

8<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (1960)



WESTERN NIGERIA

# HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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OFFICIAL REPORT

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Western House of Assembly Debates

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*Western House of Assembly Debates*

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## WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 30TH JUNE, 1960

(The House met at 10.30 a.m.)

Mr Speaker in the Chair

PRAYERS

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Finance Chief (J. A. O. Odebiyi): This is going to be a short sitting of the House and the programme will be as follows:

Tomorrow we will take all the stages of the Forestry Ordinance (Amendment) Bill as well as the First and Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1960-61, for which the debate stands adjourned until 1st July. On Monday we will take all the stages of the 1960-61 Supplementary Appropriation Bill, and then Notice of the Fire Services (Amendment) Bill. On Tuesday we will take all the stages of the

Fire Services (Amendment) Bill and Private Members' Motion. Then adjournment until the 8th of July. The House will be adjourned on the 8th of July. There will be installation of the new Governor in the Chambers when there will be a joint sitting of both Houses.

### PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF BILLS

The following Bills were presented and read the First time, they were ordered to be read a Second time later tomorrow:—

1. 1960-61 Supplementary Appropriation Bill (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).
2. Forestry Ordinance (Amendment) Bill (Alhadji Z. A. Opaleye).

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed—That the House do now adjourn (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).

Adjourned accordingly at 10.40 a.m. until tomorrow Friday, 1st July, 1960, at 9.00 a.m.



## WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 1ST JULY, 1960

*The House met at 9.05 a.m.*

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

### PRAYERS

### PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF BILL

The following Bill was presented and read the First time; it was ordered to be read a Second time later today.

1960-61 Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1960. (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).

### FORESTRY ORDINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

#### Second Reading

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a law further to amend the Forestry Ordinance. The Bill is a non-contentious one being designed to simplify and shorten the existing procedure in the Forestry Ordinance for the constitution of forest reserves on Crown Land. Under the provisions of the Bill it will no longer be necessary for enquiries to be held by a Reserve Settlement Officer before Forest Reserves can be constituted on Crown Land.

I commend this Bill for the unanimous approval of the House. I beg to move.

**The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr G. I. Oviyasu:** This is a non-controversial Bill. We really think it is superfluous for Government to conduct enquiries to find out whether Government owns its own land. That is why we on this side of the House support the amendment. I would like to mention that it will be a waste of time and money to conduct such enquiries. For your information, there is nowhere in the world that you have forest reserved to occupy about 25 per cent of the whole land. In the Western Region, we find that the total land reserved is about 25 per cent, particularly in Benin area. This has led to the problem of shortage of land for farming purposes. As I have

already said, it has led to shortage of farmland and I feel it is high time, Sir, that Government should do something to deserve this land.

**Alhaji Opaleye:** Mr Speaker Sir, in the interest of Benin people in this House and all over the Region, I would like to explain to my hon. Friend that there is an exaggeration in saying that 25 per cent of the land in Benin area is reserved.

**Opposition Benches:** What is the area? He does not know.

**Alhaji Opaleye:** I seek the protection of Mr Speaker, Sir. Before I give him the exact figure, Mr Speaker, I would like him to apply. You must first of all tell me where you got your own figure.

**Opposition Benches:** Sit down. You have nothing to say.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.*

*Bill immediately considered in committee.*

*In the Committee.*

*Clauses 1 to 10 agreed to.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Bill reported from Committee without amendment, read a Third time and passed.*

### 1960-61 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (No. 1) BILL, 1960

#### Second Reading

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to make supplementary provision for the service of the Western Region for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1961, additionally to that made under the 1960-61 Appropriation Law, 1960.

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor in accordance with section 61 of the Constitution, to convey his recommendation for the consideration of this Bill.

This Bill provides for a total additional expenditure of £5,248,344. Of this sum, £2,756,354 is required for recurrent expenditure and the balance of £3,129,761 for capital expenditure. The First and Second Schedules to this Bill provide details of how the total estimated additional expenditure is distributed between Departments and Services of Government.

Let me deal first with details of recurrent expenditure as outlined under the First Schedule to this Bill. In the course of my

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

budget speech—that was in March this year—I mentioned that the Report of the Morgan Commission had been received and accepted by Government in principle. Since then, the details of the resultant increases in the salaries and wages of staff have now been worked out and agreed by Government. The main supplementary provision for which Legislature sanction is now sought is designed to meet liabilities arising from increases in the salaries and wages of staff. Provisions which have been made in this respect are, however, not limited to liabilities in respect of Government employees. Government has also undertaken to provide financial assistance to enable (a) Local Government Councils to meet increases in salaries and wages to their staff and (b) similar adjustments to be made in the pay of Voluntary Agency Teachers. In this latter connection the following items of expenditure appear in the supplementary estimates:—

#### MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Grants in respect of Teachers'	£	
Salaries (Arrears, 1959-60)		305,000
(Additional Cost, 1960-61)		909,000
Ministry to Local Government		
Councils. (Arrears 1959-60)		150,160
(Additional Cost, 1960-61)		327,300
	£	<u>1,691,460</u>

I should now like to turn to details of supplementary provision appearing under the Second Schedule to this Bill. As I mentioned a short while ago, a total additional provision of £2,491,990 is required for capital expenditure during the current financial year. £89,180 of this sum has already been advanced from the Contingencies Fund and a corresponding sum is now required to enable repayment to be made to that Fund. The main supplementary provisions which have been made under the capital estimates are intended to enable work on projects already in hand to continue unimpeded, or in the case of projects which are closely tied up with the forthcoming Independence Celebrations, for construction work to be completed in time for these events.

Under Head 701—Buildings, £16,000 is required for flood-lighting the Regional Stadium. Part of this provision will also be used to provide the Stadium with an emergency electricity supply which could be used in the event of any electricity failure in the ECN supply. As some of the big sporting events which will form part of the Independ-

dence Celebrations will be held in the Stadium, Government is most anxious that work on the Stadium should be completed in time for these events.

Under Head 702—Roads and Bridges—£1,340,000 has been provided to enable work on the remaining trunk B roads to be put in hand more rapidly. A provision of £14,000 has also been made under this Head to enable construction work on the Access Road to the Regional Stadium to be completed.

Under Head 703—Urban Water Supplies—the following provisions merit special mention:—

(i) Ikerre Ekiti Water Supply ...	£	75,000
(ii) Efon Alaiye Water Supply		
improvements ...		7,000

In addition to the provisions which I have mentioned, the following items of expenditure appear in the supplementary estimates:.....

Mr D. C. Osadebay: What of Asaba area?

Chief Odebiyi: If I may say so, rural water supply is under construction there and I think they are still boring the holes.....

Some hon. Members: Boring holes? (Laughter).

Chief Odebiyi: Head 722—Premier's Office—

Sub-head 6—Expenditure in connection with the Royal Visit ...	£	3,000
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Sub-head 7—Purchases of Motor Vehicles for Independence Celebrations ...	£	20,470
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An Opposition back bencher: £20,470?

Chief Odebiyi: Particulars of these items of expenditure are sufficiently expressive and I do not wish to take up the time of the House in trying to explain them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Alhaji Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Debate on this Bill adjourned until Monday, 4th July.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed, that the House do adjourn until Monday (Chief Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.10 a.m. until Monday, 4th July, at 10.00 a.m.



## WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 4TH JULY, 1960

(The House met at 10.15 a.m.)

Mr Speaker in the Chair

### PRAYERS

### PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the Table of the House:—

(i) Annual Report of the Western Region Public Service Commission for the year 1959-60 (*The Minister of Finance*).

