourable gentleman the mover of the Motion during the course of his speech yesterday, is an independent institution free from outside influence. Quite apart from the question of finance there are other factors determining the admission to the University and the most important one is requisite educational qualification. It is admitted, sir, the North, as far as Western education is concerned, is backward. And this lagging behind was attributed to the fact that the Western education was started too late in the Northern Region, and even when it was started it was not of the same pattern as that of the West. This is perfectly true, but the appalling slackness on the part of our young men must have its contribution to this shortcoming as well.

Mere grumbling without eagerness to catch up will not ease the situation. Our young men must have spirit of competition if the Northern Region is to go side by side with its sister-Regions and the outside world. The Government can provide funds, set up machineries but this is not the end of the story. You can take a horse to a river but you cannot force it to drink. The British Universities have sympathy for the Colonial Empire, particularly the Northern Region, but it is rather unfortunate that their policy is to maintain their highly-reputed standard of education—which is a very good thing too. It is our duty to bring to the notice of our young men and women these shortcomings. It needs not be emphasised that the future of this country depends entirely on them.

S. O. James, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I could have wished that the Motion emanated from a private member when a barrage of criticisms would be levelled against the Government. In supporting the Motion, Sir, I am not going to do so as it stands, because I would like to propose an amendment in accordance with Standing Order No. 21 (1). Sir, the idea of scholarships was first mooted in the North long before the other Regions decided to grant scholarships. But we have been waiting and waiting and it looks as if we do not know the extent of the educated men we have in the North; we keep on saying the North is behind in Western education but I have myself met a lot of educated Northerners and I think I am right because I have been in the North for quite a long time. If we have no matriculants we have hundreds of Northerners who have had secondary education and if they cannot enter Universities straight-away they could enter secondary schools in the United Kingdom. (*Hear-hear*). That would mean, of course, staying a few years longer than matriculants. Now we have been granted £25,000 a year for eight years and that works out at £200,000—it is a lot of money and if we continue to say that we have not got the men, well there is a danger of over-preparing. It is like soldiers in battle who want to attack their enemies but if they prepare for this attack too long there is a danger of their enemies attacking them before they are ready, so that we should not keep on hanging on to this money otherwise it would be like a bag of gold on a deserted island and there it would lie until doomsday. To come to my amendment, Sir, of the Motion under Standing Order 40, I would like to say that the Northern Region Scholarships Board is an advisory body and we want this body to advise the Financial Secretary on whose instructions the investments would be realised. The money belongs to us and what

happens if the Financial Secretary holds the contrary view? So I would like these words deleted from the Motion. After the word "realised" delete "on the instruction of the Financial Secretary with the advice of the Northern Region Scholarships Board", so that the Motion would read "that amounts up to the sum at any time invested under the name of the Northern Region Scholarship Fund may be realised and paid into a Suspense Account in the Northern Regional Treasury for disposal as and when required by way of scholarships of Northern Nigerian origin to higher training institutions in Nigeria and abroad." Thank you, Mr President.

The Acting Financial Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, I think it might help if I explained here that the wording of this resolution has a certain definite significance when it says "on the instructions of the Financial Secretary." That is put in merely because the Financial Secretary is the recognised servant of the Government and this House, so far as money affairs are concerned. There is no possibility whatever of the Financial Secretary saying "you cannot have the money", when the Scholarship Board says "we want the money"—that is quite out of the question. The Financial Secretary is the only person who can legally give the order to release the money. He is the recognised servant of this Government when it comes to giving financial orders. That is the only reason why the Financial Secretary is mentioned.

G. U. Ohikere, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I disagree with the last speaker but one in deleting certain phrases from that Motion because I feel that the advice is necessary from the well-trained in that subject—particularly finance. Now coming to the Motion I feel that the House cannot be too grateful to the Minister of Social Services. We give credit to the Executive for this reason and particularly to that Minister (*hear-hear*). I will appeal to this House to bring out suggestions as to how the money should be used. I am particularly interested in this subject as in the last Budget debate I mentioned that I did not see in the Estimates any place where scholarships could be provided for children of this Region. Now in the speech of the Minister of Social Services yesterday he mentioned the schools that are likely to provide the children with education for the General School Certificate. It is a pity that only a few or at least only one Middle School is likely to produce candidates within three years hence, so I would suggest that he should consult the Education Department with a view that most of the Middle Schools be turned into Secondary Schools to prepare candidates for General Certificate education as required by the Universities in England, and in this particular respect teachers should be accepted from all Regions. We should not say we should not accept teachers from the Southern Regions to teach in the Middle Schools. They should be well paid to be attracted into it. The question of making preparation for training of secondary school children in England—I am greatly opposed to that. The money which would be spent I am sure on training one child in England for one year would train three children for three years in this country if the Middle Schools were raised up. Therefore they should help to promote the standard of the present Secondary Schools whether they be Missionaries or belonging to any voluntary bodies to bring them up to that standard. Now the last point I have to point out. When it comes to distributing the scholarships, I hope it will not be scholarships given to one or certain Provinces or just to the children of rich men. I say this because if the rich men are able to pay for the training of their children, then it would be better for us to pay for the

training of children of poor parents so that we can have double training. In dividing scholarships attention should be paid to all the Provinces not to one particular Province. I am bringing up this suggestion not that I think it has happened, but we should see that it does not happen in the future. I say that particularly because in my Province we have no Minister at present. But I feel that they are men of integrity and men of fairness and that they will do their best to help the Region as a whole. I would like special attention to be given to teachers. We do not want many lawyers—we want many teachers. We want people with practical degrees not with B.A.s. and M.A.s. who cannot make a pin. We want doctors who may be able to utilise our own medicines and make drugs from them. I plead to those Ministers that they send the candidates to the right kind of Universities in the near future. I have to say also that there was no mention of sending candidates to universities in America—yesterday we only spoke of East Africa, South Africa and United Kingdom. We want more of the candidates of this Region to go to as many universities as possible in the world. We want at present practice and not theory. Mr President, Sir, I beg to take my seat.

B. Akiga, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to give credit to the Government for the great help they have given to the North, and they are still giving this help ; but nobody is yet satisfied. As far back as 1910 we did not realise the value of Western education, but gradually they carried on without getting fed up with us until we are now able to realise the usefulness of education, and we are now asking for it ourselves and the people of the other Regions have already started to run on the way. We have been grumbling that the Europeans pay more attention to those Regions; this is not the case as the other Regions help themselves more than we help ourselves because they do not depend entirely on the Government—they are helping themselves. We were indeed happy when the Minister yesterday made a statement about the plans for scholarships in the North. Now it is only fair that a needy person should be given what he needs; and he has to take what is dished out to him or leave it and die of that need. Between us and the Government there has to be a spirit of give and take. Government will have to help us in offering more attractive salaries to the teachers, as the last speaker has said, to attract the young men who want to join the teaching profession, lest they desert it and leave it at a stake. We do not only need African teachers, we also need Europeans. We still want many more Europeans to help us until we are in a position to manage our own affairs—then, and only then, shall they have to go. But we should not leave the matter entirely in the hands of either the Government or the teachers, we parents too must help as the country cannot prosper without education.

David Lot, Esq., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by a Member concerning the distribution of scholarships by Provinces, because I am afraid it will take many years before a province can get its share, in as far as rural education is concerned. Because in many villages parents do not like to send their children to school. If we want to advance together in the field of education I should like to remind the Minister of Social Services that there are indeed thousands of people who need that education. If we want to maintain an even progress in education we must give emphasis to this rural education, because though many provinces have advanced there are still many people in other areas who are not yet educated. In some of our villages no start has yet been made as far as education is concerned. So I appeal to the Minister and the Members to give consideration to this matter.

The President :

Will Honourable Members please keep their observations to the Motion which is about scholarships and not about education.

Wuam Gambe, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Motion very strongly : also I have to thank the Government Bench for this Motion which they have brought to this House. Apparently it is now the common understanding of everyone in Nigeria that the Northern Region is behind as far as Western education is concerned. I suggest that these number of scholarships should be divided amongst the twelve Provinces so that other Provinces should be able to send their own people to the United Kingdom. If any province has no candidates at the present moment, the amount provided should be deposited in its name. Therefore, I support the Motion.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise with a mixed feeling to the support of this Motion. I say, "mixed feeling", because (1) I would like to give credit to the Government, and (2) I am very sad that this Motion is not from a floor Member of this House because then we would have levelled criticism against the Government. In this respect I would like to thank Mr S. O. James, the Member from Plateau Province, for mentioning that this Motion should come from a Member of the floor of the House. But incidentally I have brought a similar Motion to the House. It is actually similar to this. It may be different in the framework. I demand that this money should be released from the Reserve Fund and be utilised in giving scholarships to those who deserve them, but to my entire surprise I see that it is not on the Order Paper for today. I should like to know whether it has been ruled out of order or whether it is to come later on, and with the indulgence of the Chair I should like to read out the Motion which I sent to this House formerly. It will be to the interest of the Honourable Members of this House if I read out the Motion which I sent on the 11th June, 1952, which reads thus :—

"Whereas the Western and the Eastern Regions have successfully provided 200 and 250 scholarships respectively for further studies out of their respective budgets and whereas the Northern Region has a yearly grant of £25,000 for eight years from the Central Government and whereas..... (interruption by President).

The President :

Is the Honourable Member reading a Motion ?

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir : I have sought the permission of the Chair to read it.

The President :

The Honourable Member received no permission from the Chair unless he can veil the Motion in such a way that it does not sound like a Motion which has been put out of order. It was ruled out of order under Standing Order 72 being a Motion connected with public money. There is no objection to the Member saying any of these things so long as it does not involve the Motion being produced before the House again.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Thank you, Mr President. Well, I am going to discuss the Motion put forward by the Minister of Social Services. I am very glad to hear that Mr James has suggested an amendment to the Motion. I am afraid that the

explanation given by the Financial Secretary is not enough, and I am sure it will bring about a confusion in the future. In this respect I strongly support the amendments by Mr S. O. James. (Interruption).

The President ;

Before the Honourable Member goes on, do I take it to mean that he is actually seconding that amendment? It has so far not been seconded.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Yes, Mr President. I am seconding the amendment by Mr S. O. James. Commenting on the speech made by the Honourable Minister yesterday, though we have a great credit for him, yet I see that there is some feeling in him of not quickening this project. Can he tell us that Palestine and the Sudan and South Africa are only universities in the world? If we cannot get our children to United Kingdom we can send our children to Germany—I do not mean Germany, I mean the United States of America. In one way I quite agree with him that money is not the only solution to sending people overseas for study. They also need the necessary qualifications. But how could we find such adequate qualifications? Is the North sending its children to study as Doctors, Engineers, and District Officers and so forth? Their answer is Yes and No. Yes, we need such people with adequate qualifications for study in universities, but now as we have very few in this country, why not send those with good qualifications to public schools in England in order to take their matriculation and then admit them to universities? On the other hand, others with no academic qualifications can be sent overseas to be trained in various trades.

The mere going to England is enough to broaden the outlook of the Northerners as a nation due to cultural contact as the British people are reported to be the best cultured race in the world. The other one is this, the question of a Northern Regional Scholarship Board. It seems to me that in the meantime the Board is not doing its work. They are very slack and shy. We need a dynamic body which would be comprised of a member from each province. We want them to sit down and formulate a project for allocating various scholarships fairly to each province and to give us assurance that the students will be given scholarships for the United Kingdom. In how many years will the project be completed? It is useless contending that we have not yet got the students. We have students—let the money be released. Spend the money. Another Member from Kabba Province remarked that the standard of education should be raised in the North, because in these other places there must be a stream of feeling and if the Minister of Social Services is going to initiate such policies in the schools. These schools really need overhauling because we cannot actually build our future hope on shifting sand. We need people to go overseas, we need improvement in the school. Mr President, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

Cia Aka, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Honourable Member, Wuam Gambe. For there is a saying that "Justice must be divided equally".

For example, in Benue very few people have been to United Kingdom. I say this on behalf of the Benue Province. It is built up with five Divisions.

May I suggest that something should be done for them so as to wipe away their tears? We do not want to be bats between birds and mice, if really we are all Northerners, as it is already grouped since the year 1914—if I am not mistaken. Mr President, Sir, I beg to support this Motion.

Hon. Shettima Kashim, M.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, in rising to support this Motion, I would like to congratulate my colleague, the Minister of Social Services on his very comprehensive proposals, which would no doubt give the Region accelerated development of education. This plan would produce Northerners who are capable of adapting themselves not only to the Northern Region but to the world environment. When emphasising general and technical education, it is pleasing to say that the Minister has not lost sight of religion and character developments. Ever since the announcement of scholarship awards in the West and in the East, there has been a good deal of voices heard in this Region as to what is being done about the scholarship awards in the Region. The Minister has now put forward his proposals. The chances are therefore there. It is up to the people to make use of these chances. In the course of his speech, the Minister mentioned the special difficulties of the North; well, it is up to the House to give their whole-hearted support to meeting the difficulties. Without this support, any efforts are in vain. The Minister mentioned about lack of discipline in schools. There is no doubt this would be overcome by the Committee recently set up under the Chairmanship of the Sultan. The educationists are a queer sort of people who want freedom in their actions, and they must get this freedom if they are required to carry out their duties properly. They often do so when they get this freedom. I can quote an instance when people asked for the removal of a school teacher because of a disciplinary action taken against pupils in that school. Such an attitude would do more harm than good to the country. (Hear, hear). It will not only discourage us the educationists—to carry out the duties properly, but also it will back up indiscipline in schools. I appeal to this House, Mr President, if educationists are required to do their duties properly, they must have this degree of freedom required. Mr President, I beg to support that the Motion be accepted.

Alhaji Shehu Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sarkin Shanu :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to support the Motion. I am very happy about the government proposals and the award of scholarships to this Region, and I am also pleased to hear of the measures proposed to be taken to get the proposals amended. I hope, Sir, these measures will help us and that they will prevent our hearing the phrases so often "No qualification. No places in the schools in England." I beg again, Sir, that the proposals be amended and that they do not become, what we call in Hausa, "Romon Baka" (Lip Service) (hear, hear). I very much appreciate the Minister's unforgetfulness about the scholarships on Arabic studies, but I was surprised to hear him not mention Egypt in the list of places where our people can be sent on scholarships in Arabic courses. In spite of the famous Al-Azhar University and in spite of the scholarships earmarked by the King of Egypt some time ago. I beg to support.

Mallam Bawa Yelwa, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I am rising to support this Motion. I am very pleased with what the Central Minister for Social Services has said. That has, of course, been in the minds of school teachers—that is about discipline in schools—the schools would not be good if there were no discipline. I would also like attention to be paid to two things, that is, one, to contain in the minds of those students the zeal for education, because even if we have opportunity of sending those students overseas, it will be no use, it will be sheer waste of money if they do not have this zeal. So attention should be

paid to this. Secondly, parents should help in teaching their children to pay attention to schools, because usually we find bad parents who prevent their children from learning, so I think attention should be paid to this.

The President :

May I again remind the House that we are discussing the scholarships and not schools and I would again like to remind the House of what we said during the time of the Budget session. It was not only the Chairman who said it. Other people said it too. It is not necessary for Members to get up and say that they support the Motion if they are not going to contribute something real to the debate. I, of course, would not stop any Honourable Member from doing so, but in the general interests of the House, they should keep the subjects of the speeches as short as possible.

The Minister of Works (The Hon. Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sardaunan Sokoto) :

Mr President, Sir, it is not my intention to speak on this Motion, but I have now made up my mind in view of the suggestion made by a gentleman who said we now want practice and not theory. Well, I am completely at a loss as to what are the wishes of the Northern Region. I, as the Secretary of Northern Self Development Fund which was seriously attacked when we proposed to send boys to public schools in England, today, find people come forward to say they want their boys sent there. Never mind, that is accepted by the Ministers. I should like to point out the difficulties of obtaining seats in schools in the United Kingdom and in other places. This I started towards the end of 1950 in order to get at least seats for five boys in the public schools and thirty seats for artisans in the United Kingdom. Going on for long it looked as if I were wasting my energy, so I had to try to appoint an agent in the United Kingdom who should be paid by the Committee so that he could be taken as their employee. He has been going around to all schools for months and months, and it was only fortunate for us three months ago that he was able to get five seats in the United Kingdom. What is the obstacle? The obstacle is age. What is the obstacle? The obstacle is that you have to apply for years in advance before you can get entry. I said I wanted to send boys from the age of thirteen to fourteen, but one day when we were sitting in this House, I had a cable which said that no fourteen-year old would be accepted, only thirteen-year old. Well, we had already selected boys of thirteen, and a year had lapsed so we couldn't do anything but go to get fresh boys. Well, anyhow, the boys are at last going at the beginning of next month (*hear, hear*). And, furthermore, I have got a letter last week asking me to forward names of boys who would be going next year. We are not going to make a mistake of selecting boys at the age of thirteen now, but at the age of twelve. (*Slight interruption by Mallam Ibrahim Imam*). I am quite right in saying so, because it will take a year before the boys go, and when they go there, it will be at the age of thirteen. Furthermore, a gentleman was saying that we should only send the sons of the poor and not of the rich. How many of our children here, as members of the rich, gone to these schools? How many rich people do you think are willing to send their sons to the elementary schools, much less, therefore, to spend thousands and thousands of pounds on their education abroad? Well I advise the House that the Motion is well framed and is going to lead us to a better North. The way has already been explored and is open, it is now up to us as the leaders of the country, parents and guardians of schoolboys to try to encourage them to take study as their career. Mr President, Sir, I beg to support.