(ii) Second Annual Report and Accounts of the Western Nigeria Printing Corporation for the year 1958-59 (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Transport*).

(iii) The School and Institutions (Records) (Amendment) Regulations, 1960, and

(iv) The Government Higher Institutions (Fees) (Amendment) Regulation, 1960 (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education*).

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

##### Mushin-Ikeja Area

166/60. Mr F. O. Okuntola asked the Minister of Trade and Industry how many Co-operative Credit Societies are registered in Mushin-Ikeja South Constituency, and what propaganda is being carried on to encourage co-operative societies in the constituency.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade and Industry (Mr E. O. J. Bamiro): (a) There is only one registered Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society in Mushin-Ikeja South Constituency.

(b) The Senior Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Ikeja Circle, who is based in Ikeja has instructions to engage in active propaganda for this type of Society and is in fact assiduously carrying out this assignment. An Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies and one Co-operative Inspector are engaged on this duty and over the past six months fourteen Thrift and Credit Societies have been organised among the Agege Market Women and twelve salary-earners' Thrift and Savings Societies among teachers employed by various schools in the Constituency. These societies have not yet attained the stage of registration but

it is hoped that after due education of members and their proper understanding of their societies' rules and mode of operation, registration will soon be effected.

### EDUCATION

#### Scholarships

50/60. Mr J. A. Shobola asked the Minister of Education to state (a) the number of post-secondary and Secondary Education Scholarships awarded to each district in Oshun Division since 1953, and (b) the total cost of these awards, and (c) how many of them have completed their courses.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr J. O. Oye): Scholarships are awarded on divisional and not on district council basis.

The number of scholarships awarded to people from Oshun Division from 1953 to the present time and the cost of the awards per year are as follows:

(a) (i)	Post Secondary Scholarship Awards, 1953-59...	47
(ii)	Secondary School Scholarship Awards, 1953-60 (State: 35; Divisional: 61; Backward Area: 18).	114
(b) (i)	Total cost of Post-Secondary Scholarships per year: There are 36 of these students in the United Kingdom.	
		£
	Average cost per year per student ... ..	500
	Average cost per year for 36 students (£500 × 36)	18,000
	1 student at University of Sierra Leone at £265 per year ... ..	265
	7 students at University College, Ibadan at £300 per year... ..	2,100
	3 students at Nigerian College at £240 per year ... ..	720
		<hr/>
		£ 21,085
(ii)	Total cost of Secondary School Scholarships per year at £40 per scholar per year ... ..	4,440
(c) (i)	Number of Post-Secondary Scholars who have completed their courses, 1955-60 ... ..	25



- (ii) Number of Secondary School Scholars who have completed their courses during 1957-60 30

#### ELECTRICITY, WATER SUPPLY

105/60. Mr S. A. Oyaniyun asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state when work on Electrification of Ado-Odo and the bore hole water supply approved last financial year for Ado-Odo will be started.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Transport (Mr J. A. O. Ogunmuyiwa): The electrification of Ado-Odo will be considered in the 1960-65 Development Plan. It is hoped to start the necessary investigation into the Water Supply Scheme for Ado-Odo in the 1960-61 financial year.

#### TOWN PLANNING

88/60. Chief N. B. Lebi asked the Minister of Lands and Labour to say whether he is aware that not a single Town has been approved for Town Planning in Okitipupa Division and what he is doing to rectify the position.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lands and Labour (Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie): In July 1959, Chief the hon. N. B. Lebi approached the Head of the Town Planning Division of my Ministry to see if some planning could be done in the Okitipupa Division. As a result of this, the Principal Town Planning Officer visited Okitipupa on the 28th of August, 1959. He had informal discussion with some of the Chiefs and Councillors who were not aware of the approach made to the Town Planning Division by Chief Lebi. He was informed that Chief Lebi was not in town.

Apart from Chief Lebi's invitation there has not been a single application for planning from any town in the Okitipupa Division.

I can, however, assure the hon. Member that the request of any town in the Okitipupa Division for the appointment of a Planning Authority will be given careful consideration if and when this is received in my Ministry.

#### WATER SUPPLY

106/60. Mr S. A. Oyaniyun asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state the total free grants for capital expenditure for the Waterworks for Oshogbo and Ede.

Mr Ogunmuyiwa: The entire cost of the Oshogbo and Ede Water Supply Schemes was met from a £320,000 free grant from the

Colonial Development and Welfare Funds and a £107,800 grant from the Regional Government. Total grant is £427,800.

*Standing Order 4 (2)—Sittings of the House—suspended during this day's meeting (Chief Odebiyi).*

The Minister of Home Affairs gave notice of Government's intention to present, during this Meeting, a Bill for a Law entitled "The Fire Services (Validation and Amendment) Law, 1960".

#### 1960-61 SUPPLEMENTARY

#### APPROPRIATION (No. 1) BILL

*Adjourned Debate on the Question (1st July)—"That the Bill be now read a Second time".*

*Question again proposed.*

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr D. C. Osadebay): Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that this Bill has got to do mainly with provision for the recent revision of salaries, we will not oppose it. *(Cheers).*

Mr J. O. Fadahunsi: I support the Leader of Opposition in what he has said. The only thing is that concerning this Appropriation Bill, which deals with recurrent and capital expenditure, we feel that this year when Independence Celebrations will take place in less than three months hence, we had hoped that Government would provide something substantial. We read in the Press that Government is just making allowances of £120 per local council and Ibadan £420. This is rather amazing because in the Eastern Region, Port Harcourt alone has been granted £6,000 and it is complaining that £6,000 is too small for Independence Celebrations.

Government Benches: We are not in the East.

Mr Fadahunsi: We just do not know why the Government is so cold about these Independence celebrations. I think sufficient money ought to be granted; at least, to Government itself and local government councils because Independence comes only once in history and never again. I therefore appeal to the Government to be serious about this and co-operate with the Federal Government sufficiently so that we may all be happy together during these celebrations. *(Cheers).*

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): I hope the hon. Gentleman is not suggesting that there should be increase in expenditure?

**Chief Fadahunsi:** Not an increase.

**Chief Odebiyi:** Mr Speaker, Sir, already, money has been provided for the Independence Celebrations. In addition to the provision made by the Federal Government, the Regional Government is spending £190,000 under the Ministry of Works Head of Estimates and the Premier's Office, making a total of £132,407.

**The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola):** I do not want to enter this debate so early but I think we should allay the fears of hon. Members who are in real festive mood for Independence Celebrations. I should disclose at this stage that much more is being done for the independence celebrations than is shown on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I am looking forward to seeing the hon. Fadahunsi dance.....(laughter).....The Minister of Finance has mentioned the financial provision which the Government of the Western Region is making in addition to the provision already made by the Federal Government. The provision we have made so far is far in excess of what the Federal has for us, but that does not show the whole picture. You will remember, there is an Independence Celebrations Committee on which both sides of this honourable House are represented and they are still busy at work. We act in accordance with the recommendations they make.

During the celebrations in Lagos there would be a National Week celebrated there and you are going to have an all-Nigeria exhibition in connection with the Independence Celebrations. We in the Western Region are preparing to put up a show during that week which will match whatever we might have got along that direction. We are preparing a pavillion which will be for the Western Region.....I do not intend to say anything more than this at this stage but I think when you see them you will not regret the performances of the Western Region.

The hon. Member for Ilesha has suggested that we come into co-operation with the Federal Government; nothing is far from that. Nigeria is one and indivisible and we, as an integral part, have been working in co-operation with the Federal Government in connection with Independence Celebrations in the national committee. The Western Region is represented by the hon. the Minister of Home Affairs. The celebrations will be one continuous one. It will start in Lagos about the 1st of October and will take about three days. From that point, the scene will shift to Ibadan. We shall all

celebrate independence in Lagos together and I think the celebrations in Ibadan will be done by us together.

So, this idea of "one Nigeria" is not confined to that side of the House.

**Mr H. O. Ozeke:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I only want to complete my last Budget Speech (Hon. Members: Budget speech?) I told this House that the revision of salaries cannot be a help to the workers of this Region. What the workers of this country want is a bold reconstruction of salaries.....(Government Benches: Speak out!).....If you do not understand English, go back to school!..... It is only those who do not understand the problems of the workers who will come here to make a noise about revision. It is clear that the poor class is merely made to agitate while the upper class sit down and enjoy. There are too many groups, too many gaps and too many scales and the difference is too much—even between the Minister and the Legislator. Too many gaps between the Head of Department and the last man. We must be given equal opportunities and this has already been recommended by some of your well known economists in Nigeria. Let us subtract from certain redundant payments and salaries and bring up the lower group.....

**Chief Odebiyi:** How much is the hon. Member prepared to deduct from his own salary every month?

**Mr Ozeke:** I will tell you, from my own commonsense and from what is workable.....

**Chief Odebiyi:** If the hon. Member is going to deduct by his own commonsense, the workers will not take it!

**Mr Ozeke:** We must lay down in this House, that the salary of the highest paid man should not be more than £1,500 and that of the lowest paid man or labourer should not be less than £15 per month. It is left to the discretion of the Minister.....

**Hon. Members:** What of legislators?

**Mr Ozeke:** Work it out on a proportional basis.

**Chief Odebiyi:** Hon. Members of this House are receiving £850 a year, yet some are being taken to court for non-payment of car advances. What, when the salaries...

**Mr Ozeke:** That is why I suggest there should be some limit. They have lofty aims because they receive high salaries. If this proposal is adopted, the money can be used to provide industries in the rural areas,



[MR OZEKE]

I am not happy with what is happening in Nigeria. The unemployment figure is higher than what is shown in official statistics. I have numberless people unemployed in my Division. Establish industries in these areas so that the people can get employment. It is a general insult to us for our sons to go to Lagos or Ibadan for employment and find it difficult to get even one week's leave to come home. I have realised that there is no definite proposal to change the economic policy of this Region. There has been too much concentration on one part.

We should now agree to reconstruct the salary structure so that the highest man receiver £1,500 and the last man in the street, £15. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

**Mr J. M. Ariworiyai:** Mr Speaker, Sir....

**Government Benches:** Where is your car?

**Mr Ariworiyai:** It is at the U.T.C. I am claiming £50,000 from the U.T.C.

**Mr Speaker:** Will the hon. Member direct his speech to me?

**Mr Ariworiyai:** Mr Speaker, I feel that you should rule out these stubborn things from the other side. It is too much now. It is a rude shock. If the hon. Minister of Finance is interested, when I get the £50,000 I shall share it with him.

**Mr Speaker:** Do not count your chickens before they are hatched.

**Chief Odebiyi:** If the hon. Member can get £50,000 I think he will be generous enough to share it with me and with the workers. We shall be grateful.

**Mr Ariworiyai:** I definitely wish to co-operate with the Leader of the Opposition for not criticising the Bill, but Sir, I have a few remarks to make on it. The first is, how this money that is being put down for the Independence Celebrations will be expended. Will it be confined only to the Regional capital, or will the same money be apportioned among the divisions of the Region so that every Nigerian, male or female, will feel that Nigeria actually has emerged victorious from the struggle for international identity?

**Chief Odebiyi:** Warri has been provided for.

**Mr Ariworiyai:** I am not going to reply the Minister of Finance because he does not know where Warri is, where Burutu is,

where Bomadi is, or where Patani is. He sits down in his ministerial office and will like to speak about all these places he does not know. Has he ever been to Warri or Forcados?

**Chief Odebiyi:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have been to Warri four times. Forcados is under water and I cannot risk my life going there as I am not a good swimmer.

**Mr Ariworiyai:** There is no scientific proof. It was a scientific miscalculation that Forcados has been sinking and is still sinking and yet it has not sunk.

Mr Speaker, if we go into P.W.D. Estimates we come under the item "Workshop repairs".

**Chief Odebiyi:** Point of order. In order to protect the Members of the House and Mr Speaker, it would appear to visitors, if the hon. Member continues to gesticulate the way he does, that we want to engage in fisticuffs in this House. If the hon. Member could speak gently it would be much better.

**Mr Ariworiyai:** Somebody from the other side wanted me to shout and I responded and now you want me to speak quietly.

**Government Benches:** Where is your car?

**Mr Ariworiyai:** I challenge you to go out of this House and repeat something about my car. I told you I have sued U.T.C. for it. Do not just sit down in this House and use the privilege of the House to talk all that rot about my car. *(Laughter from all sides of the House).*

**Chief Odebiyi:** The word "rot" is most unparliamentary; it is not a language which anybody living on land should use.

**Mr Ariworiyai:** He is the Leader of the House and so I withdraw the word.

**Mr Speaker:** The hon. Gentleman has withdrawn. Not only those who live on land, those who live in water also should not use the word.

**Mr Ariworiyai:** Mr Speaker, now I come to Agriculture.

**Government Benches:** Committee stage, committee stage.

**Mr Ariworiyai:** I am qualified to speak at large, you cannot lead me astray. Mr Speaker, it is most bewildering to know that the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources has not even the least interest in Ijaw territory so far as agriculture is concerned and no money is spent on the territory.

**Chief Odebiyi:** What of fishery?

**Mr. Ariworiyai:** There is no fishery there. Tell me where.

**Chief Odebiyi:** People are fishing there. We have both deep sea fishing and shallow water fishing in Ijaw territory.

**Mr. Ariworiyai:** The Minister of Finance is a liar. (*Uproar in the House*).

**Mr. Speaker:** That word is most unparliamentary. I must ask you to withdraw the word "liar".

**Mr. Ariworiyai:** I withdraw the word "liar", but the Minister of Finance and Leader of the House is just busy fabricating purposely. Already he has told us that he had never been to Burutu or to Patani, how then can he tell us that there is fishery all over the territory. Who is the head fisherman?

I am not in any way interested in whatever status our civil servants attain. But there is one thing, there is one mighty technicality. It is the business of any of these Ministers, particularly the Minister of Economic Planning—I am referring now specifically to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Planning, Chief J. E. Otobo. We are all socialists and we know ourselves. There is something left undone and that is, when wages are raised prices of commodities are increased. Am I right or wrong?

**Several Hon. Members:** You are right.

**Mr. Ariworiyai:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that you have not been to the market for some years now.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have been to the market quite often.

**Mr. Ariworiyai:** In the market a cigarette tin of gari that was costing only threepence now costs sixpence, so that the workers do not benefit. One point again, Sir, Ministers who draw £250 a month all go to the same market with these workers. I am on £70 a month, the Minister is on £250 a month and gets at least £80 a month as car basic allowance. I have all these figures with me. You know I was a member of the dissolved Finance Committee and also of the Public Accounts Committee. Mr Speaker, Sir, so there is no need commenting on this at length. Everybody knows that you cannot refute it. However, it is indisputable and incontrovertible that the workers, despite the Morgan and the Mbanefo Reports, are not happy. As for me if you want to reduce my salary from £70 a month to £50 a month I am prepared to take whatever comes my way.