Patrick Fom, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, the matter of scholarships is of great importance and a very interesting one indeed. It is my opinion, I think it would be very good if this House would consider something in regard to the scholarship matter. We keep on saying that the Northern Region is still backward, but that gap has been filled. I want to bring to the understanding of the Honourable Members and everybody in this House to know that a man who has been in Europe as a cook can speak King's English.

I think boys with Middle II qualifications are very good to be sent to Europe on scholarships from the Northern Region, and they will do wonderful work when they come back, in comparison with the ordinary cook who cannot read or write, but able to speak King's English. Therefore, I think a boy with Middle II qualifications will spend almost four years in Europe to get the best qualifications to fit for better posts in this Region. All the gaps have been filled, so therefore, I have only one thing to put to this House, and that is this House should try to get more money, and the only way through to get more money, is to stop what we call British Council tours, which is no scholarship, but is only a trip to go and see Europe, and to waste money for nothing. So, I am asking the Indulgence of this House to consider something seriously, affecting this British Council visit to Europe, so that we can get money to send our boys of Middle II to go to Europe for further study.

The third thing I want to be put into practice again is that if there is no room in Europe for Middle II boys, well, I beg to move that a big college in Nigeria should be built to train our boys to get scholarships in Nigeria. Our new College of Arts, Science and Technology should be as the University College at Ibadan. A qualified teacher from Europe could be posted in Nigeria to teach our boys how to pass a scholarship examination. Going to Europe is not a small thing, you know. It wastes a lot of money in transport. These boys, most of them, may be suffering from starvation. As they are not used to the sort of diet used in Europe. (*Laughter*) (*interruption*).

The Minister of Social Services (The Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makaman Bida) :

How many of them have died?

Patrick Fom, Esq. :

I did not say that some one died in Europe against starvation. But I say that African boys who are always taking plenty of food, will suffer from starvation owing to little food taken by Europeans in Europe. I beg to support the matter of the scholarships in question.

The President :

The sitting is suspended for fifteen minutes.

At 11.50 a.m.

Mallam Yahaya Ilorin, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, we have listened to many speeches on the Motion of the Minister of Social Services. I think we have listened to so many speakers I am now suggesting that the question be now put. (*Applause*).

S. O. James, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I second that.

[President]

[Motion.]

The President :

The Honourable Yahaya Horin has asked that the question be put. Quite a number of Honourable Members have spoken—about fourteen—and I am inclined to think that no minority views will be suppressed if the question is put. If the Honourable Minister moving the Motion wishes to reply, he has a chance now.

The Minister of Social Services (The Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makaman Bida) :

Mr President, Sir, to begin with I would like to thank all the Members for their appreciation and the compliments that they have paid to us. Really, I have very little to say in winding up, but I would like to refer to some of the points raised by some of the Members. To begin with, I would like to thank the Central Minister of Natural Resources for his elucidation of the real points. I would also like to say a word or two on the points put forward by the Honourable Mr James. Mr James said that he had wished the Motion to be moved by a floor Member. I see no difference in moving the Motion by a Member from this Bench because he has as much opportunity to speak on it as if it is moved by the floor Member. He also said that he had met a great number of educated people in this country and he has been in this country for a long time. It is true that there are educated people in this country, but are they qualified to go for overseas education? He went even to the extent of saying that there are hundreds and hundreds of secondary school boys. I declared in my speech yesterday that there are only two secondary schools now in this Region who are entering for the certificate examination. I would also like to tell him that last December the students of the Secondary School, Zaria—thirty-two of them, took their examination, and only nine passed. I now come to the points raised by Mr Obikere. He made mention of up grading our Middle Schools to provide more students to be qualified to go to England. This has been the intention and the aim of the Education Department which has been working on it since the beginning of the year. I do not think you would like me to tell you that there are no staff, no equipment, etc., but it is one of the problems to which we are giving our closest attention. He also mentioned the point of getting teachers from other Regions. I will say that I am not aware that there are surplus teachers in the other Regions; with the expansion of the education there, I thought they were just in the same position as we are here. But if there are surplus teachers they could be employed by the N.As. who are the proprietors of these Middle Schools. Again, he referred to the question of what he called distribution. He talked about distribution of scholarships and a number of Members afterwards also made mention of these words, "distribution of scholarships". I would say that I do not really understand what is meant by that, but I will explain that there is no question of distributing scholarships to any part of the Region. Wherever we find a qualified man to go, we are ready to consider him. Now, he also made mention of American scholarships. When I introduced this Motion yesterday, I intentionally refrained from bringing in that point. I thought we would leave it to be mentioned by other Members, to give them opportunity to raise that point themselves, and it has now been raised so I am going to say something about it. Many American Universities are not up to the standard of British Universities. This fact is recognised, even in America itself, and they have organised an Association, known as the Regional Accrediting Association.

[Hon. Aliyu Makama]

[Motions]

If we wish to ascertain the comparison of the degrees in American Universities, we have our liaison there, Mr Merritt, and we can always consult him. We also have a list of American Universities whose degrees are accepted by the Institute of London University. Many American degrees are equivalent to the Intermediate degree of the London University. That is not a University degree as generally understood in the United Kingdom. Quite apart from that, before American authorities permit a student to enter their country, there are numerous formalities to be complied with. We know this fact because we are sending Mallam Mora, the Headmaster of Zaria Secondary School to America in August. There are also currency restrictions and presumably, all students going to America have to be financed by dollars standing to the credit of the Nigerian Government, unless of course, they are sponsored by bodies in America as in the case of Mallam Mora. I think I made this clear to Mr Obikere because he said afterwards that he would not like these people to go over and come back with all sorts of degrees such as M.D., D.D. and Ph.D., and know nothing. He wants them to see our people when they come back as doctors; to work as doctors, not only for all these degrees, and still not know how to operate or how to prescribe proper medicine. There is one important point raised by Mallam Ibrahim Imam. That is the question of raising the standard in Nigeria. Of course, it is one of the problems confronting us now and I assure him that we are giving our closest attention to it and we are taking steps to see that the standards are raised, but he said the education system needs overhauling, with which I do not agree. Sarkin Shanu also raised the point of sending our people to Egypt. I want to assure him that we will look into this. He also said they want a practice and not a theory. I have the same view; that is my policy. I also want a practice and not a theory. Now, Mr Patrick Fom in his speech said that money is the equipment and we have got it. I do not agree. I say, qualification is the equipment. He also went on to say that he met a cook who went to England, stayed there for two years, came back and was able to speak English like an Englishman, and he advised that we should send boys from Middle II and Middle I there in large numbers, so that they will learn and whatever knowledge they have will be of great use. He then went on to say that we should not send them there because they will starve!

Mr President, Sir, I ask the House just to adopt the Resolution. There is nothing controversial in it. The Resolution merely seeks the authority of this House to use the money. (Applause).

The President :

Mr James has moved an amendment to the Motion in which he proposes to delete in the third and fourth lines the words—"on the instructions of the Financial Secretary with the advice of the Northern Region Scholarship Board". Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Noes" have it.

The question is that the Motion on the Order Paper in the name of the Minister of Social Services be approved. Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The next Motion was put forward by Mallam Mohamadu Inuwa Wada who is away, and as a special case I propose to allow Mallam Bello Dandago to move it on his behalf. I would emphasise that this is a special case and will not be taken as a precedent.

Mallam Bello Dandago, M.H.R., Wakilin Waje :

Mr President, Sir, I beg leave to move the Motion standing in the name of Mallam Mohamadu Inuwa Wada who is away from here. Be it resolved :

"That a humble address be presented to His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him that he may be pleased to order for a provision to be made in the 1953-54 Estimates of the Northern Region for a minimum of 500 scholarships tenable in and outside Nigeria".

Mr President, it is the pressing need for knowledge in this country which has compelled Mallam Inuwa Wada to move this Motion. Sir, if there is anything which this Region requires more than anything else today it is education. Children of this Region are not specifically dull or stupid by nature but it was a mistake in the past, and on our part, and it is an unfortunate one which has made the situation what it is today. Mr President, in the past, we, as young children at that time, we were forced to be educated but the position is different today. Our children are now chasing and forcing us to give them what education we can, so, if this humble Motion is passed, and I hope it will be passed, the gulf in educational advancement which exists between this Region and the others will not be as wide, and it is generally believed that in the not distant future the gulf will be bridged. Mr President, there seems to be a general liking for learning in this country today and, that being so, the new move, if it goes through, will meet with success. Sir, much of what I want to say has been said a number of times and repeated and repeated this morning. Before I waste the time of this House, Mr President, I beg to move that this Motion be accepted.

Mallam Muhammadu Sambo, M.H.R. (Chiroman Hadejia) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

The Minister of Social Services (The Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makaman Bida) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to oppose the Motion. In opposing this Motion, I am afraid I have to repeat and repeat and repeat what I said before. I would first of all like to point out the following fact. At the March Budget Session in 1949 it was agreed that a Northern Region Scholarship Fund should be established by putting aside for that purpose £25,000 each year for a period of eight years. I said this before. There is already £100,000, plus accumulated interest, available in this Fund and there is not the slightest possibility of the Fund being exhausted during the financial year 1953-54. The Member's Motion will be of no practical value, since scholarships will be awarded from the adequate resources of the Northern Region Scholarship Board. It might well be that in the financial year 1954-55 the Fund may require additional money but there is no prospect at all of its needing more money in 1953-54. In addition to the Northern Region scholarship Fund and the independent Self-Help Fund, Scholarships are awarded to some Northern students by the Government as I explained. As a further safeguard to ensure that no deserving student is refused financial assistance, the Education Department includes £1,000 in its Estimates to help students at Institutions for providing higher education. As I said, I am going to repeat—may I once again explain the position about the entry into overseas Universities. Most of those denied admittance have higher qualifications than an average Nigerian student. This is one problem that money cannot settle. You will remember how until recently certain brands of bicycles were unobtainable although there was plenty of money in the pockets of those wishing to purchase them. This was because there were not enough to go round. It is the same with certain kinds of education and I say again that money will not buy a University education nowadays. I know the Eastern and Western Regions have promised to award a large number of scholarships and at the beginning they mentioned a specific number to be awarded. But if you read the Press

Release from the East and West, you will find that now they refrain from making a specific number! They are now saying that they are awarding a certain number, not saying 250 or 150 or something like this. When they made their first investigations I think they had not considered how their proposals were to be implemented and they are no doubt now regretting that the promises were made. I am sure no one in this House would wish me to make similar ill-judged promises that cannot be implemented and so will bring this House into disrepute. I have referred in another speech to the need for us not to deceive ourselves. Every effort is made to provide higher education for the inhabitants of this Region, but it is even more essential that we should try and improve primary and secondary education, and that is why when the Honourable Mallam Ibrahim Imam brought up this question of raising the standard I was very pleased because it is by raising the standard that we shall be able to have more and more schools really suitable for University education. The proposer of the Motion would be the first to admit that most of the people in the Province he represents have little desire for educational reform and, in fact, he has said it. Until that lack of enthusiasm disappears it is unrealistic to promise 500 scholarships in the next financial year. Members of this House will, I am sure, refuse to seek cheap popularity while approving a Motion that bears no relation to the facts of the situation. May I once again ask you for a moment to look quietly and seriously at this problem. We here in this House can make all the necessary arrangements for scholarships and secure places at Universities, but no amount of questions to Government or letters to the Press can overcome the apathy of a people towards education. Very many of us in this House have been teachers, including the mover of the Motion, and we know how we and our fellow teachers have struggled in the past, and continue to struggle today, against indifferent parents and sometimes, I regret to say, of those in authority. This is particularly so in the case of the village teacher. All too frequently I hear, and you must hear, the same requests to make the examinations easier, and the requests to lower standards, demands that lazy people should be lightly dealt with, and so on. This sort of thing will get us nowhere. In fact, I would say that anyone who asks for easy examinations, anyone who pardons the lazy boy and discourages him from working, anyone who discourages the teacher and does not ask him to give of his utmost, is the enemy of this country and particularly this Region's Scholarship Scheme. We here in this House must do more than talk. It is our duty to urge parents to send their children to school. It is our duty to demand the utmost from our teachers and to ensure that the 'Mai Gida', every Village Head and every man in the town must give this Motion support. There is no compromise, no easy way. Those who are not with us in this matter wholeheartedly, I would say that they are against us. Mr President, I beg to oppose.

G. U. Ohikere, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, it seems to me that those of us who are elected have not understood the system of Motions in this House. Motions from the Government Bench go through but Motions from private Members always go to the floor.

The President :

I must ask the Member to withdraw that. The House has its free vote and the vote prevails.

G. U. Ohikere, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I fully support this Motion and I appeal to the Members of this House to support the Motion. In the words of the Motion,

if the scholarships cannot be got from outside they could be given within the Region. The Motion says that money should be voted to give 500 scholarships. It could be in Elementary or Middle Schools or it could be in Arabic Schools. A Minister could be arranging scholarships overseas and this money could be used within the Region. I repeat again, I appeal to the Members of this House to let this Motion go through this time. I beg to support.

The President :

Before any other Member speaks I must take grave exception to what the Member has said. He is suggesting that the conduct of this House is partial. After the very many Motions of the Budget Session I thought that all Members of this House understood the procedure. When the voices are taken, as the official phrase says, an opportunity is given for the Ayes to say Aye and the Noes to say No. I have now divided the question so that I and the House can hear quite clearly who says Aye and who says No. Where the voices appear to be equal there is obviously a chance that a division might succeed. Where the voices are not obviously equal any group of Members exceeding fifteen may still demand a division and they can test for themselves whether they are in the majority or minority. The business of the Chair is, as the word of the Order says, to collect the voices to decide which is the majority. It would obviously waste a great deal of the House's time if we had a division on every Motion but the suggestion that the direction of the House is partial is a serious one.

G. U. Ohikere, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I am not withdrawing any of the statements I have made.

The President :

The Chair notes the attitude of the Member.

Mallam Jibir Daura :

Mr President, Sir, I wish to speak on this matter which has been brought forward. I have listened to what was said yesterday and what has been said this morning on the question of education. It has been said today that it is required to send Northerners abroad or somewhere within Nigeria to increase their knowledge. I support this Motion. My reason for supporting this Motion is that since the mover of this Motion has said it is not necessary that it must come from outside he believes that even in Nigeria there are places which have much more education than others. He is therefore of the opinion that more knowledge could be given in Nigeria. That is so far right. I support this Motion and all that I am appealing for is that the House should find a way whereby the knowledge of this country is to be increased at once. It is said that there is money but there are no students qualified enough to go abroad. How long are we to wait until we have those students? We must do something now. There are places in Nigeria where students can go and study further. As for study abroad it is contended that there are now no highly qualified students eligible in the North for that at present and nothing has been started to improve the situation. For how many years are we to wait in the North? My point is that we should try to expand what little education we have got. Take for instance the Technical School which has been opened in Kaduna, most of the students brought to that institution come from Middle II. On completing their course they make good achievement. I would stress the work of one of those students which was

a building put up under his direction. I do not think he did that because of a high academic knowledge he had got, but it is the product of deep experience and I do not think that those who have been fully qualified could have done better. Another example is the pottery work displayed in the Members' waiting room of this House which work is said to come from Abuja. This again I gather is not the result of a high academic qualification but of an organised day to day experience. If further assistance be given to such students they could advance and in time attain to the required standard. It has just been said that they does not buy knowledge. But how are the schools built and equipped? Is it without money? And how are the teachers paid? Is it without money? It has also been said that we should not deceive ourselves but we should wait until we get large number of highly qualified Northerners. There is no deception more serious than stretching an object to a person with the pretence that it would be but not actually given to him *only* empty words. Empty words, as is well known, never satisfy a hungry man. We here in the North are hungry as far as education is concerned and we shall never be contented unless and until we are given it. On this point, Sir, if the 500 scholarships cannot be awarded, I beg that a good number of them should be awarded. I support the Motion that scholarships should be given to the Northerners, either within or outside Nigeria.

Mallam Sa'adu Alanamu, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the wording of the Motions presented here. In the previous Motion of the Minister of Social Services, the Motion which was adopted in this House, reads thus at the end :—

“ scholarships to students of Northern Nigerian origin to higher training institutions in Nigeria and abroad”.

There are those words, “in Nigeria”, and since that has been adopted and we know the conditions as they now prevail, this second Motion does not arise.

Mallam Ibrahim Inam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I like to support the Motion. I oppose the previous speaker. In support of the Motion I would like to make a small amendment. It is not properly worded. I would like to amend “for a minimum of 500 scholarships tenable within and outside Nigeria”, to read “for a considerable number of scholarships tenable overseas”.

We want scholarships tenable overseas, not necessarily England, and the Minister of Social Services is partly right to oppose the Motion. I believe if we say “a considerable number of scholarships”, he may be able to yield, and I hope he is, because he is our Minister and we put him in his place, and he knows very well that he is responsible to us. It is the need of the people in this House and of the people of Northern Nigeria that scholarships tenable overseas be given to students with qualifications, and I think the Honourable Member will agree with me to appeal for provision to be provided for a considerable number of scholarships tenable overseas. But I am afraid the Financial Secretary will say there is no money, and I am going to suggest a provision for this money. The provision is that I am going to suggest to the Financial Secretary now to stem down the non-productive Departments to their skeletons. With the indulgence of the Chair I now move that the amendments standing in my name be adopted; that the words “ scholarships to students of Northern Nigerian origin to higher

training institutions in Nigeria and abroad" be deleted, and the words "...a considerable number of scholarships tenable overseas" be inserted. I beg to amend.

Mallam Sa'adu Alanamu, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, can we debate on the amendment?

The President :

Certainly, when it has been seconded, but not before.