**Chief Odebiyi:** Mr Speaker, Sir, having been treated to very eloquent speeches from our two Members from Ijaw, I do not intend to waste the time of the House. There was a point made by the hon. Mr Ozeke when he said that workers are not fairly paid and he advocated that scales and salaries should be laid down.....

**Mr. Ozeke:** I said there was a lot of discrimination as to the several gaps between the several civil service sections. We have a lot of gaps. Where an officer on £15 a month is performing the duties of an officer on £25 a month because he has not got the educational qualification he will not get that amount.

**Chief Odebiyi:** I would have thought, Sir, that the hon. Member, coming from the fisheries area, knows that there are different scales of fish (I mean they don't have the same size).

In any event, Sir, granted that there are so many scales, it should be appreciated that the Government of this Region would not take any unilateral action particularly in reducing the salaries of people. If that action is to be taken at all the proper forum where that could be done is through the National Council on Establishments and we are hoping, Sir, that the Prime Minister, who is chairman, will soon call a meeting so that the lots of outstanding matters over which there should be unanimity among all the Governments of the Federation will be brought up to be discussed and ironed out. Apart from that, Sir, I think there was no other point made by the hon. Member and I should like the House to consider the Committee Stage of the Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee.*

*In the Committee.*

## FIRST SCHEDULE

### HEAD 322—PREMIER'S OFFICE

*Question that the sum of £16,568 for Head 322—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

### HEAD 323—TREASURY

*Question that the sum of £50,295 for Head 323—Treasury—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

### HEAD 324—MISCELLANEOUS

*Question that the sum of £1,500 for Head 324—Miscellaneous—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*



[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

HEAD 328—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES

Question that the sum of £187,981 for Head 328—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 329—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC  
PLANNING

Question that the sum of £7,104 for Head 329—Ministry of Economic Planning—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 330—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question that the sum of £1,321,728 for Head 330—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 331—MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL WELFARE

Question that the sum of £259,178 for Head 331—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 332—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question that the sum of £39,210 for Head 332—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 333—MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Question that the sum of £11,101 for Head 333—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 334—MINISTRY OF MIDWEST AFFAIRS

Question that the sum of £910 for Head 334—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 335—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND LABOUR

Question that the sum of £18,150 for Head 335—Ministry of Lands and Labour—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 336—MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question that the sum of £507,505 for Head 336—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 337.—MINISTRY OF TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

Question that the sum of £69,080 for Head 337—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 338.—MINISTRY OF WORKS AND  
TRANSPORT

Question that the sum of £213,380 for Head 338—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 339.—AUDIT

Question that the sum of £11,864 for Head 339—Audit—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 340.—ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER'S  
OFFICE

Question that the sum of £850 for Head 340—Electoral Commissioner's Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 341.—JUDICIAL

Question that the sum of £41,950 for Head 341—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 342.—LEGISLATURE

Question that the sum of £3,090 for Head 342—Legislature—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 343.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE  
BOARD

Question that the sum of £1,720 for Head 343—Local Government Service Board—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 344.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Question that the sum of £3,150 for Head 344—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Question that the sum of £2,756,354 for the First Schedule, stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

## SECOND SCHEDULE

HEAD 701.—BUILDINGS

Question proposed that the sum of £303,819 for Head 701—Buildings—stand part of the Bill.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Chairman, Sir, under this Head we have provision in the form of revotes to spend on certain buildings; and move that the provision of £303,819 for Head 701 be increased by £310,701 to £614,520, and that the following new items be inserted in the Supplementary Estimates

4.—TREASURY

Item 2—Civil Service Training School	...	20,000
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5.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Item 5—Junior Staff Quarters and Labour Lines, Fashola	... ..	8,000
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Sub-head	£
7.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:	
Item 1—Government College, Ibadan ...	8,200
Item 5—Technical Institute Ibadan ...	15,470
8.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE:	
Item 2—Regional Stadium, Ibadan ...	118,771
Item 3—Agbor Hospital Improvements ...	20,000
Item 12—New Hospital, Ife	12,000
Item 14—Nurses Hostel, Benin ...	13,000
Item 17—Standard Type Hospital, Asaba ...	30,000
9.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS:	
Item 1—Local Government Police Training College...	50,000
Item 7—Construction of Catering Rest House, Ishan, Afenmai Area ...	5,860
18.—JUDICIAL:	
Item 5—High Court, Warri	9,400

*Question that the sum of £614,520 for Head 701—Buildings—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 702.—ROADS AND BRIDGES

*Question proposed that the sum of £1,385,010 for Head 702—Roads and Bridges—form part of the Schedule.*

**Chief Odebiyi:** Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move an amendment to Head 702 that the provision be increased by £256,931 to £1,641,941 as these are also under consideration for the roads and bridges programme for last year which have not yet been completed.

Sub-head	£
201.—Bituminous Surfacing of Roads: Contract WR/BS/NC/22; Apapa-Ojo: Ode Lefo-Agbowa; Ikorodu-Ajede Agbowa-Itoiki; Itoiki-Ibefun; Ijebu-Igbo-Atan; Ijebu-Ife; Ijebu-Ode-Erunwo-Atan; Imushin-Owu-Ikija ...	151,967
202.—Bituminous Surfacing of Roads: Contract WR/BS/NC/23; Ughelli-Eku; Ughelli-Oleh; Abraka-Kwale; Kwale-Ilu; Obiaruku-Amari ...	104,964

*Question that the amended sum of £1,641,941 stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

## SECOND SCHEDULE

### HEAD 703.—URBAN WATER SUPPLIES

*Question proposed that the sum of £89,750 stand part of the Schedule.*

**Chief Odebiyi:** Mr Chairman, I beg to move an amendment that the provision be increased by £70,139 to £159,889, as follows:

Sub-head	£
2.—Oyo Water Supply ...	45,416
4.—Owo Water Supply ...	14,642
5.—Ado-Ekiti Water Supply ...	10,081

*Question that the sum of £159,889 for Head 703—Urban Water Supplies—form part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

### HEAD 704.—RURAL WATER SUPPLIES

*Question that the sum of £1,250 for Head 704—Rural Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

### HEAD 705.—LOANS

*Question that the sum of £136,461 for Head 705—Loans—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

### HEAD 707.—SPECIAL MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT

*Question that the sum of £311,359 for Head 707—Special Medical Development—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

### OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

#### HEAD 720.—THE GOVERNOR

*Question that the sum of £3 for Head 720—the Governor—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 721.—GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

*Question that the sum of £8—Governor's Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 722.—PREMIER'S OFFICE

*Question that the sum of £29,346—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 723.—TREASURY

*Question that the sum of £8,500—Treasury—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 724.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

*Question that the sum of £23,108—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

#### HEAD 725.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING

*Question that the sum of £962—Ministry of Economic Planning—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*



## HEAD 726.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question that the sum of £3,000—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 727.—MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL WELFARE

Question that the sum of £19,520—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

## HEAD 728.—MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question that the sum of £158,450—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

## HEAD 729.—MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Question that the sum of £500—Ministry of Justice—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 730.—MINISTRY OF MIDWEST  
AFFAIRS

Question that the sum of £140—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 731.—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND  
LABOUR

Question—that the sum of £1,000—Ministry of Lands and Labour—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 732.—MINISTRY OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

Question—that the sum of £3,583—Ministry of Local Government—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 733.—MINISTRY OF TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

Question—that the sum of £7,290—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 734.—MINISTRY OF WORKS  
AND TRANSPORT

Question—that the sum of £5,000—Ministry of Works and Transport—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

## HEAD 735.—AUDIT

Question—that the sum of £240—Audit—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 736.—ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER'S  
OFFICE

Question—that the sum of £16—Electoral Commissioner's Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

## HEAD 737.—JUDICIAL

Question—that the sum of £3,500—Judicial—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

## HEAD 738.—LEGISLATURE

Question—that the sum of £66—Legislature—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 739.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
SERVICE BOARD

Question—that the sum of £40—Local Government Service Board—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 740.—PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

Question—that the sum of £70—Public Service Commission—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Question—that the amended sum of three million, one hundred and twenty-nine thousand, seven hundred and sixty-one pounds (£3,129,761)—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Question proposed that the sum of £3,129,761 stand part of the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

## CLAUSES

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:

**Chief Odebiyi:** Mr Chairman I beg to amend clause 3 as a result of the amendments in the First Schedule. The sum of £2,491,990 should be amended to £3,129,761.

Question—that the sum of £3,129,761 be substituted in place of £2,491,990, put and agreed to.

Question—that clause 3 as amended stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported with amendments, read the Third time and passed.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed: That the House do now adjourn (Chief Odebiyi).

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.30 a.m. until tomorrow, Tuesday 5th July, 1960, at 10.00 a.m.

## WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 5TH JULY, 1960

*The House met at 1.25 a.m.*

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PRAYERS

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### BRIDGES (IJEBU WEST)

94/60. Mr S. Onasanya asked the Minister of Works and Transport if he is aware of the present dangerous conditions of the bridges construction over Uren and Imawo Rivers in the Ijebu Western District Council Area and what he is doing about them.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works and Transport (Mr J. A. O. Ogunmuyiwa): I assume the bridges the hon. Member is asking about are on the Odogbolu-Aiyepe Road. If this is so, I wish to say that they are entirely the responsibility of the Ijebu Western District Council.

#### ROAD CULVERTS (IJEBU-ODE-EJINRIN)

136/60. Mr J. A. Odutuga asked the Minister of Works and Transport when the widening and replacement of culverts on Ijebu-Ode-Ejinrin Road will take place.

Mr Ogunmuyiwa: It is hoped to start on this work during the dry season.

#### WATER SUPPLY (EPE)

135/60. Mr J. A. Odutuga asked the Minister of Works and Transport how many wells have so far been sunk in Epe Division; and if he will state what proposals he has in hand for supply of wells to Rural Areas of the Division.

Mr Ogunmuyiwa: Ten wells have so far been sunk in Epe Division. Thirty-nine Rural Water Supplies are proposed for Epe Division in the 1960-65 Programme. The nature of these supplies will depend on the results of field investigation.

Chief P. A. Afolabi: I would like to ask the Minister also that it is not only in Epe Division that the wells are not sufficient. There are many other places.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman ask his supplementary question?

Chief Afolabi: Why is it that only Epe Division is to be supplied with wells?

The Minister of Works and Transport (Mr S. O. Sogbein): Last time when the scheme was announced all Members were asked to submit names of towns that want water. It is not true to say that there are no wells in Oyo.....(interruptions...) if there are not sufficient wells in Oyo, will the hon. Member report to me in my office so that I can look into his case.

### BUSINESS MOTIONS

*Standing Order 4 (2)—sittings of the House—suspended during this day's meeting—(Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi).*

*Motion made and question proposed—That the House shall adjourn until 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 8th July, 1960. (Chief Odebiyi).*

*Question put and agreed to.*

### PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING OF PUBLIC BILL

The following Bill was presented and read the First time; it was ordered to be read a Second time now.—“Fire Services (Validation and Amendment) Law, 1960”.

#### FIRE SERVICES (VALIDATION AND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960

##### Second Reading

*Order for Second Reading read.*

The Minister of Home Affairs (Mr J. E. Babatola): Mr Speaker, Sir.....

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr D. C. Osadebay): Point of Order, Sir..... on Tuesdays Private Members' business takes precedence over Government business. If the House intends that Government business shall precede that of private Members, the Leader of the House should move a Motion asking the House to suspend the Standing Order.

The Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 18 (b) be suspended this day to allow Government business to take precedence over private Members' business.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhadji D. S. Adegbenro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

#### FIRE SERVICES BILL

##### Second Reading

Mr Babatola: Mr Speaker, Sir, in the objects and reasons we read the circumstances leading to the amendments in the Fire Services Law, 1959. The object of the Bill is to rectify a mistake which occurred in the Legislative proceedings during the passing



[MR BABATOLA]

through the House of the Fire Services Law, 1959, and at the same time to remove all doubt as to the effect of that Law. The Bill seeks to validate the Law as published in the Gazette and then to delete the amendments introduced by error into the text. I beg to move.

**Mr E. O. Idowu:** I beg to second.

*Question proposed.*

**Mr V. I. Amadasu:** Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill may not warrant criticism from Members of the Opposition but when you read critically you will see that Members of the Opposition are correct in condemning this Action Group Party of the Western Region for their inefficiency. Mr Speaker, Sir, you will remember that amendments were rejected in the Western House and unfortunately they were sent to the House of Chiefs and were incorporated in the House of Chiefs. From there the Bill was taken to the Governor in Council and from there to the Gazette. Nobody detected the error. That is why we say the Action Group party is inefficient. What I am saying is that the Action Group Party is wasting the money of the Western Region. It is shameful because either the staff is responsible or some of you.

**Chief Odebiyi:** Have you finished?

**Mr Amadasun:** I have not finished.

**Mr Speaker:** Order, Order! Do you refer to the Action Group Government or to the Action Group Party?

**Mr Amadasun:** Either the Party or the Government—both mean the same thing to me.

**Mr Speaker:** I am afraid the Party is not recognised in this House.

**Mr Amadasun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I want the source of the error to be explained and satisfactorily too. Everything that is good is always started in the Yoruba section of the Western Region. Fire Brigade—do you mean to tell me that houses are not being burned down at Benin or in the Midwest? Are Houses not being burned down in Benin? How many Fire Brigades are in the Region; how many are established in the Yoruba Section, and how many in the Midwest Area? How many Local Government Councils have Fire Authorities? For instance, Mr Speaker, I remember some years ago, many houses in Benin were burned down. (*Interruptions*). Now, we all anticipate independence. We are going to

celebrate our independence on 1st October. I mean, the Midwesterners must enjoy themselves on that very day and nobody knows how many houses will be burned down.....(*laughter*). You have started one at Ibadan, the people have been trained in Lagos. I read about it. They were like Armies in your "*Western News*". You have not thought it wise to start one in the Midwest Area. So that, Mr Speaker, Sir, before I end my comments, the source of the error should be lucidly explained by the Minister who is going to reply and then such blamable Bills should not be sent to this House any more.

**Chief Odebiyi:** Mr Speaker, Sir, quite frankly, I think one of the few Members of the House who always like to hear their voices is our hon. Friend, the Opposition Chief Whip. For a few days since we have been having a meeting of this House, we have had a very peaceful time (*laughter*). What really happened about the present Bill which is being debated was that after the thing had been passed in the House of Assembly it then went to the House of Chiefs. It was passed there.