Mallam Yakubu Wanka, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Motion and amendments. The reason why I am supporting this Motion is that the Northern Region at present is not really in need of scholarships for higher education alone. By this I mean degree courses. There is also a great need of courses for diploma in certain subjects. There are some subjects the standards of which should be raised in the North and these are Agriculture, Accountancy, Nursing, Survey, Local Government, Medicine, etc., etc. But if we say that we must wait until we have qualified people who can go direct to Universities, how long will that take us? The result is that we shall go nowhere. We must do something to improve the present position. With regard to the amendment, it is true that 500 scholarships in 1953-54 is not justifiable, but something must be done to give as many scholarships as possible. Mr President, Sir, I beg to support.

The Acting Financial Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, Mallam Ibrahim Imam, who has just left the Hall, has said that if he puts in provision in the next year's Estimates for a large number of scholarships, the Financial Secretary will cut them down for the reason that there is no money. The money is already there; we have agreed to it this morning. The point I would like to make, Sir, is that this Motion we are now debating, and the amendment, are both unnecessary. In the Motion which we debated yesterday and completed this morning, the House agreed that the whole of the Scholarship Fund could, if necessary, be realised immediately. We have already £100,000 in that Fund. I do not think it would be possible to find enough people in this Region sufficiently qualified to spend that whole amount in one year on scholarships. There is more than enough money in that Fund to give every single boy who is qualified in this Region a scholarship. This Resolution proposes that, having got this money already, we now put in provision for more. There is one other small point. Some people have mentioned about scholarships within the Region. It does not seem to be realised that in future all training institutions will be free inside this Region. No fees will be payable by anyone at a training institution in the Region. Mr President, Sir, I beg to oppose.

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, the Minister of Social Services has already explained everything in connection with scholarships. He left nothing unexplained. He explained that ample funds are available; he explained the impossibility of making a promise and this may be due to lack of suitable candidates and due to lack of schools where those students should be sent. Whilst I agree entirely with the Minister of Social Services, I still have sympathy with the mover of this Motion and I think something justifiable should be done. My suggestion is that the mover of this Motion should agree to accept a certain amendment to his Motion. I am suggesting my amendment solely for the purpose of being a bit severe to the Government in order to do away with

any relaxation that may come from the side of Government. I know that Government is trying, and I believe it will be trying, but I hope it will try very hard. So I wish to bring this amendment to this Motion, hoping that the mover of this Motion will accept the amendment. While deleting all the words of the Motion, and retaining the sense of it, I suggest that the Motion should read as follows:—"That a humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him that he may be pleased to order that a desperate effort be made to aim at giving a minimum of 500 scholarships in and outside the United Kingdom to Northern Nigerian students during the year 1953-54".

The President :

Is the Honourable Member greatly attached to the word "desperate" because it has a rather odd significance in English. As the House is aware, "desperate" in English means "hopeless". (*Laughter*). I suggest the word "serious".

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, M.H.R. :

Mr President, I withdraw the word "desperate" and substitute the word "serious". (*Laughter*). My reason for this amendment, Sir, is quite plain. I have already said it. It does not mean that I am not in agreement with the Minister of Social Services. I want the Government to accept this proposal, to have this aim in mind and to do its best towards it. It may be possible that the Government may be able to send these 500 students overseas. It may be possible that they could send only 300 or even less but we want to be certain that the Government has done its best and has looked in every corner of the world in search of schools to send Nigerian students. Sir, I beg to support the Motion with this amendment.

The President :

The sitting is suspended until 3 p.m.

At 3 p.m.

The President :

Before the debate resumes I wish to inform the House that I have been considering the conduct of Mr Ohikere. I have no doubt that he behaved in a very disorderly way, and when given the opportunity to withdraw, he did not take that opportunity. On the other hand, I am also aware that he is inexperienced and ignorant, and in view of that I do not propose to take any drastic action, except to say to the House that any Member who in future makes use of disorderly phrases of such a nature will be immediately suspended. The debate continues.

The Minister of Works (The Hon. Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sardaunan Sokoto) :

I rise, Sir, on behalf of the Government to accept the amendment brought forward by the Sokoto Provincial Member, which he presented just before the House rose. Furthermore, I have got an observation to make on the discussions that have been taking place. One of the Members from Kano has been saying much about lack of education and lack of enthusiasm. Now, whose fault is it? It is the fault of the modern leaders of Northern Nigeria. We, I mean, if I look round I can see over thirty Katsina College trained teachers, others trained in Kaduna College, who resigned from the Department, that they consider very important and joined others. (*Applause*).

The President :

Does the mover of this Motion accept the amendment ?

Mallam Bello Dandago, M.H.R., Wakilin Waje :

Mr President, Sir, I do not mind what scratches the Motion may have on its back as long as it goes through !

The President :

In that case I will put the Motion to the House because there can be no opposition.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I want to make a certain amendment. I brought in an amendment myself, seconded by Mallam Yakubu Wanka.

The President :

Your amendment has fallen down because the mover of the Motion has given way to a later amendment. The question is that a humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying him that he may be pleased to order that a serious effort be made to aim at giving a minimum of 500 scholarships in and outside the United Kingdom to Northern Nigerian students during the year 1953-54. Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

Mallam Audu Anace, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg leave to quote the Motion standing in my name, which reads :

"That this House appreciates the method adopted by the Northern Regional Ministers to accept their lodging accommodations in towns and cities during their official tours throughout the Northern Region and that to that end the Government should take a long term policy to build comfortable rooms in the form of catering rest houses for lodging by the Ministers in towns and cities at the provincial and Divisional Headquarters where the visits of such Ministers are expected more frequently."

There is no doubt that this House knows who those Ministers are and what their duties are. Besides being in a position to give all possible assistance in the Government of the Region as a whole, it is also their duty to attend their constituents and give them all possible assistance, advice in the works that fall within their portfolios. Sir, I think there ought to be a public enquiry. Those Ministers have been elected by us and we are elected by the people. Therefore those Ministers are elected by the people indirectly. The Ministers during their tours would like to discuss some complaints and problems with those constituents concerning their works. At present such Ministers confine their visits to Native Authorities and members of the Native Authority Councils. Why? Because they have taken accommodations with those Native Authorities. They become their guests only. But if a guest takes his own accommodation which has been provided specially for his visit, he will be able to take much more interest in conversing and discussing all complaints and affairs. Sir, I assure you that when one Minister visited the area where I was residing, a friend asked me who was that chief who arrived today? I have to give the friend long explanation of the Minister who came on exhibition. The friend had some doubt because he saw that the Minister confined all his business to the Native

Authority. Well, Sir, I beg this House to accept this Motion, as you see that I am not designing it simply to please the Ministers or to allow them to have comfortable rooms, but allow the people to take more interest in them and discuss all they have got to discuss with them, giving them more freedom. Sir, I do not want to make further comment on this, but simply to ask the House to accept the Motion as it stands.

Mallam Sambo, Sarkin Fada :

Sir, I second the Motion.

Mallam Sa'adu Alanamu, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, in rising to support this Motion I would like to appeal to this House to consider this matter very seriously, and not to throw it overboard for fear of the expense it involves. What we have got to think of is the inconvenience that is sometimes caused to the people moving out of their houses for visitors. These people move over temporarily to stay with other people and cause some inconvenience to these other people. Therefore there is no doubt that inconveniences are caused. Not only this, the houses you obtain the first time may not be obtainable the next time. The houses that you may be able to get during the second occasion, may be bad ones. The visitors occupying these second houses will thus have a low estimation of the people, whereas if houses are provided specially for the visitors, there will be no inconveniences caused to the people and, again, it will be the same kind of houses the visitors will use. Coming to the type of the houses to be provided, I do not advocate luxurious houses; they can be in ordinary mud, thatch-roofed, plastered in ordinary mud and painted with local paint. That is enough. The visitors do not expect much and they will not like to cause inconvenience by their visits. For this reason I consider this Motion worthy of careful consideration by this House. Our visitors, the Ministers, may not like this but perhaps they do not realise the difficulties they cause to the people of the places they visit in finding them comfortable accommodation. I therefore consider this Motion important and I support it.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. It is absolutely useless. Our Ministers are our Ministers, and the Government of this Region is in our hands. When a Minister is on a ministerial visit, he must put up with the Resident of the Province, and if he is in a District, he must put up with the District Officer there. If he is on a ministerial visit he is doing public duty, but if he is, of course, a "mere visitor", as the Wali said in his speech, they do not even deserve welcome in any house. In order to make such provision, with the indulgence of the Chair, I should like to refer the Members to a speech made by the Wali. It is on page 5 where he said, "I come like a visitor, to see, to hear and to tell what I know when I return to Kaduna and report to the Lieutenant-Governor and Executive Council or to Heads of Departments, what I have seen, what messages have been given to me by my hosts". Who are his hosts?

The President :

Could the Honourable Member give details of that speech ?

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

It is in the Wali's speech, page 5. I do not intend to debate on the Wali's speech but I just refer to it. Coming back to the Motion, I am very

disappointed to hear from the Member from Ilorin of the poor reception for Ministers. We cannot understand such a discourtesy on this side of the House. Our Ministers must be upheld in the highest possible esteem. Why put a Minister in a small room painted with ordinary local paint? If our Ministers agree that their visits are official, we are prepared to put up concrete buildings, not only to house our Ministers but to house overseas Ambassadors. I am sure this Motion must fall and therefore beg to oppose it.

The Minister for Community Development (The Hon. Bello Kano, M.H.R.):

Mr President, Sir, I should like to say a word or two, as I want to make the Members understand our position when touring. I and my fellow Ministers have made it our practice when on tour to accept the facilities afforded by the N.As., or their representatives in the districts, instead of staying in the Government rest houses. Our reason is that we want to keep in close touch with the people whom we represent. If we put up with the N.As. then we think it will be easier for us to see the rest of the people. We very much appreciate the consideration shown by the Honourable Member in suggesting that Government should provide lodging for us in the more important centres, but we do not feel justified in asking the Government to incur considerable expense in erecting special rest houses for us outside the Government Reservations. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to the N.As. who have looked after us so well on tour, both at the headquarters and in the Districts. We are very grateful to them. As one Member has said from Ilorin, a Minister should be provided with just a simple thatched hut. In a District no Minister can expect to have a concrete building. Once he can get a hut and a place to rest himself, it is quite sufficient, so I oppose the Motion.

Mallam Bello Dandago, M.H.R. (Wakilin Waje):

Mr President, Sir, my view is similar to Mallam Ibrahim Imam. In the first place I am opposing the Motion. It is an equinimical sheer waste of public money. We have no time for luxury now in the Region. We want to utilise any and every penny we can in doing something more useful than providing a house for a native of the soil. We have no time for it. The last speaker but one mentioned that when on tour our Regional Ministers should live with the Residents or District Officers. That may be a prison life for some of them because it would divorce them from their natural life. Sir, Ministers when on tour should live with us in the towns, in the villages, in the cottages, but no special houses, either concrete or mud should be built.

S. O. James, Esq.:

Mr President, Sir, may I suggest that the question be now put.

Mallam Ahmadu, M.H.R. (Lamdo Mubi):

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

The President:

I think that is the wish of the House. The question is that the Motion standing in the name of Mallam Audu Anace be approved. Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Nocs" have it.

T. Ayilla Yogh, Esq. M.H.R.:

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper.

Be it resolved:

"That as a practical means of enabling the Tiv people to share in the enjoyment of good government in the true sense of it, this Honourable House requests that a humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying him to appoint an independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate into the present anarchical situation in which the Tiv people have found themselves; and make a statement to this Honourable House for debate as early as possible".

Mr President, Sir, this is a humble Motion which I intend to present in good spirit in order to call Government's attention to certain irregularities of administration in Tiv country. I am not prepared to say anything concerning the North in general until I have cleaned my own door. In presenting the Motion I am not unmindful of the fact that Government servants are aware of the need for development and improvement of local administration in general but that is a long term policy. We of the Tiv people have a special case, we have a special problem which requires special attention. Our problem is one which should be placed on the list of priorities because it is one that involves life and death. Mr President, I submit with respect that the Tiv Local Government is most unsatisfactory because a Government that is based on power and superstition is not desirable at the moment. What we have in Tiv country now is confusion and lawlessness. We have riots now and again. There is disunity, disrespect and discontent. There is nothing that makes life worth living. We have not got leaders of our own choice. We are a people with disorderly and disorganised Government machinery. The East can now boast of a new Government scheme—the West is following on the same lines. The Northern Moslems are proud of their own sound tradition. The non-Moslem community of the North is neither here nor there. They are a forgotten lot—an extra quantity. (*Cries of "No"*). I want to say from the outset that if the British were to leave this country today, we Tiv people would not have anything good to their credit. They have betrayed the trust we have invested in them, the trust that they would be able to maintain good Government in Tiv country. This is no credit to them. I am wondering if this is a sign of weakness or a deliberate attempt to endanger the prestige of a once peaceful people. Before the advent of the British we were a people with sound Government. On page 2 of his book Captain R. C. Abraham stated that like all the Bantus the Tiv is essentially a democrat. That is how he saw them. If, before the advent of the British, we had a Government which was democratic how can the British escape the blame that our country is now bad. It appears they are responsible for it. There are stories which prove that they are responsible for the confusion and lawlessness which now exists in the Tiv country. One of them dates as far back as 1929. That date, 1929, is unforgettable in Tiv country. It is marked with sorrowful songs, just as was the case amongst the American Negroes. Cruelty and brutality came out for exhibition. I do not know how it started but Administrative Officers on tour visited nearly every village, they collected the old men and old respected peasants in Tiv country. They were chained up, lined up and beaten. I witnessed one of them. It was particularly terrible. The man was tied against a tree and a number of policemen were asked to beat him—he was beaten as long as the orders lasted. I could not help standing there because I was just a small boy and I cried. The prisoners were crying and calling for their mothers and everybody. I found afterwards what was the cause for taking all these drastic steps. The District Officers wanted to dig into the Tiv mental outlook. They wanted to find out about superstition and ritual killing. I do not think this is a polite way of digging into a people's mental outlook. This has an innermost

effect on people. It has instilled in the Tiv man a feeling of inferiority. Our leaders in Tiv country now dread the European rather than respect him. Mr President, up to the moment of speaking we cannot count the British, resident in Tiv country, as a blessing. There are many things which go to tell the same story. In 1934 we experienced that our Chiefs were lowered in rank. We identified the Chief by his staff. These staffs were seized away. 1939 was the sharpest turning point in Tiv history under the British.

The President :

I hope the Member is coming to the point in the Motion. The Motion is quite clearly worded here and I think we have been rather a long way from the point. I have allowed the Member a much latitude as, obviously, some back history is necessary but I hope we reach the Motion before long.

T. Ayilla Yogh, Esq., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I am trying to explain why a Commission is necessary. The bad state of affairs existing in Tiv country dates from 1929. In that age our Chiefs were dethroned,—the real Chief of the people, and the Administrative Officers appointed men of their own choice. From then the natural people, the masses, ceased to have anything to do with the appointment of Chiefs. The District Officers dethroned the real Chiefs and appointed men of their choice on the basis of the juju sworn. I do not want to tire the House any further on this matter because there are other things which the Tiv people suffer as well. For example, forced labour in the tin mines, the causes which contributed to the Makurdi riots and the petition which has just reached the Lieutenant-Governor about two ex-servicemen—Emberga and Iguse. These two people are now in shelter with the National Council of Nigeria and Cameroons Headquarters, Lagos. But suffice it to say that if the District Officers go to the extent of carrying stones in their pockets to throw at Chiefs and other people, or asking Councillors to shut up, while Native Affairs are being discussed within the House, you can see what I am talking about. The District Officers are still in charge of everything. No money is released from the Treasury without their signatures. Nothing is taken from the N.A. stores without their consent. No N.A. motor moves without their previous approval. Mr President, Sir, we are held up. These and many more are the things which have brought about the confusion. It is high time we had a change. We want leaders of our own choice. We do not want to base our Government now on power and superstition. These Governments are out of date. We want to return to our old form of Government which a Britisher termed “democratic”. We want to form Village Councils, District Councils and N.A. Councils on popular elections. We want the interest of the masses to dominate. Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

Mallam Dauda Haruna Kwoi :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second. I agree to most of what the previous speaker said. I know that country. He mentioned many things which took place long ago but he has not mentioned the things that are taking place now. In my view, he is rather selfish to keep on mentioning Tiv.

Benjamin Akiga, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I am sorry to say that I do not support the last speaker. I am sorry because he is a Tiv like myself and also we are all Members from Benue Province.

I am fairly old. I am also the author of a publication called “Akiga’s Story” in Tiv language. This will justify that I have a fair knowledge of the Tiv country.

I should like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that Mr Ayilla Yogh is a boy as he himself has pointed out during the course of his speech when he mentioned that he once saw a certain man being tied to a tree and beaten and when he saw that, he started to cry and ask reason for that. This shows that he was a boy at the time and did not understand what was going on.

Sir, the Honourable Ayilla is asking His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint a commission of inquiry to investigate the affairs in Tiv country. I do not support this. Our country is progressing with the aid of the Administrative Officers and the leaders of the country. On the question of disturbances which he has mentioned, the leaders and the Administrative Officers should not be blamed at all, that is how the world is. Disturbances happen everywhere even in Hausa area and in England and other countries. The Member also alleged that we do not like each other. No one can force somebody to like his brother. Likeness is a natural thing and nobody can force me to like my brother. Why should he say that the Administrative Officers should make us like each other?