Unfortunately when the Bill was being sent to the Governor for assent, it included amendments not passed in the House of Assembly. I am not explaining, Sir, that the blame does not lie squarely with the officials of the House of Assembly but if it is remembered that they have all given us loyal service since the inception of the present House of Assembly, I hope, Sir, that it should be understood that whatever has been done by way of mistake is a mistake of the pen and not that of the heart. I understand that the officer concerned is an assistant to the Clerk of the House and he is still being taught how to carry out the duties of the House. Therefore, Sir, I apologise on their behalf and promise that since this is the first occasion that such a thing has happened, I think you will accept our apologies. (*Hear! Hear!*).

**Mr Babatola:** I would like to make one other observation in regard to the accusation of the hon. Member for Benin Central that amenities are actually concentrated and more or less sort of given to the Yoruba West alone and not extended to the Midwest. This is not so. What we have done in this case is to give you a law—an enabling law which all other Councils in the Region have got—and what we have done in this case was not that this Government has given Fire Services to Ibadan as such but we have given fire services in order to protect Government property in the capital.

**Mr Osadebay:** No Government property in Benin? (*Laughter*).

**Mr Babatola:** Oh! Well, of course, you cannot compare Government property elsewhere in this Region with what you have here. There is no partiality for the Yoruba West. (*Some hon. Members: Thank you, sit down*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time and Committed to a Committee of the whole House.*

*Bill immediately considered in Committee. In the Committee.*

*Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.*

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

*Bill reported without amendment, read a Third time and passed.*

## PRODUCE INSPECTION BOARD

### New Member

**The Minister of Trade and Industry (Chief A. O. Adeyi):** I beg to move—

“That in accordance with section 5 of the Produce Inspection Ordinance, No. 24 of 1950, Mr I. O. Ajanaku be appointed as the Western Region Representative on the Produce Inspection Board.”

The Produce Inspection Ordinance, No. 24 of 1950 establishing the Produce Inspection Board makes regulations regarding the grading and inspection of Produce Boards. The Western Region representative on that Board was Mr Moyo Aboderin who resigned his appointment recently. As Members are aware, legislation regarding produce inspection and grading was then revised throughout the Federation of Nigeria to comply with the present Constitutional arrangements. A new Federal Produce Ordinance, 1959 has been enacted and corresponding legislation establishing Regional Produce Inspection Boards will be introduced shortly. The new Federal legislation to which I have referred provides for Advisory Produce Inspection Boards to advise the Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry on produce matters. Pending the introduction of regional legislation the former Produce Inspection Board appointed under the previous legislation, still temporary, has certain duties to perform. Therefore, it is necessary to make an appointment to this Board to fill the vacancy of Mr Aboderin. Section 5 of the 1950 Ordinance provides

that such an appointment shall be made by elected Members of the Western House of Assembly. I am therefore proposing that for the remaining months the Region shall be represented on the Produce Inspection Board by Mr I. O. Ajanaku who, as I said earlier, has already been appointed to the Board established under the new Legislation. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

*Question proposed.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

The following Motions lapsed:—

“That this honourable House pray the Regional Government to consider the advisability of providing a bridge over Ore River on Erin-Mokoloki Road”. (*Mr J.A. Shobola*).

“That this honourable House pray the Regional Government to consider the tarring of Iwo-Awo-Ede Road, a distance of nineteen miles which is the shortest road linking Oshun Division with Ibadan.” (*Chief S. I. Ogunwale*).

“That this honourable House express its thanks to the Regional Government for establishing the cement industry at Ewekorø, Egba Division in Abeokuta Province. (*Mr F. A. Oyalowo*)”.

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and question proposed that the House do now adjourn until Friday the 8th of July, 1960. (Chief Odebiyi).*

### Out-going Governor

**Mr Osadebay:** Mr Speaker, Sir, although I have no notice of it, we have heard on the radio that His Excellency the out-going Governor will visit this House today and will inspect a Guard of Honour. I do not know who knows about it, I do not know about it other than what I have heard on the radio. Whom is he coming to visit. Is it this empty House or does it include ourselves?

**Chief Odebiyi:** Mr Speaker, Sir, His Excellency is not going to visit Members of the House. He is to perform his last official function. He will inspect a Guard of Honour here.

**Opposition Benches:** Are Members not invited?

**Government Benches:** The Leader of the Opposition may be there. He will accompany the Premier. (*Laughter*).



### Drainage (Benin City)

**Mr V. I. Amadasu:** Mr Speaker Sir, with your permission, I want to raise this matter which has brought a lot of sorrow to the homes of many people in Benin City. I am sorry that the Speaker has not made an official tour to that ancient city of Benin or to Asaba. If he had, he would understand what I am talking about.

**Chief Odebiyi:** May I find out, Mr Speaker, if the hon. Member has given notice. I think, Sir, that it is by special leave that the hon. Member can raise such matters which are not of urgent importance. What the hon. Member is speaking about is not of urgent importance. So, if he makes a statement, there will be nobody to reply.

**Mr Amadasu:** Mr Speaker Sir, I have sent a copy to yourself and to the Minister of Works and Transport. I am not a new man here. Mr Speaker, am I in order?

**Mr Speaker:** The Minister of Works and Transport is prepared to answer.

**Mr Amadasu:** As I said before, Mr Speaker Sir, this matter is very urgent and it has brought a lot of sorrow to many families in Benin City. Mr Speaker Sir, if you have the opportunity to come to Benin City, you will agree with all I am going to say on the geography of that place. Benin is so blessed by God that the entire land is very level so that if you are riding a car or a bicycle in Benin, you will enjoy life. The seat of the Action Group ought to be in Benin City, so that you could enjoy life more abundant.

**Chief Odebiyi:** Thank you. You know that life more abundant is not confined to this part of the Region alone.

**Mr Amadasu:** Now, Mr Speaker, during the rains, the Benin roads are all flooded. The land is not as undulating as the one in the capital city of the Western Region or as in Ikire (*Laughter from both sides of the House*), so that naturally, those areas of the Region have been drained by God, but Benin City—I don't know the reason why God has not drained it. Mr Speaker Sir, through you, I am asking and seeking the advisability of the Western Regional Government draining that ancient city so that during the rains, too, we may be as happy as our brothers in other parts of the Western Region.

Now Mr Speaker Sir, I know the question of drainage is the responsibility of the council, but the financial resources of the Benin City Council are so limited that that council cannot undertake this gigantic

scheme. It will cost many thousands of pounds to drain Benin City. Mr Speaker Sir, the disadvantage of this flooding does not affect the traffic alone although many motor-cars, lorries are held up when the streets are flooded. There is another thing that worries the entire people of Benin City in connection with this flood. Because of many stagnant pools, thousands of mosquitoes are in Benin today which we have never experienced before. And then, the mosquito is the symbol of the Action Group. Whether they brought the mosquitoes, I don't know. But fortunately, only members of the Action Group are bitten by the mosquitoes.

**Chief Odebiyi:** If that is so, Mr Speaker, we are better qualified to speak on behalf of those people.

**Mr Amadasu:** From the point of morality, Mr Speaker Sir, unfortunately the Action Group in Benin are not given the opportunity to be here and from Christ's teachings, I must sympathise with them. Thousands of mosquitoes are there, Mr Speaker, so that even at times the mosquitoes worry the NCNCers. In addition to that, especially in streets like Yekomosa, Apapava, and Uwa, more than 75 per cent of the houses there have been destroyed because they were built with mud. If the Action Group Government is sympathetic, then you will have to do something so that this annual recurrence of war with mosquitoes may not occur again and if you do this, the Action Group may be fortunate to take only about 5 per cent of the votes during the forthcoming West Regional elections in Benin. If it is not done, they will still vote the NCNC into power. Mr Speaker Sir, that is all I have to say.

**The Minister of Works and Transport (Mr S. O. Sogbein):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very much surprised that the hon. Member should take the liberty of this House to bring to the floor of this House what is properly the function of the Benin City Council. The drainage of the roads is the function of the Benin City Council of which the hon. Member is a staunch member and the hon. Mr Oviasu is the Chairman. I think it is not my function to make drains. The second thing is that the Minister of Lands and Labour is here. If they apply for a Town Planning Authority, I think they will be given and their town may be properly planned and such a thing as he has mentioned will not occur again. On the other hand, if they don't want rains, they can apply to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, in his Forestry Division,

[MR SOGBEIN]

so that you can get all.....(*Mr Amadasun: Why not drainage?*). If those three things are done as he has said, they will be to his credit. Mr Speaker, Sir, drainage is the proper function of the Benin City Council.

**The Minister of Lands and Labour (Chief J. O. Osuntokun):** The speech of the hon. Member from Benin is rather unfortunate in the sense that he has given a very clear indication to the Minister of Local Government that the Benin City Council is most inefficient. (*Government Back Benchers: Dissolve it!*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Members on the other side are as progressive as they want us to believe, they are advised to go back home and advise the Benin City Council to apply for a Town Planning Authority. Once that is established, I am sure, most of these headaches would be solved, although unfortunately the Member from Benin will always see red in everything.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Adjourned accordingly at 11.05 a.m. until Friday, 8th July, 1960, at 10.00 a.m.*



(i)

**WRITTEN ANSWERS  
CIVIL SERVANTS  
(Disturbance Allowance)**

159/60. **Chief A. Adekeye** asked the Minister of Finance to state how much was spent out of the total amount voted under the various Ministries for Disturbance Allowance in the 1959-60 Estimates.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance:** The following are details, by departments, of voted provision and actual expenditure in respect of Disturbance Allowance for the financial year 1959-60:—

<i>Ministries/Departments</i>	<i>Provision Expenditure to nearest</i>	
	£	£
Governor's Office ...	—	—
Premier's Office ...	150	645
Treasury ...	400	312
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources	1,130	1,193
Ministry of Economic Planning ...	10	—
Ministry of Education ...	1,800	526
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare ...	2,610	1,055
Ministry of Home Affairs	200	121
Ministry of Midwest Affairs ...	50	15
Ministry of Justice ...	100	28
Ministry of Lands and Labour ...	350	165
Ministry of Local Government ...	2,000	480
Ministry of Trade and Industry ...	960	1,122
Ministry of Works and Transport ...	900	630
Audit ...	100	88
Electoral Commissioner's Office ...	10	—
Judicial ...	840	316
Legislature ...	—	—
Local Government Ser- vice Board ...	50	2
Public Service Commis- sion ...	100	—
	<hr/> £ 11,760	<hr/> 6,698

**EDUCATION  
(Ibarapa Area)**

73/60. **Mr O. A. Adedeji** asked the Minister of Education if he will be prepared to make one of the three Secondary Schools in Ibarapa a Commercial Secondary Modern School.

(ii)

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Mr J. O. Oye):** The whole question of introducing commercial subjects into secondary modern schools is at present under consideration by the Regional Advisory Board of Education. Until I receive their advice, it would not be possible to know the schools which will become commercial secondary modern schools.

**Teacher-Training Colleges**

2/60. **Mr A. B. Bello** asked the Minister of Education why the Oyo Divisional Teacher Training College has not been converted into a Grade II Teacher Training College in accordance with the request of Oyo Local Education Authority.

**Mr J. O. Oye:** At present the Ondo and Oyo Provinces are served by a joint Provincial Grade II Teacher Training College at Ife. It is proposed that this College will eventually cater for teachers from the Oyo, Ode and Ilesha Divisions and that another College will provide for the needs of Ondo Province. The Oyo Divisional Teacher Training College does not have a Graduate Principal, which is one of the essential conditions that must be fulfilled before any upgrading can be considered.

**FORESTRY  
(Ora Area)**

141/60. **Chief E. A. Ogedengbe** asked the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to state when Iuleha-Ora-Ozalla Forest Reserve will be handed over to Ivbiosakon District Council.

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhadi Z. A. Opaleye):** We do not propose to convert the Iuleha-Ora-Ozalla Government Forest Reserve into a Local Government Council Forest Reserve. The Reserve is being worked according to a programme of management which entails a restriction on the licensee's annual felling area and the carrying out of intensive and costly regeneration operations. These operations will considerably enrich the forest and be of great future benefit to the Ivbiosakon District. The conversion of the Reserve to a Local Government Council Reserve would place a financial burden on the Ivbiosakon District Council which the Council may not be able to meet unless management plan is abandoned.

(iii)

[ALHADJI OPALEYE]

In the three years since the management plan came into effect the Western Region Government has spent a total of £17,208 on the Reserve, out of which £8,540 was directly incurred on regeneration operations. The revenue to Government during this period totalled £6,262, making a net deficit of £10,946. The Ibibiosakon District Council on the other hand has profited from royalties on trees felled amounting to £1,252.

### FORESTRY FEES

142/60. Chief J. A. Ogedengbe asked the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources to state the total fees collected from Iuleha-Ora-Ozalla Forest Reserve since Messrs J. Asaboro and Company started Timber operation therein.

No.	Factory	Sole Ownership or Partnership	Location
1.	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources Workshop (Moor Plantation).	Sole Ownership	Ibadan
2.	Government Press	Sole Ownership	Ibadan
3.	Ministry of Works and Transport	Sole Ownership	Warri
4.	Ministry of Works and Transport Mechanical Workshops.	Sole Ownership	Ibadan
5.	Ministry of Works and Transport (Wood-works).	Sole Ownership	Ibadan
6.	Ministry of Works and Transport (Wood-works).	Sole Ownership	Benin-City
7.	Ministry of Works and Transport (Wood-works).	Sole Ownership	Ijebu-Ode
8.	Ministry of Works and Transport (Wood-works).	Sole Ownership	Abeokuta
9.	Ministry of Works and Transport (Transport Motor Vehicles Repairs).	Sole Ownership	Abeokuta
10.	Western Nigeria Information Services (Workshops).	Sole Ownership	Ibadan
11.	Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Workshops).	Sole Ownership	Akure

In addition Government owns the following oil mills which are being operated by Co-operative Societies:—

No.	Oil Mill	Sole Ownership or Partnership	Location
1.	Warri Zone	Sole Ownership	Asagba
2.	Agbarho	Sole Ownership	Agbarho
3.	Amukpe	Sole Ownership	Amukpe
4.	Ibusa	Sole Ownership	Ibusa
5.	Aradagan	Sole Ownership	Aradagan

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Alhadji Z. A. Opaleye: The answer is contained in the reply to the previous question:

Total Fees—£6,262

Total Royalties—£1,252

These figures are up to 31st March, 1960.

### INDUSTRY (FACTORIES)

16/60. Mr V. I. Amadasun asked the Minister of Trade and Industry to state how many of the 232 factory units in the Western Region are owned solely or in partnership by the Government of the Western Region and their names and locations.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Chief A. O. Adeyi): The Government of the Western Region owns the following factory units, defined as industrial units employing more than ten persons:—



(v)

### LAND REGISTRATION

165/60. **Chief A. Adekeye.**—To ask the Minister of Lands and Labour what efforts are being made to speed up registration of plans and conveyances in the Registration Branch of his Ministry.