The Member also mentioned that the Administrative Officers have degraded our chiefs and have taken away their staffs of office. The Honourable Ayilla should remember that he referred to the book written by Captain Abraham in which he commended the system of Administration in Tiv Country before the advent of the British. In this respect it should thus only be right for the Europeans to take away the staffs from the chiefs so that they should revert to the good old system because at that time they did not rule with the staffs given by the Europeans. Another point to note is that our Administrative Officers always consult the important people of the place before doing something. They did this before they took away the staffs and whips from the “dogarii”. The Honourable Member also made mention of “*Steweri*” a Tiv quack doctor who announces a chief and accused the Administrative Officers as being responsible for this. This is not so. It is the Tiv themselves who showed the Europeans that it is their custom of appointing chiefs “*Tioo*”. The Tiv also told the Europeans how they wanted their country to be arranged to suit them and then the Europeans took action accordingly as that was the wish of the people and was not contrary to any administrative principles.

The Administrative Officers are really helping our country. Recently a meeting was held at Jecira and the District Officer took me there and I lectured to the people on the new Constitution. In the course of my lecture I appealed to the people to try harder than they are doing at present and also when they are going to appoint a Village Head or any chief they should consult the young educated men and they responded to my appeal. The Honourable Member also said in his speech that the Administrative Officers appoint chiefs. This is not correct at all—it is the Tiv who meet and select their chiefs. I wonder whether the Honourable Member can give an instance of a chief who was appointed by the Administrative Officers. I am sure he cannot do so.

The Administrative Officers are co-operating with our chiefs and are advancing the Administration of our country and are helping the people. I entirely disagree with the views expressed by Mr Ayilla Yogh.

The President :

Is the Member seconding this Motion ?

Mallam Dauda Haruna Kwoi :

Yes, Sir.

Cia Aka, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I support the last speaker.

Maikondo Igbon, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I support the last speaker.

E. G. Candu, Esq., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

The Acting Civil Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, I rise on behalf of the Government to oppose the Motion of the Honourable Member. There are two main points: the first one is that the Motion reads, "That a humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying him to appoint an independent Commission of Inquiry". Now a Commission of Inquiry can be appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance. Such a Commission is appointed by the Governor and in the terms of the Motion the Lieutenant-Governor has no powers to appoint a Commission of Inquiry. He may, of course, if he sees fit, instruct that an investigation be carried out but if he does so the person or persons investigating will have no legal powers. They will not be able to compel the presence of witnesses. That is the first point. The second point is this—that Government does not agree that an anarchical situation exists in Tiv country. The Member, in moving the Motion, has referred to various events from past history. The history of the political development of Tiv covers many years. In the very early years when it first came under British Administration, the British Government instituted a form of Government that was based largely on what they had found in the more Northerly Provinces. At that time there had been no opportunity to investigate the habits and customs of the people who were coming under British administration for the first time. As the years passed it became apparent that that system was not in accordance with the customs of the people and extensive sociological investigations were carried out most carefully upon the results of which the skeleton of a new form of administration was evolved. It was roughly the same framework as it exists today but there were internal differences. Subsequently I am not quite sure of my dates but I think it was in the early 1930s—disorders broke out in Tiv Division. In connection with what I think the Tiv call the Nyambuwan movement, ritual murder or murders in connection with witchcraft took place, and for a time the Division was in a very disordered state. It was apparent that there was still something wrong with the Administration—it was still not in accordance with the customs of the people and, again, extensive investigations were carried out. The present Resident of the Province was then I think the District Officer. After careful enquiries from all shades of opinion and from people of the Division the present system was worked out. I deny, I contend that the Honourable Member is completely wrong, when he says that the Native Authorities of Tiv now are those appointed by the Europeans. It is a form of Government which the people, after many years of trial and error, decided was what they wanted. In any form of Government there are still people who do not

agree with it, however perfect it may be but the Government believes that the present form of Government in Tiv is in accordance with the wishes of the vast majority of the people. The Honourable Member has suggested, I think, if I am right in understanding him, that the system of Government in his country is not democratic. He suggests that it is difficult for the young men to take part in the Government. But Government consider that the Tiv people have, under their present system, every opportunity of sharing in the enjoyment of good Government. The Tiv Native Authority consists of a Chief and a Council which includes clan and kindred heads from no less than fifty-five districts. There are also representatives from the Makurdi Council and from the Chiefs and Councils of Katsina Ala and Abinsi. The Council represents the opinion of family heads, on whose influence depends the maintenance of law and order. The collection of revenue depends on them and the success or projects for education, medical treatment and so on. The work of development of local administration is proceeding in Tiv Division as it is in the rest of the Region. Between the Tiv Native Authority and the District Councils stand what are called Intermediate Councils and, as part of the development of local administration in the area, these Intermediate Councils are this year to be given certain additional responsibility. One word more I should like to say. The Member made certain accusations against Administrative Officers. I think, if he is going to make accusations, he must give chapter and verse for them. The Government considers that it would be extremely bad, even if it were considered desirable, to have an Enquiry at present. I am convinced that those who wish to take an active part in the administration of their country will, in the future, have more and more opportunity of doing so. Mr President, Sir, I beg to oppose the Motion.

The President :

As no other Member wishes to address the House, does the mover desire to reply ?

T. Ayilla Yogh, Esq., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, the Honourable Akiga who opposed the Motion denied some of my statements and claimed that he is of age but he has not denied that there is discontent in Tiv country. He did not deny that, at the moment, the District Officers still throw stones at Chiefs and other Councillors. He did not deny that no money can be taken from the Treasury, nothing from the Native Authority stores, and no motor vehicles can move without the consent of the District Officer. He does not want to say directly that he supports the Motion but the Motion is supported indirectly.

The President :

The question is that the Motion standing in the name of Mr T. Ayilla Yogh be approved. Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Noes" have it.

The sitting is suspended for 15 minutes.

At 4.50 p.m.

The President :

Mallam Muhammadu Danmalla.

Mallam Muhammadu Danmalla, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name....

The President :

Before the Honourable Member speaks I must say that the Motion as it stands is out of order under Standing Order 72, seeing that the last part of the order is tantamount to a money vote. If the Member wishes to amend the resolution he will have to leave out the last part and I will accept it.

Mallam Muhammady Danmallam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I do not wish to withdraw that part of the Motion because I see no difference between what the Government is now doing, and what it is being asked to do.

The President :

In that case the Motion is out of order.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, after making several consultations and asking expert representatives, I have come to the conclusion that I should like to withdraw the three Motions standing in my name until the Budget Session ; because I have been given an assurance by many people that they will support me then, because they have not had the opportunity of studying the Motion before. So as to give the Members as well as Government and the people an opportunity, I should like to withdraw the Motions standing in my name.

The President :

The Honourable Member then does not move.

Patrick Fom, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, before I start on the Motion standing in my name, I have to say a few words at first, about the land reclamation which made me to bring up this Motion. It does not mean that I am not satisfied with the work of the Reclamation Officer but there is something that arises or causes bad workmanship on the land reclamation work. The progress is slow, indeed. Broken bottles and nails are being put upon the land and are very harmful to the farmers and I hope our Honourable Minister of Natural Resources will surely agree, because he has witnessed it. I, therefore, move that this work of land reclamation be handed over to the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria for speedy closing, because they have a lot of powerful machines to do the work of the land reclamation on contract within a year or two. I want this House to note that food is very essential and without it we could not be here today. Therefore, I am pleading that the Honourable Members of this House should support this Motion in order that the land reclamation work be handed over to the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria for its speedy closing. In addition to this the reclamation must be done without putting in any dangerous manure composing of the said broken bottles and nails, etc., instead of putting good manure to develop the land, and planting some weeds and not trees. Therefore, I beg to move this Motion to the House to consider the handing over of the land reclamation to the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria, because the land Reclamation Officer has only a small machine which does work. On the Plateau we have a lot of Mining dumps over the land right up to Barakinladi, etc., which everybody could see when passing along and most of the farmers of the areas cannot farm in their farm land ; so if the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria took over this work they could do it in a very short time. Mr President, I beg to move.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second the Motion but I should like to make an amendment to it.

The President :

I gave a ruling earlier on this evening that when a Member seconds a Motion he must second it as it stands. It is against the whole principle of debate to second something and immediately wish to change it.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I do not agree to have it as it stands now, but I ask the President if he will accept my amendment.

The President :

We cannot debate it in that case.

Moses Nyang Rwang, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

S. O. James, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, in supporting the Motion I would like to do so on the essence of it, which is that the work of reclamation on the Plateau should be speeded up.

The President :

I cannot accept it. The Motion is quite clear. The Motion says that it should be handed over to the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria.

S. O. James, Esq. :

Sir, the Honourable Member who moved the Motion knows the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria very well, but he perhaps fails to realise that the Company is not a Company of contractors. Although on many occasions they have helped us a great deal, because I remember that in less than a year ago they helped with supplementing the dam at Jos. They built that dam at what I consider to be very much less cost than it would have been if Government had done it. Government is reputed to be very slow workers indeed and it takes much more time to deal with papers than to do the actual work. In this connection, Sir, the reclamation of land on the Plateau is an urgent matter, and we would like it done as quickly as possible. I am not criticising the Land Reclamation Department for not doing it much more quickly than they are doing now, because there is a limit to what they can do with the machinery and staff in hand. And I am not going to mention the name of the particular firm of contractors I have in mind, but there is a firm in this country which the Government knows very well and I would like them to handle the contract. The main problem is machinery and if the Government is left to do it, it might take them several years to get the necessary machinery, which is not the case with the firm of contractors which I have in mind. On the other hand, Sir, the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria Limited, might be approached, but there again, Sir, machinery would be the problem and it might mean withdrawing some machinery that they have for their own use to do the reclamation work.

Major E. Wilson :

Mr President, Sir, the proposer of this Motion has rather put me on the spot. While I feel that the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria would like to help in this work, Mr S. O. James has very rightly pointed out that we are not really earth-moving contractors, but for mining tin. I admit that

we have machinery which would do it quickly but if we use this we would have to take them off tin mining. It would not be possible to do both types of work at the same time. This would mean that the output of tin would go down and this would affect severely the finances of Nigeria at a time when every penny is required as there would be a loss in Royalty paid and the Income Tax money paid to the Government, and that sum is very considerable. I want to help, as I said before, and be constructive. There are, in my view, two courses which could be adopted, one, Mr James has already mentioned—the employment of a well-known contractor who has the necessary machinery and plant. It might even pay to approach a firm in England who would ship out the machines they have already, do the work, and go back home again. In England, in open-cast coal mining, that is the method that is adopted, it is not done on a small scale but on a very big scale indeed, so actually the same problem confronts the Government in the United Kingdom as the Minister of Natural Resources here. The problem of farming land being destroyed to the detriment of the farmers and the need for revenue which is required from the minerals if they are mined. My second course is this—filling in the dumps is a costly process and also lengthy if done as a long-term policy. The proposer did mention just before he sat down “not trees”, but unfortunately that is the point which I want to bring forward. I think it was the proposer in the last session who pointed out that the Forestry were taking up a large amount of farming land by the forest reserves. The point at the time was not followed up, but I would like to follow it now. I would suggest that the dumps, instead of being put back, be planted with forest reserve trees. It has been proved during the last few years that trees grow very successfully on dumps, if these dumps were made the forest reserves and the present forest reserves turned into farming land, I think the farmers would have just as much land at their disposal than if the dumps had been put back, and, at no cost. One more point in connection with that. There would still be the hole from which the dump came which is now full of water. Water is very scarce in this particular area about which we are talking and I would suggest that the money which has been ear-marked for this last bit of reclamation would last a long time with a few pumps pumping water for irrigation from these holes, and also would give drinking water and washing water for the local villagers. I am afraid I cannot support the Motion.

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, in rising to speak on this Motion on behalf of the Government I wish to make it abundantly clear to the House that the present policy of Government is that reclamation and restoration work on the Plateau should proceed with all possible speed. The Reclamation Unit is at present working on a simple basis but it is hoped to make a start on other areas when the heavy equipment now on order has been delivered. The Government has not neglected to explore every possible means of tackling the problem including the employment of private contractors. The possibility of enlisting the services of the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria will not be overlooked. The Honourable Mover has said, if I am right to understand what he has said, that no manure should be put on the reclaimed land. If this is what he said I think, if manure is not put on the reclaimed land not even weeds would grow for many years. And I would like to assure the Honourable Mover that the Government may examine the statement of Major Wilson. In the light of this statement I suggest to the Honourable Mover that the Motion standing in his name should be withdrawn.

The President :

Does the Honourable Member wish to speak now because if so he will not be able to speak again.

Moses Nyang Rwang, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I would like to comment on Major Wilson's point. I should think that he misunderstood the points brought up by the Mover, and I should like to think, as Mr James suggested, did not understand the position of the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria. He has actually pointed out that they are not earth-moving contractors but I do not support the suggestion that the trees should be planted on the reclaimed land. If those reclaimed areas were planted, it would not be in the interests of the people who are complaining of the lack of land. I should like to refer to what has been said by the Minister of Natural Resources. I think he misunderstood the intentions of the Mover. I think the Mover said that the reclaimed area should be manured and that no bottles should be put on the land so that they do not harm the farmers, because, as the Minister himself has seen, that is the type of manure people complained of last time. But the Mover did not suggest that the manure should not be put on the reclaimed land—the fertility of the land depends on its manure. We too, the farmers, know that this is true. As regards the work of reclamation, I have the privilege of being a member appointed by the Resident to a Committee to discuss how the reclamation work should be carried out. I understand we agreed that foreign contractors should be invited and what I should like this House to understand is that what we need is speedy reclamation on the land. The President's suggestion that the Mover should withdraw is—well then I would like to direct my question to the Minister. I do not understand why the Mover should withdraw because I think that even this House can appreciate that this work will really help us in the Plateau, so with all my energy I support this Motion.

Abba Habib, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to support this Motion. Although there is no sign of passing this Motion in this House—what a fearful sight for travellers! these horrifying holes should be filled.

The President :

I do not know how the Members can get up and support a Motion when the representative of the firm named in the Motion says they cannot do the work. I am afraid I do not understand. The Motion says that the work be handed over to the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria and Major Wilson, who is the General Manager of that Company says he cannot do it. This is why the Wali suggested the withdrawal of the Motion.

I hope that the House will forgive me for one moment if I explain this business of withdrawing Motions. In England in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, Members often put down Motions and a debate takes place and then the Motion is withdrawn. If Honourable Members are curious they can look up the records of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Quite often the Mover gets up and begs leave to withdraw the Motion. The reason for that is that he has put down the Motion because as we say in England, he wants it ventilated—he wants people to talk about it, and when a number of people have got up and argued about it he says “all right it has been in the papers and everybody knows about it and there is no point in voting on it”. Another thing is when a Motion is going to be defeated and the Mover sees that it will be, it is very much better

[President]

to withdraw before it is defeated than have it defeated in the House. There is nothing shameful about the withdrawal of a Motion at all. I do assure the House that in European Legislative Bodies it is constantly done. Do you still wish to speak?

Abba Habib, M.H.R. :

Yes, Sir, Mr President, it seems quite likely that there is no possibility of reclaiming these lands. As has been pointed out by the Special Member and another Special Member mentioned that these holes will be very useful for holding water. I do not think that there is such a scarcity of water in that part of the world as to warrant such large holes to be used as water tanks as a means of collecting water, and I said previously when one travels in the Plateau Province one would find these holes are very very fearful and a very terrible sight and I would certainly suggest that whoever is responsible for leaving these holes should be asked to fill them in. And if it is the desire of the people of the Plateau to fill these holes and reclaim them as farms, we would of course support the Motion and to all intents and purposes I am quite sure that even in long term policies of reclaiming these there would be no point in filling them and what would happen in the end is that there would be holes and nothing else but holes in the Plateau Province. Mr President, I beg to second this.

The President :

Does the Mover wish to reply.

Patrick Fom, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I am glad to have been given a chance to talk once more. Now drinking water. The representative of the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria forgets that the Company has destroyed all the best streams and rivers on the Plateau. I never condemned manure, but I condemned the use of broken bottles and nails. I said that if it is difficult to get good manure then planting of weeds and creeping plants on the reclamation work but not tree in any respect. Mr President, I beg to move that this House should consider to ask the Government to do something for the welfare of those farmers on the Plateau. The representative of the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria went on to say that the farmers should farm on the forest reserves. Now I want him to understand that the land on the Plateau is individually owned. If it is communal land as in the other parts of say Kano or Zaria, it would be all right. According to the custom of the people of the Plateau everybody has got his own portion of farm land. If my own portion of the farm land is in the Forest Reserve O.K. I would farm it. The man whose farm has been destroyed, cannot come and farm my portion of farmland in the narrowest Forest Reserve. I am now pleading for leniency and sympathy on the poor people on the Plateau. If the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria do not want to assist, I am pleading that this House should get somebody with machines to fill these holes for the poor natives of the Plateau. We have a lot of money invested by the N.A. in far countries and it would be very good if the money could be returned and then get some contractors to bring their machines and pay them out of that money to fill in the holes. The poor man's profit has been put in the pocket of a millionaire (laughter). I beg the President that I do not want to be ruled out of order, but I am putting this matter before the House as an idea in general. I beg the House to support my Motion in order to contact some better Company to do the work. Sir, I beg

[Motions]

The President :

The question is "That the work of Land Reclamation on the Plateau be handed over to the Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria, Limited, for speedy closing". Those in favour say "Aye". Those of contrary opinion say "No". The "Noes" have it.

Patrick Fom, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I came to Kaduna in February. During that time I used to take a stroll and one day I went to Kaduna Junction and found many cars hanging about along side the Kaduna River, as well as pedestrians. I collected information regarding the detention of those cars and the pedestrians. Well, I do not want to keep this House too long. I am making it very short. We have our Ministers here now and Honourable Members who want to do their work very urgently. One of the Ministers may want to leave Kaduna Junction at 8 sharp in the morning. What will happen when he comes to the railway bridge and is detained for 30 minutes. Well, therefore, I move this Motion that this House should do something suitable so as to make provision for a road bridge or make it as the bridge in Lagos, which is half a mile long and which was done by the Nigerian Government. I do not see why this our Capital of the Northern Nigeria should not have such a bridge. Possibly the Financial Secretary will say that there is no money. Well today Government and N.A. are working hand in hand. The Financial Secretary will say that he cannot build the bridge because it will cost a lot of money, then in this respect the Local Government and the Regional Government should combine to make a separate bridge for the welfare of the people. Life is very precious. Therefore I move that this House considers that a separate bridge be constructed for the welfare of the people. Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

Moses Nyang Rwang, Esq. :

I beg to second.

The Minister of Works (The Hon. Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sardaunan Sokoto) :

Mr President, Sir, the Government is already aware of the need of a second bridge at Kaduna. This was considered by the Regional Joint Standing Committee on Finance in July and August 1950. The cost of the bridge which would be about 600 feet including its approaches was estimated approximately to cost £30,000 at the time. The Joint Standing Committee considered that it was not very important at the time as was shown by a road census taken in 1947 which concluded that the traffic was mostly pedestrians. Anyhow, the Nigerian Railway being the owners of the bridge were approached with the question of putting up a foot bridge, but they declined because the bridge was not constructed to carry such an extra weight. The building of a new trunk Road B from Kaduna to Kaciya and thence to Keffi which we hope will be completed within two years alters the whole question. That means there will be a lot of heavier traffic from either side of the line. A case for a separate bridge has become stronger. The Government will review this matter in the light of this development though it is not considered of sufficient importance to justify deferring the other major important works that are being undertaken at the present. Any bridge that will be built will include provision for pedestrians. A separate foot bridge would be unnecessarily costly and would not be built.

Major E. Wilson :

Mr President, Sir, I would like to reply to Patrick Fom. I was very interested to learn why the foot bridge has been turned down in the past. I

[Major E. Wilson]

rather think the Railway got the best of that one. As an engineer, I am quite sure the bridge would take a narrow side walk on each side without any danger to the bridge at all. There is a military bridge called the Bailey Bridge, one of which has been erected quite close to Kaduna. That is the type of side walk to which I refer, and which could be easily built on to the present bridge, and would serve a very good purpose during the two years period which would have to elapse before the present situation is relieved; for us near the Plateau it could be done more easily.

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, while considering the need for a second bridge on Kaduna River and the need for safety in the North, I think it is not justified to start a second bridge at all while there are many more bridges required in the North. I have no objection to what the last speaker said—the creation of a side walk against the existing bridge. I believe that it will not involve very heavy expenditure. Now while we have our roads up in the North without bridges, without even good drifts, how could we accept a second bridge on the same river for a population of less than 10,000 people. I hope my knowledge of Kaduna is correct. I know there is need and great demand for bridges at different places all over the country. I remember one of such places is Jega. For years and years there has been a proposal to build a bridge there. No one knows when it is going to be built. It will be a very important bridge. It will connect the eastern part of Sokoto Province and the south-western part. Everybody knows.....(Interruption).

The President :

The Honourable Member is out of order. We are talking about Kaduna Bridge and not about other bridges.

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, M.H.R. :

I wish to oppose the Motion.

Mallam Hassan Abuja, M.H.R. :

I had no intention of speaking this afternoon, but due to the reason given by the last speaker, I would like to say something. The Minister of Works has explained quite clearly the future of the transport across the river Kaduna. The second bridge is not for Kaduna town only. The same Minister has told this House that a road construction is under progress from here to Kaciya. Well, I know that part very well. The road is going to be built from Kaciya down to Keffi as he said. Well that road will stretch down to the River Niger at Koton-Karifi and at Makurdi. So I am sure a lot of traffic will come from that side and will use this second bridge which is under discussion. And coming to Kaduna itself, the last speaker should remember that the present bridge across the same river was built when this town was quite small, when there were very few people. Well, now to think of the increasing population in this town every year, we have got thousands of school children on both banks of the river, such as the Trade Centre, N.A. School and several Mission Schools in the Kaduna township, and on the other bank of the river we have got other schools, such as the Keffi Secondary School and the Girls' Centre. Well, all these children use this single bridge, apart from the ordinary passengers. So in two years time, when that road from here to Kaciya is completed, as the Minister of Works has just said, and these schools are always growing, I think it would be very dangerous to have this single bridge. I beg to support this Motion.

[Motions]

The Minister of Works (The Hon. Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sardaunan Sokoto) :

According to Major Wilson's suggestion, it should be realised that the Railway does not come under this House and we have no control over it, and therefore cannot force it to do something for us.

The President :

Is the Honourable Minister proposing to oppose the Motion? (No.) In that case, I think it would be the wish of the House for me to put the Motion. So far I think only one Honourable Member has spoken against it. I take it that the Honourable Member does not wish to reply? The question is "that Government should build a separate foot road bridge parallel to Kaduna Railway Bridge over the Kaduna River". Those in favour say "Aye". Those of contrary opinion say "No." The "Ayes" have it.

Mallam Yakubu Wanka, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg leave to move a Motion standing in my name which reads as follows:—

"That in view of the fact that village heads and their scribes are playing a very important part in Native Administration and in fact are the backbone of Native Administration in the Northern Region, and are in spite of all that receiving very poor pay, this House is of the opinion that they should be granted pensions and gratuities on retirement."

Mr President, Sir, I think this House will agree with me that village heads and their scribes are the integral part of the machinery of Native Administration in this Region. But it is a pity that they draw very poor, and meagre salaries, which do not maintain them satisfactorily at all. Another point, is, Sir, village heads and their scribes are now considered as part time employees, but I think the nature of their duties corresponds to that of district heads and their scribes. But district heads and their scribes are now considered as part time employees, but I think the nature of their duties corresponds to that of district heads and their scribes. But district heads and their scribes are considered in this Region as full-time employees, while village heads and their scribes are considered on the contrary. If it is considered that district heads and their scribes perform a certain amount of touring, I think village heads and their scribes do the same thing in their respective areas proportionately. Also, if it is said that village heads and their scribes must be considered as part time employees, I think all N.A. employees working in districts should be considered as part time employees also, except district Alkalis and their scribes and school teachers. Some people may say that village heads and their scribes can farm. There is nothing that prevents other employees working in districts from farming, because there is no employee in a district that works from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and, therefore, every employee in a district including a district head has an ample opportunity of farming. Mr President, Sir, as it is the intention of this Honourable House to have good government and justice, without partiality to any classes of employees, I anticipate a sympathetic consideration of this humble Motion by the Honourable Members. Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

Mallam Muhammadu Munir, M.H.R. :

I rise to oppose this Motion.

The President :

The Motion has not been seconded.

Mallam Muhammadu Bashir Daura, M.H.R. :

I rise to second it.

Mallam Muhammadu Munir, M.H.R. :

I rise to oppose this Motion to avoid creating a hazardous precedent. It is quite true that village heads and their scribes play a very great part in collecting revenue for the N.A.s, and for which they are paid. The question of pension is governed by the N.A. Staff Regulations. If the salary of an individual falls within the category of those entitled to pension or gratuity he should be given what he is entitled to. If it does not he should not be given it. Therefore, I feel that if partiality is played to give pensions to the village heads and their scribes whose emoluments do not qualify for such pensions, then all other employees on the same salary will have to be given pensions. In this connection, I therefore oppose the Motion entirely.

The Acting Financial Secretary :

Though the spirit of this Motion may be admirable, the Government Bench cannot support it. It cannot support for if the Motion were passed, it would give the impression that Government wished to force the Native Authorities to do something. It cannot be repeated too often that the Native Authorities are independent authorities. Government cannot and will not tell them exactly what the conditions of service they should grant to their employees. Mallam Munir very rightly said that pensions of N.A. employees are governed by the Native Authority Staff regulations. These rules were drawn up not by Government, but by the Native Authorities acting together. If the mover of this Motion wishes to alter the rules, his course is not to discuss it in this House, but to ask his Native Authority to request the other Native Authorities to consider the question. For these reasons, I beg to oppose this Motion.

The President :

Is the Financial Secretary suggesting that the Motion is out of order?

The Acting Financial Secretary :

No, Sir.

The President :

I am rather inclined to think that it is. It is on a subject in which the House has no control.

The Legal Secretary :

The House, I think, can express opinions on matters which are not within its control.

The President :

It is a doubtful point, but I will accept it.

Mallam Ahman Pategi, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion with all possible reasons. Because I have to observe that the mover of this Motion only reduces the position of the village heads. If I were asked to define a village head, I would define it as semi-chief. As at present, Chiefs are not on a pensionable scale, and they are not entitled to any gratuity. I do not think it is right for village heads to be so considered. I should think that village heads should have the same responsibility as that of the Chiefs. No Chief wants to retire but to be on the throne until he dies. My second reason is that the

mover of this Motion has contradicted himself in his speech. He had said that these employees could farm during their leisure time, and I would say that under the Native Authority Ordinance, he (the mover) is not allowed to farm, but since these village heads, as he said, are allowed to go and farm, and he as an ordinary employee is not allowed to farm or undertake any project which might interfere with his official business. So I wish to oppose this Motion. I was quite aware when the revision of N.A. regulations took place here in Kaduna, I think he should have brought this question then at that meeting. But now since the time has passed, I do not think it is right for this House to discuss this Motion. It can be referred back to his N.A. What we should discuss in this House are matters concerning the Northern Regional Government, not matters which concern Native Authorities. I would only, therefore, advise the mover of this Motion to withdraw his Motion.

Mallam Usman Nadanko :

Mr President, Sir, I would like to address the House as a new Member. I rise to oppose the last speaker, as he has opposed the previous speaker. What moved me to take the floor was that the suggestion that the Chief should have been given a pension, when the consideration took place. In his speech he has said that the Chief is not entitled to any pension, let alone those part-time village heads. What I would like to support is the views expressed by a speaker, that the pension is governed by N.A. Staff Regulations. That work was already drafted, and I would not like it to be questioned. So in considering this Motion, we should consider its merit as the suggestion is that these workers—the village heads are part-time workers and that they can have their pensions from the farms is wrong because I have served long as a village head and according to our custom we have no right to go and work, not until we are instructed to do so.

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Maigamo :

Mr President, Sir, I did not intend to make a lengthy speech on this. Unfortunately I have some observation on this Motion. Does the mover of this Motion mean to make the responsibility of village heads the same as that of the district heads? If so I would like to give him an example. For example where there are a district head and scribes the district head would go and inspect the office and there he would have to see whether he could compare the responsibility of a district head with that of a village head and that is why I do not agree with the speaker.

Mallam A. O. Ladan Baki, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, in supporting the Motion, Sir, I would like to add that their salaries be considered as well. They do the most tedious work, and they receive the poorest salary. I see no reason why they should be neglected. I support the Motion.

Mallam Sa'adu Alanamu, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, this Motion is completely ridiculous. Unless the mover can show that these people are exempted, and are not allowed to benefit from the rules on Pensions and Gratuities then the Motion can stand. All employees of the N.A. are, provided they are qualified, entitled to pensions and gratuities and these are not exempted because of their positions under the rules and I oppose the Motion.

Patrick Fom, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to support this matter but I am not going to support the whole of it, because there is a mistake in the Motion. The

[Patrick Fom, Esq.]

statement should be like this : the Chiefs and the N.A. Councils should not be included in this statement as well as the village heads should be included in this statement because they are heavily paid. Only the pure N.A. staff should be included because they receive very small salaries. In the first place the Government would be in the jungle. (*Laughter*). And the greater part of the work is being done by the N.A. staff. It is a fact that the N.A. staff should receive pension as well as Government staff and they should also be in the same line as the Government staff in their scale of increment and should be on the same lines as the Government staff.

The Acting Financial Secretary :

On a point of order, Sir. The Motion says nothing about Chiefs, Emirs or rates of salary.

The President :

I was aware of it, but I was hoping the Honourable Member would come to the point. My difficulty, as you know, is to try to see whether Honourable Members are coming to the point or drawing away from it ; sometimes it is very difficult to make up my mind. Is the Honourable Member going to talk about the Motion ? The Motion is the grant of pensions to village heads.

Patrick Fom, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I think the Native Authority Staff Regulations were made by this House and, therefore, the Members of this House have the right to make an amendment relating to these regulations. We should welcome the idea of our village heads and the N.A. staff being considered for pensions. I want this House to consider the tedious work that is being done by the N.A. staff, etc. I support the Motion.

Mallam Ibrahim, M.H.R., Wazirin Gumel :

Mr President, Sir, I have listened with interest to the speeches on this Motion. Having read the Motion very carefully, I have come to the conclusion that the Motion was to amend the N.A. staff regulations which I think should not be amended by this House.

Mallam Yahaya Ilorin, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I move that the question be now put. (*Hear-hear*).

Mallam Yakubu Wanka, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I have to say that the opposers of this Motion are very wonderful persons. My reply to Mallam Muhammadu Munir and Wazirin Gumel is that they should remember that I have been working in a Native Treasury. I am not blowing my own trumpet, but I would like to draw their attention to the fact that I cannot bring this question before this House until I satisfy myself with the conditions that govern it. The Motion asks that village heads and their scribes should be granted pensions and gratuities. I think they realise that pension is quite different from gratuity. I know something about staff regulations. The regulation says every N.A. employee who receives £84 or under should be granted gratuity on retirement and those that receive over £84 should receive pensions. So you can see that the question amending staff regulations does not arise because the village heads and their scribes are entitled to gratuities or pensions according to their salaries. My answer to Mallam Ahman Pategi who said that Emirs are not allowed to receive pensions and gratuities—I think this is a terrible

mistake. There is no mention in the staff regulation about this and I am sure they are entitled to pensions and gratuities as any other N.A. employee. My answer to the Financial Secretary who said that the pension and gratuity of N.A. staff is a matter for the N.As. to decide. I bring this Motion to this House because it is not only my Province that suffers from this, therefore, there is no single N.A. which can consider whether it should do this or that. Moreover we have been asked only yesterday do discuss the reform of N.A. Constitution why not leave it for the N.As. to decide ? My answer to Wakilin Doka of Zaria who said that I am comparing the duties of the village head and their scribes with those of the district heads and their scribes—that is a horrible mistake. I only said that the nature of their duties corresponds with that of district heads and their scribes. They cannot certainly do the same type of work as district heads. One interesting point has been raised by the Honourable Sa'adu Alanamu when he said that the village heads are exempted from getting pensions and gratuities in the staff regulation. I thank him very much for bringing up this point. Well, I have been working in a N.A. Treasury, as I have said already, when we had cases of some village heads that were retiring about a year ago we prepared their gratuities in accordance with the provision of the regulation. But, when it was put forward for approval we had been told that village heads and their scribes were considered as part-time employees and that we should find out what has been the practice in the other parts of the Northern Region. We waited to hear the decision from other Provinces. Well, I do not know what sort of action was taken, but the result was that we had been told later that other Native Authorities do not pay pensions and gratuities to village heads and their scribes because they are considered as part-time employees. Indeed, nothing has been stated of this nature in the N.A. Staff Regulations. If these village heads could be given their gratuity and pension, I would not have brought this question before this House. But it is because we had been told that they could not get it and it was not stated in the staff regulation that is why I have brought this question for discussion. My Motion concerns the whole of the Northern Region. Mr President, Sir, I beg to ask that my Motion should be considered favourably by this Honourable House.

The President :

The question before the House is "That in view of the fact that village heads and their scribes are playing a very important part in Native Administration and in fact are the backbone of Native Administration in the Northern Region, and are in spite of all that receiving very poor pay, this House is of the opinion that they should be granted pensions and gratuities on retirement". Those in favour say "Aye", and those of contrary opinion say "No". The "Noes" have it.

Mallam Yakubu Wanka, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I call for a division.

The President :

The Honourable Member's supporters must stand up if you want to divide. Thirteen Honourable Members stood up. There is, therefore, no division.

A. O. Ladan Baki, M.H.R. :

Is it possible for a secret ballot ?

The President :

A secret ballot cannot be held.

The sun is setting, and I think we should come to the end of today's business. There are three Motions remaining: standing in the names of Mallam Yakubu Wanka, Mallam Bello Dandago, and Mallam Muhammadu Munir.

Mallam Bello Dandago, M.H.R., Wakilin Waje :

In view of the Motion standing in my name, which has not been dealt with this afternoon, I beg permission that it be tabled tomorrow morning—with the indulgence of the House.

Mallam Muhammadu Munir, M.H.R. :

Mr President, I have got another Motion. I beg it to be put down for tomorrow.

Mallam Yakubu Wanka, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, may we continue until midnight as we did in Lagos?

The President :

We will continue until midnight tomorrow if that is so. The House has heard the movers of the three next items on the Order Paper requesting leave to have their Motions left until tomorrow. Otherwise if that is not agreed, they are automatically lost. Is it the wish of the House that they should be taken tomorrow? The House will now adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow.

The House adjourned accordingly at 6.40 p.m.

QUESTIONS

Tuesday, 8th July, 1952

QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS

Benjamin Akiga, Esq., Elected Member, Benue Province :

63. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

(a) How many Northerners are there in the University College, Ibadan?

(b) How many students are there from the other two Regions?

(c) When these students pass out after finishing their courses, are they going to serve Nigeria as a whole, or only their respective Regions?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

Twelve, including three scholars learning Latin prior to taking up Government Scholarship in the United Kingdom.