**The Minister of Lands and Labour (Chief J. O. Osuntokun):** Steps have been taken to speed up the registration of deeds by providing (a) more staff to cope with the continued increase in the work of the Land Registry and (b) a "photostat" copying machine to reduce the man-power employed in the making of certified copies of deeds required by the Government and the public under the provisions of the Land Registration Ordinance.

Enquiries which have been conducted to find out precisely the cause of the delay in the registration of deeds have revealed that the Registry has not been adequately staffed to match the steady rise in the number of deeds delivered for registration and other demands on the Registry (such as, applications for certified copies, investigation of titles to land

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for the purpose of mortgages under the Government Staff Housing Scheme, etc.).

The following statistics clearly illustrate the growth of work in respect of registration of deeds and the supply of certified copies during the last nine years:—

Year	Deeds delivered for registration	Certified copies supplied	Revenue collected		
			£	s	d
1951-52	482	12	505	0	0
1952-53	708	28	687	0	0
1953-54	933	34	1,087	0	0
1954-55	1,107	65	1,248	0	0
1955-56	2,182	71	2,549	0	0
1956-57	2,730	96	3,829	0	0
1957-58	3,542	147	6,413	0	0
1958-59	3,520	195	6,847	1	0
1959-60	4,242	142	7,681	14	0

As a further step towards accelerating the registration of deeds, it is being proposed to establish a District Registry at Ikeja, where all deeds relating to land in the Colony Province will be registered and filed, and certified copies thereof supplied.

## BRIDGES

### Ibarapa

74/60. **Mr F. A. Oyalowo** asked the Minister of Works and Transport if he is aware of the dangerous condition of Offiki River Bridge (100 feet long) and what the intention of his Ministry is as regards giving financial assistance to the Ibarapa District Council to convert it into a concrete bridge.

**The Minister of Works and Transport (Mr S. O. Sogbein):** The Government is aware of this project and will give it full consideration when compiling the details of the 1960-65 Development Plan.

### Owo Division

66/60. **Mr L. Olu. Ibukun** asked the Minister of Works and Transport the effort the Regional Government is making to help the people of Owo Division in building the Ipesi-Ikiran-Ile bridge.

**Mr Sogbein:** Six bridges have been built or are being built at different points on the River Osse. They are located as follows:

- Main Trunk A road Benin-Akure
- Ifon-Sabongidda road
- Idogun-Okpe road
- Ishua-Ibillo road
- Aduge-Northern Boundary
- Idogun-Imeri road.

Government cannot now afford to build any more bridges on the River Osse and it is hoped that when the Idogun-Imeri Bridge is completed, the people of Ikiran-Ile will build a road to connect them to Imeri.

## CHIEFTAINCY

### Appointment of Onilua of Ilua

123/60. **Mr S. Olopoenia** asked the Minister of Local Government to state the cause of the delay in approving the appointment of Mr Adetokun of Iko Ruling House as the Onilua of Ilua being the only candidate unanimously appointed and recommended by the family of Iko Ruling House and the kingmakers of Ilua.

**The Minister of Local Government (Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro):** On the assumption that the chieftaincy to which the hon. Member refers is that of the Bale of Ilua, the delay in approving the appointment of a candidate to succeed to the title is due to the fact that the king-makers in respect of this title were not unanimous in their choice as the questioner supposes and doubts arose as to whether Mr Adebokun Alao was the only

person nominated by the ruling house whose turn it is to present candidates to succeed to this chieftaincy.

In the circumstances it was necessary to hold an enquiry into this matter under the provisions of the Chiefs' Law, 1957, bearing in mind that in accordance with the approved declaration of custom in respect of this the consent of the Alafin of Oyo is required to any appointment made by the kingmakers. This enquiry was conducted by the Assistant Local Government Adviser, Oyo, whose report is now under consideration by the Governor in Council.

## ROADS

### (Auchi Area)

130/60. **Chief J. A. Ogedengbe** asked the Minister of Works and Transport the total mileage of roads tarred from Auchi to Igarra and Auchi to Agenebode.

**Mr Sogbein:** The total mileage of roads bituminously surfaced from Auchi to Igarra is 22½ miles and from Auchi to Agenebode 9 miles.

110/60. **Chief J. A. Ogedengbe** asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state when the Western Region Government will take over Ifon-Sabongidda-Afuje-Auchi Road and Sabongidda-Uhomora-Ekpoma road.

**Mr Sogbein:** A Committee will shortly be set up to consider the classification of all roads in the Western Region with a view to revising the Government Provincial Road Grants which are now considered to be out of date. The Sabongidda-Afuje-Auchi road and the Sabongidda-Uhomora-Ekpoma road will be considered by this Committee in due course.

### Ikare-Omuo

67/60. **Mr Olu Ibukun** asked the Minister of Works and Transport when the tarring of Ikare-Omuo road will be started.

**Mr Sogbein:** The Ikare-Arigidi road has already been bituminous surfaced. The Arigidi-Omuo section is included in a contract recently awarded.

### Ifon-Sabongidda

134/60. **Chief J. A. Ogedengbe** asked the Minister of Works and Transport how soon Ifon-Sabongidda Road will be tarred.

**Mr Sogbein:** A contract for the tarring of this road is being negotiated at the present time and it is hoped that the work will be completed in about twelve months from now.



**Iseyin-Okeho-Iganna**

129/60. **Mr S. Olopoenia** asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state categorically the time when the tarring of Iseyin-Okeho-Iganna Road will commence.

**Mr Sogbein:** Contract for the tarring of Iseyin-Okeho-Iganna up to Otu and Okaka has been let to a firm of contractors and it is hoped that work will start as soon as possible.

**Sabongidda-Auchi**

133/60. **Chief J. A. Ogedengbe** asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state how soon Sabongidda-Afuje-Auchi Road will be taken as Trunk "B" road and if provision has been made in the current year's Estimates.

**Mr Sogbein:** A Committee is being set up to consider reclassification of roads. The Sabongidda-Afuje road will no doubt be considered when the Committee sits. However, it might interest the hon. Member to know that Government has approved the tarring of Ifon-Sabongidda road. It is intended that the Sabongidda-Auchi road which passes through Afuje and a continuation of Ifon-Sabongidda road will be considered during this Five-year Development Programme.

**Road Accidents**

3/60. **Mr A. B. Bello** asked the Minister of Works and Transport whether he is aware that the death of nine persons in a lorry accident that occurred in August 1959 on a temporarily diverted bridge at mile 11 on Oyo-Iseyin Road was due to the fault of his Ministry for not making the bridge solid enough and what compensation Government intends to make to the relatives of the victims.

**Mr Sogbein:** The hon. Member would appear to be mistaken in his question. There was no accident on the Oyo-Iseyin Road at mile 11 in August 1959. There was however a motor accident on 5th April 1959 in which nine persons were killed. The Coroner's verdict was "Death due to negligent driving". In the circumstances my Ministry cannot accept any blame for the mishap, and neither can the Government pay any compensation.

**WATER SUPPLY  
Afuje Area**

131/60. **Chief J. A. Ogedengbe** asked the Minister of Works and Transport to state how soon he will provide bore hole water pipes for Afuje, Otwa, Uzebba and Sebe.

**Mr Sogbein:** Afuje, Otwa and Uzebba have been included in the 1960-65 Rural Water Supply Programme. Sebe is still under consideration.

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(to Omnibus Issue No. 20)

## ABBREVIATIONS:

1R, 2R, 3R = read First, Second or Third time.

Am = Amendment

M = Motion

Q = Question

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