(b) 149 from the Western Region, 173 from the Eastern Region.

(c) This depends on the wish of the scholars concerned. If they join the Government Service they are liable for service anywhere in Nigeria. It is not the policy of Government to bond students in receipt of scholarships.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

66. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

In view of the fact that the salaries of Government employees are being revised, can he give an assurance that the same consideration will be given to Native Administration employees?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

The rates of pay of Native Authorities' employees are determined by the Native Authorities. It is probable, however, that Native Authorities will wish to review the position of their employees in the light of any revision which may be made in salaries by Government.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

68. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

(a) Whether he has any report to make to the House about the review of the Regional Colleges of Arts, Science and Technology?

(b) When may work be expected to be resumed?

(c) Does the Minister appreciate the alarming despondency which has been caused throughout the North by the delay in making the Northern branch ready on purely Technical grounds?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

(a) and (b) The Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology is Central Development project. The Council of Ministers in consultation with Regional Executive Councils is actively considering the matter. It is hoped that a decision will soon be reached and work resumed at Zaria.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is appreciated that there has been disappointment at the delay.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

69. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

What is the Minister's plan for spending the huge sums reserved for scholarships for Northern youths, especially with reference to the cry of the North for teachers ?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

£100,000 has already been set aside for scholarships since 1948 and a further £100,000 is to be set aside for this purpose. I must emphasise that the provision of this money does not of itself produce Northern candidates with the qualifications necessary for entry into an overseas university or technical institute. I wish also to emphasise that in the past four years no Northerner with the necessary qualification has been debarred by lack of funds from higher education. In view of the lack of candidates qualified for normal entry into overseas institutions, I am investigating the possibilities of persuading overseas institutions to conduct special courses for students of this Region who would be granted an extra period to complete the standard examinations. I am also proposing to establish a Northern Regional Scholarship Board to consider all applications. As many teachers as possible are being sent to the United Kingdom to obtain a Teacher's Professional Certificate. Since 1948 sixteen such teachers have been accepted in the United Kingdom for this purpose.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

70. To ask the Minister of Works :—

What arrangements are being made to increase road transport facilities for the evacuation of cotton and groundnuts from remote areas so as to enable the extension of buying stations and ease the difficulties of the poor peasant farmers of such areas ?

Answer—

The Minister of Works :

The maintenance of produce evacuation roads is subsidised by the Marketing Boards at the rate of £15 a mile to ensure that there will be no lack of maintenance due to poverty of the Native Administration responsible.

(2) Further, an ambitious programme of Feeder Road Construction has been embarked on by Native Administrations with the assistance of grants from Northern Regional Production Development Board funds varying from 37 per cent to 100 per cent of the cost of each road.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

71. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

In view of the fact that charges for a holiday at the Plateau Hill Station (one guinea a day for a flat) are too high for members of the Junior Service, will Government not consider making a Holiday Camp for the Junior Service staff there as well ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

Jos Hill Station is open to all applicants, irrespective of status, who are able to pay the prescribed charges. These charges are based on present day costs of running such an establishment and are, in fact, considered by

many members of the Senior Service to be beyond their means. A non-catering Rest House at present exists at Jos for the use of members of the Junior Service, at a nightly charge of threepence. Government is not aware of the need for a Holiday Camp for the exclusive use of Junior Service staff and does not at present propose to construct one.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

72. To ask the Minister of Natural Resources :—

As the Government maintains a Produce Inspection Service in the North, will it not consider the setting up of a Marketing Board for Hides and Skins ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

The question of a Hides and Skins Marketing Board is already being considered.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

73. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

(a) Is the Government aware that no person of Northern origin has derived any benefit through the introduction of the Third Party Insurance owing to ignorance of the law ?

(b) And if so, will the Northern Government be prepared to give free legal aid to uneducated victims of accidents under this law ?

(c) If not, will the Government not consider abolishing the law in the North as premature for the time being ?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

(a) No, Sir. Records of transactions between Insurance Companies and private persons are not available to this Regional Administration.

(b) I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the very full reply given in this House to the question of free legal aid to victims of accidents by the Acting Legal Secretary on 12th February, 1952.

(c) No, Sir. It is not considered that this law is premature in the North. It ensures that the victims of accidents do not fail to recover compensation because of the lack of means of the owner of the vehicle responsible for the accident.

Mallam Abubakar Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Zaria Province :

75. To ask the Minister of Natural Resources :—

What is the cattle population in the North, province by province ?

Answer—

The Minister of Natural Resources :

The cattle population in the Northern Region, based on Jangali figures is as follows :—

Province	Jangali figures
(1) Adamawa	263,638
(2) Bauchi	502,107
(3) Benue	31,867

(4) Bornu	709,927
(5) Ilorin	57,739
(6) Kabba	4,010
(7) Kano	568,664
(8) Katsina	275,568
(9) Niger	75,112
(10) Plateau	231,682
(11) Sokoto	664,806
(12) Zaria	121,845
Total	3,506,965

Patrick Fom, Esq., Elected Member, Plateau Province :

76. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

Why is it that the land in Jos Division is known as Crown Land?

*Answer—***The Acting Civil Secretary :**

It is not known as Crown Land ; there is no Crown Land in the Northern Region. All lands in Jos Division are Native Lands.

Patrick Fom, Esq., Elected Member, Plateau Province :

77. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

Why yearly rent is not paid to the Birom people instead of the usual compensation for the use of their land for public purposes?

*Answer—***The Acting Civil Secretary :**

All lands in the Northern Region are under the control of and subject to the disposition of the Governor. There is no private ownership of land in the Northern Region. The Native occupier does not "own" the land he occupies but has the exclusive rights to its use and occupation against all persons other than the Governor or those deriving title from the Governor under the Land and Native Rights Ordinance. Since the land is not "owned" by the native occupier it cannot be rented by him. In the event of disturbance he is entitled only to compensation for his unexhausted improvements and inconvenience caused to him.

Patrick Fom, Esq., Elected Member, Plateau Province :

79. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

Why compensation for land taken for public purposes is assessed against the consent of the farmers?

*Answer—***The Acting Civil Secretary :**

Compensation is granted for the value at the date of the revocation of the customary right of occupancy of the unexhausted improvements and for the disturbance caused to the occupier.

If the compensation to be awarded is not agreed between the Governor and the occupier, it may be determined by arbitration.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Bornu Province :

80. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

(a) Is Government aware that in the Northern Secretariat and in the provinces a large number of Administrative Officers are employed on duties which are purely clerical?

(b) If so, will the Government look into that and ameliorate that condition so that Administrative Officers are to administer only?

*Answer—***The Acting Civil Secretary :**

(a) No, Sir. Government is fully aware of the need of relieving Administrative Officers of all routine and other duties which can be performed adequately by persons in the clerical grades. There are, however, certain duties of a sedentary nature which must be performed by Administrative Officers.

(b) Does not arise.

Mallam Hassan Abuja, M.H.R., Elected Member, Niger Province :

89. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

Why is it that the Government does not pay any grant to the rest of the N.A. Departments apart from the Education, Medical, Police and Veterinary?

*Answer—***The Acting Civil Secretary :**

Grants are at present made in respect of N.A. Rural Water Supply staff and in respect of maintenance of roads as well as those items listed in the question. Arrangements have been made for the payment of grants in 1953-54 in respect of the following additional services or activities of N.As.:

- (a) Prisons
- (b) Social Welfare Officers
- (c) Librarians (Qualified)
- (d) Health staff
- (e) Agriculture staff
- (f) Forestry Reserves.

Mallam Hassan Abuja, M.H.R., Elected Member, Niger Province :

92. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

What is the number of infant classes in :

- (i) N.A., and
- (ii) Voluntary Agency Schools in this Region?

*Answer—***The Minister of Social Services :**

- (i) Five.
- (ii) 748.

Alhaji Ali Negedu, Elected Member, Kabba Province :

98. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

How many Northerners were awarded scholarships to study Local Government in the United Kingdom from 1945-51 and how many of them were promoted to Senior Service on their return to Nigeria?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

It is presumed that the question refers only to those Northerners who have been awarded long term scholarships to study Public Administration in the United Kingdom. If so, the answer is four. Of these two are still in the United Kingdom and two have returned. Of those who have returned one is a member of the Senior Service of Government on probation and one is a Senior Native Authority official.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R., Elected Member, Bornu Province :

108. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

In view of the fact that the Northern Region is at present short of matriculated young men why does not the Government consider giving promising young men from the Region more and longer scholarships to enable them to matriculate in the University College, Ibadan or Overseas and then proceed to higher courses of study in all fields?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

The award of a scholarship does not of itself qualify a young man to enter the University College, Ibadan, or Universities Overseas. No qualified Northerner has been refused an award. The difficulties are two-fold :—

- (a) to obtain vacancies in higher educational institutions, and
- (b) to obtain Northern young men fit to fill the vacancies.

Mallam Yakubu Wanka, M.H.R., Elected Member, Bauchi Province :

117. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

(a) Will Government consider providing funds for compensation in respect of slaughtered and diseased animals condemned by the Veterinary and Health authorities?

(b) If not, why not?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

(a) There are three categories of such animals :—

- (i) Diseased animals slaughtered to check the spread of disease.
- (ii) Animals presented for slaughter for human consumption but pronounced unfit because of some condition which may render the meat unwholesome.
- (iii) Animals or parts thereof found to be diseased after slaughter.

In the first case, compensation may be paid under the Diseases of Animals Ordinance, Regulations 1923. The matter has been considered and compensation is paid on animals slaughtered as suspected of disease but which show no demonstrable lesions on post-mortem examination. Those which show lesions of disease are considered a normal trading risk and in the case of Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia, which accounts for the majority of such slaughterings, the carcass is almost always fit for human consumption and is released for sale.

The second and third cases are considered normal trading risk and not the responsibility of Government.

(b) Not applicable.

Mallam Yakubu Wanka, M.H.R., Elected Member, Bauchi Province :

118. To ask the Minister of Social Services :—

Will the Government consider approaching the B.B.W.A. or any other bank with a view to establishing a branch somewhere in Bauchi Province?

Answer—

The Minister of Social Services :

No, Sir. The question of whether a branch should be established in Bauchi Province is a matter for the various Banks which operate in Nigeria to decide for themselves.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. Elected Member, Bornu Province :

127. To ask the Civil Secretary :—

(a) Is it the intention of Government to take over the full control of Gaskiya Corporation?

(b) If so, how soon?

Answer—

The Acting Civil Secretary :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 9th July, 1952

PRAYERS

The House met at 10 a.m. The President took his seat and read prayers.

The Acting Civil Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, in view of the volume of work still remaining for the House to do, I beg to move that all proceedings on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 4 (Sittings of the House).

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

The President :

The purpose of this is, of course, clear to Honourable Members, and that is so that we may manage to finish the work today, and the House will not wish to be tied by the Rule closing at 6 o'clock. If we do not suspend this Standing Order, it means that at 6 o'clock we have to close, whether we have a small amount of work or a large amount of work before us. The question is that Standing Order 4 be suspended in respect of today's proceedings. Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC BILLS

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill entitled the Dogs (Prevention of Rabies) Law, 1952 be read for a first time.

The Minister of Works (The Hon. Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sardaunan Sokoto) :

Sir, I beg to second.

The President :

The question is that a Bill entitled the Dogs (Prevention of Rabies) Law, 1952 be read a first time. Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

Clerk :

A Bill for a law to confer upon Native Authorities appointed under the provision of the Dogs Ordinance additional powers for preventing the spread of Rabies.

The Acting Financial Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper. The Motion reads :

[Acting Financial Secretary]

Be it resolved :

"That an humble address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor requesting him to transmit to the Governor, in accordance with section 33 (5) of the Direct Taxation Ordinance as amended by Ordinance No. 2 of 1948, the following advice upon the proposed amendment varying Part A of the schedule to the Direct Taxation Ordinance 'that the proposal to vary Part A of the schedule to the Direct Taxation Ordinance Chapter 54 which has been laid before this House is acceptable to the House.'"

Mr President, Sir, this Motion deals with the Regional Capitation Shares of General Tax by Native Authorities in the Region. When the shares were originally fixed in 1947 the intention was to fix uniform shares for all Native Authorities but, at the time, that was not possible. At that time some Native Authorities had great difficulty in balancing their budgets owing to, first, Cost of Living Allowance and then the impact of the revised N.A. salaries following on the Harragin award. It was, therefore, necessary at that time to vary the shares from 2s in some Native Authority areas down to 6d. In the five years that have passed since those shares were fixed the prosperity of the Region has very greatly increased. Tax rates in all Native Authority areas have also greatly increased. We are, therefore, now in the position where we can take the first step towards achieving uniformity of the capitation share over the whole Region. The object of this Motion is to achieve the first stage by increasing the two lowest rates, that is 6d and 9d, up to 1s. Now, Mr President, Sir, I would like to say, before Honourable Members of this House who come from the Provinces which are affected rise in a body to assure this House and the Financial Secretary that their Native Administrations cannot possibly afford to pay the increased shares, in the first place these capitation shares form an integral part of the scheme for increased Code Grants which all Native Authorities have not agreed. Could they also remember that while the Native Administrations will pay about £340,000 under the revised rates of capitation shares, they will receive in exchange over £460,000 in grants? In other words, the Native Administration will receive something like £120,000 each year more than they pay to the Region. Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Social Services (The Hon. Aliyu, M.H.R., Makaman Bida) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

Alhaji Shehu Ahmadu, M.H.R. (Sarkin Shanu) :

Mr President, Sir, I am supporting the Motion but I wish to make the following comment. I understand that the price of capitation shares has been carried in the Region in order to give the unwealthy and undeveloped areas opportunity to catch up with the wealthy and developed areas. It was said that, after a period of four years, there would be a revision of the rates at the present increase to make the rates uniform in the country. The period of four years is already overdue and it is just now that the revision is being made. When it is made no one knows the date when it will be made again. Production in the country has enormously increased and the world market has been considered very favourable. It is under these circumstances, Sir, that I suggest that all the areas below and at the 1s rate should be raised to 1s 6d and those at 1s 6d to 2s. This would seem a great jump for some of the areas but it will do them no harm, Sir. It is just a matter of give and take. The Government takes the money in one hand and gives back with

[Motions]

the other. If this is adopted it will only increase our grants. I think this is the right time to raise the rate as I have just suggested because the world market is never sure. Mr President, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

Abba Habib, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I support the Motion. I come from Bama and we are very backward. It is, therefore, the duty of the Government to see that we progress, and that development is made. We have 80,000 unsettled pagans in my Division.

The Legal Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, the Member appears to be under a misapprehension. This motion will not affect the people who already pay 1s.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion, for the fact that the under-developed areas will suffer greatly because the richness of the country varies greatly. It is a good thing to get money somehow but not at the expense of those who are now suffering. The Government should provide something from where they are going to get the money. It is not a good idea to raise this tax from 6d to 9d and from 9d to 1s. The Honourable Member from Kano who spoke on the Motion is only talking of Kano area where the people are very prosperous indeed. I remember during the War when they wanted people to work on the mines the Emir of Kano deliberately refused to provide them on the ground that his people are all farmers. In Bornu the capitation tax is 1s 6d and we can hardly afford it but if the Government can assure us that they are going to reduce the salaries of Expatriate Officers we are willing to pay it and we cannot extract money from our peasants as would be the case indirectly.

The President :

The Honourable Member is rapidly becoming out of order. We are trying to talk about one particular amendment. If the Honourable Member would like to go on with that he can do so.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Thank you, Sir. I oppose the Motion.

Mallam Bello Dandago, M.H.R. (Wakilin Waje) :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Motion. I have one point only. No matter what is the intention of the Motion may we have assurance from the Government that the developed areas will not be made to suffer because others have not developed. Mr President, Sir, with the indulgence of the House, I want to make a correction in the speech of the last speaker. I want to say with all emphasis here that Kano did as any other Province and in some cases more in the Win the War effort. Mr President, Sir, I beg to support the Motion.

Patrick Fom, Esq. :

Mr President, Sir, I have only one word to say. If this House would agree to it why not have Governor and Council instead of the Governor-in-Council. We are now having Ministers in Nigeria as a whole. It is better

to be Governor and Council because it would be of advantage to the Governor to get advice from our present Ministers.

Mallam Sanusi, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion because of the condition which made the Government arrange capitation shares according to the prosperity of the Provinces is still the same because there has been increase of expenditure every year. Though there is increase of taxation and other ways of revenue I wish to remark that the increase of 6d to 1s is not in proportion to that of 9d to 1s. 50 per cent increase is too much. With those remarks I beg to oppose the Motion.

Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I think it will help the Honourable Members in making their decision if the Financial Secretary informs the House which of the areas are now affected.

The President :

If no other Member wishes to address the House I will call on the Financial Secretary to reply.

The Acting Financial Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, to refresh the memories of the Members of the House, the actual areas affected are :—Benue Province, Ilorin Province, Kabba Province, Plateau Province, Niger Province and Zaria Province. Regarding questions raised by Honourable Members, I would like to assure Mr Fom that all Regional Ministers gave this proposal most careful consideration in the Executive Council. I would also like to assure Mallam Bello Dandago, who is not here now, that advanced Native Authorities would not suffer in comparison with poor Native Authorities. Regarding the proposal of Sarkin Shanu while, I quite sympathise with his wish to increase the rates as fast as possible I think it will, perhaps, be a little too hard on poorer Native Authorities. I quite deliberately, in my speech, did not make any definite date for the second revision. As I said before, the general intention and the policy is to increase all rates up to a single flat rate as quickly as possible. We have had the first stage in this Motion. I prefer to leave the actual date for the second revision free at the moment so that we can see how it goes. I can assure the Members from the poorer Native Authorities that when the second revision comes each of their cases will be most carefully considered. I can also assure the Sarkin Shanu that, in spite of this consideration given to poor Native Authorities, the rates will be increased as fast as possible. Mr President, Sir, I beg the House to adopt the Motion standing in my name.

The President :

The question is that the Motion proposed by the Acting Financial Secretary, as set out in the Order Paper of the day, be approved by the House. Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

Mallam Sanusi, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg for a division.

15 supporters stood in support and a division took place. The House voted as follows :—

Ayes	Noes
64	24
Abba Kyari Kura	Abba Habib
Abdulmaliki	Abdu Anace
Abdulkumuni	Abubakar Imam
Abubakar Chiroman Bauchi	Auta Anza Ninzam
Abubakar Madawaki	Alhaji Shehu Buhari
Alhaji Abubakar Dokaji	Dauda Haruna Kwoi
Mr P. S. Achimugu	David Lot
Mr J. M. Y. Agara	Wuam Ganibe
Ahmadu Lamdo Mubi	Hassan Abuja
Ahman Pategi	Jauro Gombe
Alhaji Shehu Ahmadu	A. O. Ladan Baki
Cia Aka	Michael Audu Buba
Benjamin Akiga	Moses Nyam Rwang
Alhaji Ali Ngedu	Pagher Mue
Aliyu Gumel	Muhammadu Sani Maigamo
Aliyu Sokoto	Patrick Davou Fom
Bawa Bulkachuwa	Sambo, Chiroman Hadejia
Bawa Yelwa	Sambo, Sarkin Fada
Bello Dandago	Sanusi Zaria
Bello Malabu	Usman Nadanko
Buba Gombe	Yakubu Wanka
E. G. Gundu	Yahaya Ilorin
Haruna, Sarkin Gobir	T. A. Yogh
Ibrahim Argungu	Yusufu, Galadiman Hadejia
Ibrahim Demsa	
Ibrahim M. Gashash	<i>Abstain</i>
Maikondo Igbon	3
Mr S. O. James	Ibrahim Gumel
Jibir Daura	Isa Kaita
Junaidu Wazirin Sokoto	Muhammadu Kabir
Maje Abdullahi	
Muhammadu Danburam	
Muhammadu Kazaure	
Alhaji Muhammadu Inuwa	
Muhammadu Bashari	
Muhammadu Ganyama	
Muhammadu Munir	
Alhaji Muhammadu Sanusi	
Muhammadu Bashar Daura	
Muhammadu Danni-Illam	
Muhammadu Dedo	
Alhaji Muhammadu Sanda	
Muhammadu Bida	
Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi	
Muhammadu Tureta	
Alhaji Nabegu Kano	
G. E. Ohikere	
Mr Obande	
Sulemanu Isa	
Umara Maiduguri	

[M. Sanusi]

Ayes—continued

Alhaji Usman Gwarzo
Alhaji Usman Liman
Yahaya Casau
Hon. Abubakar T. Balewa
Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu
Hon. Shettima Kashim
M. V. Backhouse
Hon. Ahmadu Sardauna
Hon. Aliyu Makama
Hon. Bello Kano
Hon. Muhammadu Wali
The Financial Secretary
The Legal Secretary
The Civil Secretary

The President :

For the Motion—64. Against the Motion—24. 3 abstained. The "Ayes" have it.

The Acting Financial Secretary :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper as follows :—

"Be it resolved :

That this House do adopt the Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Finance, which has been laid on the Table of the House."

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

The President :

The question is that this House do adopt the Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Finance which has been laid on the Table of the House. Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

Mallam Isa Kaita, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper as follows :—

"Be it resolved :

That the Elected and Special Members of this House do hereby appoint for the period of three years from the 25th of April, 1952 the following members to be members of the Groundnut Representative Committee established under the provisions of section 30 (d) of the Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Ordinance 1949 :—

Haruna, Sarkin Gobir, Kalgo
Adanana, Sarkin Bai of Danbatta
Agyo Kun of Wukari."

M. B. Muhammadu Monir, M.H.R. :

The President :

The question is that the Motion standing in the name of Mallam Isa Kaita as printed on the Order Paper be approved. Those in favour say "Aye", those of the contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

BILLS—SECOND READING**The Acting Civil Secretary :**

Mr President, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill entitled the Native Authority (Definition of Functions) Law, 1952, be read a second time.

In moving this Bill, Sir, it may be necessary to cover again some of the ground that has already been covered in Monday's debate on the Honourable Minister of Works' Motion concerning the Joint Select Committee Report on Local Administration. Nevertheless, I shall endeavour to avoid repetition as much as possible. The Bill is described as a Law to define more precisely the functions of Chiefs and other persons who are appointed to the offices of Native Authorities. That is the first point which I hope Honourable Members will keep in the forefront of their minds. It is the first legal step that has been taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee which were approved by the House after the debate the day before yesterday. Among other things, it gives effect to that part of the recommendations which has already been quoted at least twice in this House during this sitting, and which appears on page 6 of the Report, namely, that by an amendment to the Native Authority Ordinance a statutory definition of the phrase "Chief in Council" should be provided. But the Bill is not only concerned with "Chiefs in Councils". It is concerned with all the different kinds of Native Authorities that we have in the Northern Region. That is the second point which I hope Honourable Members will bear in mind throughout our discussion on this Bill. The Bill is not concerned with "Chiefs in Councils" only, nor with "Chiefs and Councils" only—but with all kinds of Native Authorities. The conditions are not the same throughout the Region and it is for each area to have the kind of Native Authority which fits in best with the customs and traditions of the area. In some parts of the country "Chiefs in Council" are appropriate to local conditions and traditions and in other parts of the country other forms of Native Authority are appropriate. There is no intention whatsoever of changing the traditional organisation. This is an important point and I wish to emphasise it.

Now we turn to the specific clauses of the Bill. Clause 3 states the kind of Native Authorities that there may be. Members will see that there may be "Chiefs in Council", "Chiefs and Council" and so on—it is all set out in clause 3.

Now, if Members will refer to clause 4 of the Bill they will see that this clause refers specifically to "Chief in Council". This clause is based very closely on the Royal Instructions of the Lieutenant-Governor covering his association with the Executive Council. These are published in the Constitutional Instruments. They were published in Nigeria in Public Notice No. 235 of 1951. They provide for consultation between the Lieutenant-Governor and the Executive Council in the formulation of policy and in the exercise of certain powers. They provide that the Lieutenant-Governor shall act in accordance with the advice of the Council. So clause 4 of the Bill similarly provides for consultation between a Chief and his Council when the Native Authority is a "Chief in Council".

Before I go on further with the various sub-clauses of this clause I would like to digress for a moment and say that this part of the Bill follows upon the resolution of the Sultan of Sokoto in February, 1952. This resolution has already been quoted during the present sitting of this House and I do not propose to quote it again. Briefly it recommended that in recognition of the traditional authority of Chiefs in the Northern Region being exercised with the advice and support of their Councils, every Sole Native Authority which then existed should be known and described as a Native Authority in Council. This traditional authority of the Chief has been spoken of at length in the debates which have already taken place in this House. It is a well-known historical fact that before the British occupation that was the state of affairs—that a Chief acted in consultation with his Council but in some of the years following the British occupation, it was a fact that was lost sight of and too much emphasis was placed on the authority of the Chief alone—hence, the appointment of Sole Native Authorities. In recent years, however, the growing burden and complexity of administration has made it more and more essential for Chiefs to seek the advice of their Councils and not to act as Sole Native Authorities.

Now let us return to the Bill itself. In sub-clause (b) of clause 4 it will be seen that a Chief shall act in accordance with the advice of the Council in any matter in which he is obliged by this section to consult his Council but, as will be seen in sub-clause (c) of clause 4, it is provided that there are certain cases in which a "Chief in Council" shall not be obliged so to consult. Those are cases in which the matters which are to be decided are too unimportant, or are too urgent, to admit of the Council being called together. To enlarge upon this clause it is obvious that in a large Native Administration it would not be practicable for a Chief to be always summoning his Council in order to take advice on trivial matters. Furthermore, there may be occasions when an urgent decision is required in an emergency. He may have to make a decision without being able, or having time, to call the Council together, but if he does so sub-clause (b) of this clause provides that he shall, as soon as practicable, communicate to the Council the measures he has taken and the reasons for them.

Sub-clause (e) covers cases in which a "Chief in Council" may act otherwise than in accordance with the Council's advice. He may do this if he considers it expedient to do so in the interests of order and good government in the area over which he holds jurisdiction. Now let us remember that we are talking about only one particular kind of Native Authority at the moment, that is, "Chief in Council". This type of Native Authority is in accordance with the traditional organisation of the Moslem areas. In these areas the Chief is, by custom and tradition and religion, the leader of his people. He is the person who has the ultimate responsibility. He may receive bad advice from his Council or advice which he thinks is bad and he is responsible for order and good government. It is his right, indeed his duty, to disregard the advice of his Councillors if he thinks it is bad. Very similar provisions exist in the Royal Instructions to the Lieutenant-Governor with regard to his relationship with the Executive Council. Members will see from sub-clause (e), sub-clause (f) and sub-clause (g) that there are safeguards if a Chief acts against his Council's advice. Again, remember that we are talking of "Chief in Council"—one kind of Native Authority.

Now, what must the Chief do if he wants to disregard his Council's advice. The Bill says what he must do. He must report the matter to the Resident at the first opportunity and any member of the Council may require

that there be recorded in the minutes of the Council any advice or opinion which he may have given on the question. What must the Resident do when he has received the report from the Chief? Again, that is set out clearly in the Bill. He may either inform the Chief that he does not intend to intervene, in other words, that he agrees with the Chief, or he may call upon the Chief to consult his Council further. If, in that case, the Chief still considers that he is right and his Council is wrong what happens then? The Resident may say that he will not intervene any further or, if he does not do that, he will refer the matter to the Lieutenant-Governor. The Lieutenant-Governor may give such directions as he may deem expedient and the Native Authority will follow the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor who, in coming to his decision, will consult with his Executive Council.

Now, I have tried to explain fully what may happen in certain circumstances. The occasions when they would occur would be very rare, just as the occasions when the Lieutenant-Governor disagrees with his Council are very rare—in fact, so rare are they that they have never occurred.

So much for clause 4. Now let us pass on to the next clause—clause 5. This deals with a different kind of Native Authority. This different kind of Native Authority is appropriate to different areas of the Region. It provides for "Chiefs and Councils". "Chiefs and Councils" are appropriate to certain areas where "Chiefs in Councils" are not appropriate. I think, in the debate on Monday, it appeared that there was some little doubt about "Chief and Council". They exist in this country and they will continue to exist. There is no question of this Bill, or the Government, seeking to change a Native Authority System against the wishes of the people. Where it is appropriate that the Native Authority should be a "Chief and Council" there it will continue to be one. Under this system, as Honourable Members will observe from clause 5, the decision of the Native Authority is the decision of the majority of members of the Council. It might possibly be of help to the House if I read out a list of the existing "Chiefs and Councils".

Adamawa	..	Chief of Shellen and Council
Bauchi	..	Chief and Council of Dass Chief and Council of Dadiya
Benue	..	Chief of Tiv and Council Chief of Abinsi and Council Chief of Katsina Ma and Council
Kabba	..	Chief of Igbirra and Council Chief of Bassa Komo and Council Village Head and Council of Lokoja Town
Niger	..	Chief of Minna and Council Chief and Council of Bosso Chief and Council of Maikonkele Chief and Council of Paiko Chief and Council of Manta Chief and Council of Kuta Chief and Council of Guni Chief and Council of Fuka Chief and Council of Gini Chief and Council of Dan Guni Chief and Council of Galadima Kogo Chief and Council of Alawa Chief and Council of Kushaka

Niger—contd.	Chief and Council of Kurmin Gurmana Chief and Council of Tegna Chief and Council of Kuseriki Chief and Council of Kwongoma Chief and Council of Gumna Chief and Council of Kamuku District Chief and Council of Ungwe District
Plateau	Chief of Birom and Council Chief of Amo and Council Chief of Zinni and Council Chief and Council of Montol

I have tried to explain the Bill to the best of my ability but, before I close, I would like to mention one other matter. It will be recalled that the Joint Select Committee expressed the opinion that not only should the Native Authority Ordinance be amended but that all other Ordinances affecting Native Administration should be carefully examined in detail in order to ensure that they conform to the policy and principles recommended in the Report. Now, this Bill before the House is no more than the first step towards giving legal effect to the recommendations of the Report. The Executive Council of the Region has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Legal Secretary. The duties of this Committee are further to examine the existing Native Authority Ordinance and to consider all other legislation affecting Native Administration and to draw up a list of heads or sub-heads which should be included in future amendments or in a comprehensive Bill to replace existing legislation.

There is one further matter, Sir, I wish to mention and that is, when we come to the Committee Stage of the Bill, I propose to suggest an amendment to clause 5 (a) by the omission of the words "at which he is present".

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.):

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second this Bill.

The President :

The sitting is suspended for 10 minutes.

At 12.10 p.m.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, with the indulgence of the Chair I should like to withdraw a part of my speech where I referred to the Emir of Kano. I was not of the opinion in which the name of the Emir of Kano would be mentioned. I wanted to say—the Kano Native Authority, although the Emir of Kano was Sole Native Authority by then. I now withdraw the whole statement where I referred to Kano, and I wish to apologise to the Members of this side of the House. (Applause).

The President :

The Debate proceeds.

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.):

Mr President, Sir, I beg to second.

The President :

Before the Debate actually opens I would remind Honourable Members that most of the matter of this Bill was very widely discussed earlier in this Session and it is not really necessary to go over a great deal of the ground again. I do appeal to Members to remember that, and also to remember that the discussion must be on principles and not on the details of the Bill. The details of the Bill, of course, will be considered in Committee.

Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu, M.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, this Bill is not a second too soon and with your permission, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Government for giving this vital aspect of Local Government the attention it deserved despite the fact that it has only recently assumed the office. As I told the House before, I had been privileged to serve on the drafting committee of the Native Administration reform, the recommendations of which were fully accepted by the Joint Committees of the different Provincial Councils at that time. The duty assigned to the drafting committee was to study and co-ordinate the various recommendations of the Provincial Conferences on the subject. It was realised that the position of Native Authority Council, as defined in the Statute Book did not conform with the policy of democracy on which that Council was originally built. The suggestions were made for removing the defect in order to bring it in line with the present needs of the people. Some of these suggestions were the total dissolution of the term "Sole Native Authority" and to define the functions of the Council in order to give Councillors a chance to take full part in all debates and discussions. These recommendations though they were fully adopted by the Joint Committee of the Regional Council, the difficulty of setting up the necessary machinery as to how its operation can best become effective was, however felt. The legislation which has just been introduced by the Government, is the only solution. It ties down everybody and avoids any chance of manoeuvring which some hard heads, if not bound by law, would venture to act otherwise. It cannot be over-emphasised that the Native Authority Council is a symbol of the Local Government machinery of the Northern Region and its modifications will no doubt have a resultant effect to all its appertinances. In my humble opinion, Sir, I think this Bill is a bold step forward in the history of our Local Government reform. It is now left to those who are fortunate to serve on this Council to show their integrity and courage in discharging their duties. Here I will sound a note of warning and that is the first and foremost thing that should be implanted in their minds is the welfare of the people whom they represent on these Councils. (Hear-hear). The element of nepotism and selfishness should be discarded from their hearts at the outset. Once again, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government and support the Bill.

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I would like to make my speech in Hausa. As the Members have seen on their tables, I have some amendments to this Bill, so I am now going to reserve much of my comments until we come to the Committee stage, but I will let Members know of this very important matter now. This Bill is concerned with the good administration of our Native Authorities and also the welfare and prosperity of all the people of this Region. So in spite of all the amendments that I will be moving I have to inform the Government Bench that it does not mean that I do not agree with this Bill—I do agree with it but I should like to have some amendments to be made to it whereby the Bill may be the source of complete happiness

and prosperity of all the people in this Region. I am in full agreement with this Bill, and I would like to tell some of us who have the progress of this country at heart that there is progress in this bill. At this juncture I would like to define the sense contained in the word "progress". I will try to do it in one single sentence. Progress means "success in promoting one's ways of life whereby one derives in an easiest way most benefit from everything at any time without transgressing the law". That is what I want to put forward before the Members of this House before I move my amendments in the Committee stage. Mr President, Sir, I beg to support this Bill.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr President, Sir, I rise to support the Bill as it is a bit of what I have asked for. I am very grateful to the Government bench for such a big move because this is one of the drawbacks and difficulties in this part of the country. When I mean country I mean Nigeria as a whole. It seems to me that Government is trying to check up and I would wish the Government to take it up speedily. With the indulgence of the Chair I should like to refer to the speech of His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor—it is on page 2 at the bottom, he said: "In this connection I am sure you will wish to hear something about what has been done to implement the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee on Local Administration. All of you, if you have been participating as much as I had hoped in the affairs of the Provinces which you represent, will be aware of the progress made and the programme in hand in terms of the immediate future. You will also be aware of the difficulties encountered and they are many in the large majority of Provinces, particularly where the social organisation is undeveloped in the modern sense. The intention to press ahead, however, is there, and I must emphasise that there is nobody more determined than myself that progress should be made, whatever the obstacles and, furthermore, wherever I have been in my travels throughout the Region, which have embraced eleven out of the twelve Provinces, and would have embraced the twelve had it not been for indisposition, I have found what I expected to find, universal enthusiasm on the part of Residents, District Officers and Junior Officers for the policy which we are pursuing and a determination to see it through. These impressions of mine, I feel sure, be corroborated by my Ministers, when the time comes for them to address you. It must be realised, however, that our main difficulty is one of personnel. People cannot learn new things without being taught them and it is a complete illusion to imagine that there is a universal demand throughout the Region amongst the mass of the people for that increased participation in affairs which we desire should be afforded to them. The seed, however, has been sown and has already sprouted; the rest will follow." But I would like to ask the Government Bench, if the sprouted seeds have reached a premature stage to be recognised as the proposal referred to by His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor. I have after all, very little to say about the Bill, other than to support it. I shall at the same time reserve some statements when my amendment comes up in Committee. I support the Bill.

The President :

As no other Member wishes to address the House on the principles of the Bill, I call upon the Civil Secretary to reply, if he wishes to do so. The Honourable mover of the Bill does not wish to speak again, so I put the question.

The question is that the Bill be now read a second time. Those in favour say "Aye", those of contrary opinion say "No". The "Ayes" have it.

The Clerk of the House :

A Bill to define more precisely the functions of Chiefs and other persons who are appointed to offices of Native Authorities.

The President :

The Bill stands to a Committee of the whole House. The House will now go into Committee.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3—put and carried.

The Chairman :

Clause 4. I think we had better take this section by section.

(a) and (b)—put and carried. Section (c).

Mallam Bello Dandago, M.H.R. (Wakilin Waje) :

I think, Sir, it would be a help to know the distinction between what is important and what is not.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Mr Chairman, Sir, I move an amendment standing in my name; page 2, clause 4, delete sub-paragraph (c). "(c) (i) in which the matters to be decided are in his judgment too unimportant to require their advice; or (ii) in which the matters to be decided are in his judgment too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act." This would constitute a sort of complicated legal implications in the future. Well, if we leave "Chief in Council" to take his decision it is absolutely his discretion to decide on matters which to him are unimportant. After all, a man's opinion is the opinion of one man only. If it is an advice it must be sought from the Council and if it is the point on which a decision is required, he must seek the consent of his Council; but I am afraid it is not so said. Why is it that the N.A. should not form a quorum. I do not know any other parts of the Province but I know Bornu very well. Before the Council was enlarged most of the Councillors were staying in the township and some of them are spending their time in the Shehu's Palace.

Therefore, this point should be deleted unless the Government is going to give an assurance that they are going to allow a quorum in the Council. Section 2 of this (c) "in which the matters to be decided are in his judgment too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act"; what is this urgent thing that the Emir will decide without the support of his Council—is it a disturbance in the town? All right, if this is the case, I think we have got enough N.A. Police there. But if this clause is deleted it would be better, not only for the Emir himself, but for the people, because before I brought up I had got one thing in mind which I was unable to discuss in the House on the principle of the Bill, because if this clause is retained the Emir will be bolstered up in power that he will be indifferent to public opinion, and for this I beg that the amendment stand.

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, M.H.R. :

Mr Chairman, Sir, as my amendment has been ruled out of order, I beg to withdraw all the amendments, the notices of which I have given, because they are all dependent upon the former one but I am determined to bring the former amendment as a motion at the next meeting of this House. Sir, I beg to withdraw the amendments.

The Chairman :

The Honourable Member is incorrect. The amendment was not ruled out of order. The amendment was not moved ; it is not the business of the Chairman to go round asking Members if they want to make amendments in Committee or in the House.

The Minister of Works (The Hon. Ahmadu, M.H.R., Sardaunan Sokoto) :

Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the last speaker but one ; I do not know what he was talking about—was he talking on matters of policy, or matters only connected with headquarters of a Native Authority ? I made mention of these three points because they were the ones on which he directed his speech. In many of the N.As., particularly the one from which I came, and also the one from which he came, most of the Council members have been allocated departmental responsibilities. Does he mean that if I want to get approval for leave or increment the Emir has to get everybody to the Council ? Does it mean that whenever an Emir is to go out on tour to a distance of fifty to sixty miles he has to go with his Council—well, if he does, now what is going to happen to the headquarters ? What about the members of the Council that are in this House, have they to run back home to attend Council Meetings and come back ? Does it mean that whenever the Emir is going out on tour he has to send for members of his Council who are Members of the House of Representatives in Lagos to come back when the House is sitting ? I just want to quote an example ; if the Emir wants to go on tour, say to Lake Chad, and as soon as he arrives there, perhaps with one of his Councillors, and there was a riot at the time which had to be quelled, would he have to wait until he sends back to headquarters or for people at Kaduna to come and advise him what to do ? That is quite unwise. He is not keeping the good order of his Emirate then. These are just mere examples which I have quoted and I should like to draw the attention of the Members to overlook this ridiculous amendment. (*Applause*).

Hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, O.B.E., M.H.R. :

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Civil Secretary, in introducing the Bill tried to defend this clause, by saying that the Lieutenant-Governor and the Governor have got certain powers which they exclusively exercise, Sir, I have no quarrel with the idea that the Chiefs in the Northern Provinces should have similar powers, but, at the same time, the provision in clause 4, sub-section (c) (i) and (ii) are too elastic. I do not think, that there will come this amendment if the Council will be told, as in the case of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Governor, cases in which they had absolute discretion. If the Committee were told of cases which are unimportant and of cases considered of emergency in which the Chief should have absolute discretion, I have no doubt, Sir, that as the Members of this Committee are men of experience in local administration will no doubt see, that in order to make the chief able to carry out his duties, he should have those powers ; and so, Sir, I think the solution would be to define exactly what are considered unimportant, and emergency things. (*Applause*).

The Chairman :

The House will resume.

The President :

The sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

At 3 p.m.

When the House resumed the Civil Secretary, entering the Chamber from the south end, announced "Mr President, I have here a message from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor".

The President :

The message reads, "As was foreshadowed in my printed address to the House, it is my desire to broaden and strengthen my Executive Council by filling the three vacancies which now exist. Two of these are for Ministers with portfolio. I have given long and careful consideration as to who will be best suited from every point of view to fill these important posts. The factors to be taken into account include ability, experience and integrity of outlook.

There is a further most important aspect. I feel that it is absolutely essential that my Executive Council should be as broadly representative as possible and that, in particular, I should have assistance and advice from areas hitherto unrepresented and where the local culture and way of life differs from the pattern obtaining in the more northerly areas.

The two names that I wish to put before you are those of Mr Peter Achimugu and Mallam Yahaya Ilorin."

That is signed by His Honour's own hand. We will, therefore, according to Standing Order 9 proceed with the election laid down therein. The Clerk will deliver the Ballot Papers to Members and when the Members names are called out will they be good enough to come forward and place them in the Ballot Box.

In accordance with Standing Order 9 I put the question "that the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal of the appointment of Mr Peter Achimugu and Mallam Yahaya Ilorin be approved".

The result of that voting for the appointment of Mr Peter Achimugu was 60 for and 16 against and nine spoiled. I declare the appointment of Mr Peter Achimugu approved by this House.

(Ballot papers distributed for Mallam Yahaya Ilorin.)

The result of that ballot was for the appointment of Mallam Yahaya Ilorin—78 for, 8 against and 5 spoiled. I therefore declare the appointment of Mallam Yahaya Ilorin approved.

I am sure it will be the wish of this House for me to congratulate the two new Ministers on your behalf. We do extend to them our warmest congratulations and our sincerest good wishes for their future. They enter into a period of probably the greatest activity their lives have ever seen and we pray that Almighty God will give them health and strength and wisdom so that their deeds and their advice may be to the benefit of the people of this country. (*Applause*).

The House in Committee.

The Legal Secretary :

Mr Chairman, Sir, the mover of the amendment proposing to omit paragraph (c) based his opposition to the paragraph on the fact that it rested with one man to decide whether a matter was too unimportant or too urgent to make it necessary on the one hand or possible on the other for him to consult with his Council ; and in support of that to some extent the Honourable Mallam Abubakar Tafawa Balewa spoke and he suggested that the proper solution would be to insert a definition of what matters were too unimportant or too urgent for the Council to be consulted. The

Honourable Mallam Abubakar does not sit in this House on the Government Bench but I am sure it is not necessary for me to say that any counsel coming from him deserves and receives the most careful consideration from Government. I have taken advantage of the suspension of the House to give very careful thought to whether I could devise a definition of the matters which were too unimportant or too urgent for the Council to be consulted and I must confess that I have failed. The danger of inserting a definition of this kind is that, if you set out a list of matters which to take one instance, are too unimportant for the Council to be consulted and you omit one matter then you are bound by the list which you have set out and you deprive the Native Authorities concerned of the opportunity of adapting themselves to conditions as they find them in the particular area. I suggest to the House that, just as it is left to the Lieutenant-Governor to decide on what matters he is entitled to act without consulting his Council, so it should be left to a Chief in Council to decide what cases come within the rule. If a Chief is unable to exercise his judgment properly in deciding whether a matter is too unimportant to consult his Council then I suggest he is not a fit person to be a Chief. This House knows the Chiefs whom we have in this Region and I suggest that they are proper persons to be appointed to that position, who are capable of deciding that matter, and on those grounds I ask the House to reject this amendment.

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr Chairman, Sir, although the Civil Secretary has in his lucid and comprehensive introductory speech explained so adequately the functions of Chiefs and other persons who are appointed to the offices of Native Authorities, but still I think there are many members of this Honourable House who are not quite clear about the positions of our Chiefs in this Region. I would like to invite your attention, and that of the Honourable Members, to a fact mentioned in passing by the Acting Civil Secretary, which is a corner-stone of our society. In the Moslem law-books, the Chief or head of the state is acknowledged to be the secular and spiritual leader of his people. In so far as his secular duties are concerned it is incumbent on him to take the advice of the elders in conducting the affairs of state, just as a servant is entrusted with certain property for which he is responsible to his master, so the head of a Moslem state is entrusted by Allah with the care and the welfare of the people under his protection. A Chief is a father to his people and like a good father he does not differentiate between one child and the other. Furthermore, as a religious leader of the state he is responsible for the advancement of the people under him and should carry out his duties in conformity with the Koran, and therefore, it is required that he be respected and obeyed. It would not be in keeping with the teaching of Islam if the role of spiritual leader were to be encroached upon. I welcome with all my heart the progress made by our people in taking an active and intelligent part in the political life of the Region and of Nigeria. At the same time I do not think it amiss to remind the House that a Chief, both Moslem and non-Moslem, can, by virtue of their position, help to conserve all that is best in our society and can advance all that is worthy of acceptance from human society. I would rue the day that the importance of the position occupied by our Chiefs was assailed, or their responsibilities impaired. The Chief has traditionally been the leader of his people to whom they were accustomed to turn for guidance and

spoke this morning, I gathered that they were of the opinion that the formation of a Chief and Council would be more favourable to them even in a Moslem area than a Chief in Council. No one said so publicly, but what I gathered from the speeches made by the people would amount to this. There must be some misunderstanding. I do not know what is the cause of all this fear and suspicion on the part of the Chiefs. The Chiefs are elected by the Councillors and traditional electors, and I am quite sure that the man who is elected must be a man of good common sense and integrity and he must be a peace-loving person. I would like to repeat what I have said about two days ago, that if the Members of the Council are united together themselves, I am quite sure the Chief will agree to take their advice. If the Chief takes an action in an urgent matter at any time I am quite sure he will not act in an unsatisfactory way. My Honourable friend Mallam Abubakar Tafawa Balewa referred to a very important matter, and he suggested that a list should be made of all the reserved powers of a Chief, as in the case of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governors. The Honourable Legal Secretary has informed the House that he failed to do so. I am a Member of the Executive Council and I confess to the House that I do not know what are the reserved powers of the Lieutenant-Governor or Governor and I have never seen a list. If we wish to treat our Chiefs as our Chiefs and also we want the Members of the Council to work in unity, I am quite sure the Chiefs would be given some discretionary powers in matters of urgency. I always hold the view that Chiefs will think of the welfare and prosperity of their country as any other individual member of the House will, and, therefore, I see nothing to fear in this matter and I think the amendment as proposed should be rejected.

Mallam Abba Habib, M.H.R. :

Mr Chairman, Sir, this Bill is very intricate, especially the part referred to by the Honourable Wali. I am supporting the amendment and many of us sitting down here are members of the Native Authority Councils. What is now happening between the Chief in Council and his Councillors from time to time in meetings is that, the Chief, though meant to be Chief in Council, is given the privilege of taking decisions together with his District Officer of what is going to be discussed on before the council members are called to attend. The Chief normally expresses the decision taken in camera with the District Officer or the Resident, and when such decisions are taken the Council members are bound and their rejection of such decisions is futile. This system, coupled with this clause which we want to delete, will empower the Chief to disrespect public opinion and sometimes make him take steps detrimental to the country at the expense of the Councillors. Mr Chairman, Sir, I support the amendment.

Mallam Junaidu (Wazirin Sokoto) :

Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like to support the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources. I am glad he should reject this amendment, because we are not here for secular activities only. "Chief in Council" is the term recognised in our law books—I see no reason why we should depart from our law books—that is what I have got to say.

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, M.H.R. :

Mr Chairman, Sir, while I stand to oppose the amendment, I wish to refer to two statements made by the Honourable the Legal Secretary. If I am not wrong, the Legal Secretary said that if a Chief shall not distinguish between what is important and what is unimportant, he is not fit for his office.

I take it that this statement does not mean that all Chiefs are fit for their offices. (*Hear-hear*). There may be Chiefs who are not fit for their offices for some reason or other—I quite agree. (*Interruption*).

M. V. Backhouse, Esq. :

Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to suggest that Members make an attempt to finish their sentence. Not only does it entail double work on the part of the interpreter, but it is also rather tiresome to the House.

Mallam Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi, M.H.R. :

I thank the last speaker for his suggestion. I quite agree that it will be very difficult if not impossible to make a list of things that are important and or things that are not important. Everything has to be left to the discretion of the Chiefs. They may be wrong, they may be right—to ere is human. On this statement I oppose the amendment.

Moses Nyang Rwang, Esq. :

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have something to say in this connection. What I have got to say on this amendment is that we have got various systems here in the North and I refer to the speech of the Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources where he said that both the tradition and religion have supported the position against the amendment. I beg to differ, because we, in our tradition, have nothing to show that the Chief can exercise this function without having to consult his Council, but though he might have some confidential letter to discuss, I have no objection to his taking the decision, by himself, but if the matter concerns his people I see no reason why he should exercise that function himself, but must consult his Councilors. Well, referring to the speech of the Legal Secretary, that some of our Members have asked for a list of matters which are considered unimportant, well, he has said that he has failed to do that. I would also assure the House that our traditions do not support it.

The Acting Financial Secretary :

Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the Member is now discussing clause 5 and not clause 4.

Moses Nyang Rwang, Esq. :

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am commenting on the points expressed in this House. If my speech is not in order then those points were not in order. My final point.....(*interruption*).

The Chairman :

The Member is slightly confused over this section here. It does not refer to any Chief of the type which is described in the Jos Division. This refers to Chiefs in Council and the Jos Chiefs are Chiefs and Council. The Minister of Natural Resources was in order in referring to the matter in connection with this clause.

Mallam Dauda Haruna Kwoi :

Mr Chairman, Sir, I have something to say on this question of Chief in Council. I am glad to hear that in many Divisions we have Chiefs in Council, while in others we have Chiefs and Council.

The Chairman :

The Honourable Member is out of order. That is not a matter relevant to this clause. If the Member wishes to continue on some other subject which relates to this clause, he is permitted to do so.

Mallam Dauda Haruna Kwoi :

I have nothing to add.

Hon. Yahaya Ilorin, M.H.R. :

Mr Chairman, we have heard sufficient arguments for and against this amendment and I am now moving that the question be put.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Before the question is put I would like to reply to the Legal Secretary, the Sardauna, and the Honourable Wali. The Legal Secretary in his explanation of Chief in Council, said that it is equivalent to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. I know the Lieutenant-Governor has got some powers which he rarely makes use of. (*Interruption*).

The Chairman :

Before the Member goes any further, this clause here does not refer to reserved powers, this clause refers to the discretionary powers in which a Chief is allowed to do certain things in an emergency—that is not reserved powers.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Thank you, Sir, for the correction. The Honourable Wali has referred to the amendment to religious standing. I know very well the Chief in Council exists. It is usually a Moslem state and we are all good Moslems too. I am a very good Moslem and come from a Moslem family. But we need a change and this change is not against our religion but if the Honourable Wali can say that we can recognise our Chiefs as religious leaders ; then we shall have the opportunity of electing only those who are professed in the arts of religion.

The Minister of Natural Resources (The Hon. Muhammad Wali, M.H.R.) :

Mr Chairman, Sir, on a point of order. As far as I know only Muslim people are chosen to be our Chiefs and are appointed to be our leaders because they are Moslems. This is what I know myself.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

I thank you very much for the correction, but in the country under British tutelage the British Government are always pleading for democracy and is their catchword but if the Minister can say that we are going towards a republican government, then we have no objection to that, so that when we have reached the highest stage then we have our President not our constitutional monarch. We all in this House very much respect our Emirs though in their absence and really uphold the tradition and religious standing. Even if we effect such a change we are going to allow them all ceremonial functions and etiquette.

The Chairman :

The Member is on his feet in order to close a debate on a Motion which he proposed. The House would be obliged if he would stick to the Motion he proposed and close the debate.

Mallam Ibrahim Imam, M.H.R. :

Thank you, Sir. I think the Honourable Members will agree with me wholeheartedly that this will have a great reflection on our future because we know very well that our Native Authority Constitution is a great drawback to the progress of this country.