

9TH SESSION (1960)



NONCLERK

WESTERN NIGERIA

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

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Western House of Assembly Debates

MEMBERS—contd.

17. Adeyi, Chief A. O.	Oyo South-East
18. Adibi, Mr N. A.	...	...	...	Ogbomosho North-East
19. Adigun, Hon. J. O.	...	...	...	Ogbomosho North-West
20. Adisa, Mr A.	...	...	...	Ibadan South-East Rural
21. Aghahowa, Mr W.	...	...	...	Benin South-East
22. Agbaza, Mr J. U. E.	...	...	...	Urhobo East II
23. Aina, Mr E.	...	...	...	Egba South II
24. Ajibola, Mr A.	...	...	...	Ibadan North-West Rural
25. Ajimobi, Mr L. A.	...	...	...	Ibadan South Central
26. Ajuwon, Mr J. A.	...	...	...	Ibadan East Rural I
27. Akere, Hon. C. I.	...	...	...	Ishan North-West
28. Akerele, Mr S. A.	...	...	...	Ekiti North-East
29. Akerele, Mr S. O.	...	...	...	Ife-Ila North
30. Akingboye, Mr A. O.	...	...	...	Okitipupa South-West
31. Akintola, Chief S. L.	...	...	...	Ogbomosho South-East
32. Akinyemi, Mr R. E.	...	...	...	Ikeja South
33. Akran, Oba C. D.	...	...	...	Badagry West
34. Amadasun, Mr V. I.	...	...	...	Benin West I
35. Aniyi, Mr I. O.	...	...	...	Iwo West I
36. Anuku, Hon. E.	...	...	...	Asaba North-West
37. Areola, Mr R. O.	...	...	...	Ekiti South-East I
38. Arowojolu, Mr E. B.	...	...	...	Okitipupa South-East
39. Aruwajoye, Mr S. B.	...	...	...	Owo South II
40. Ashiru, Mr B.	...	...	...	Egbado South-West
41. Atie, Mr A.	...	...	...	Western Ijaw I
42. Atoghegbe, Mr A.	...	...	...	Benin North-East
43. Atolagbe, Mr D.	...	...	...	Ekiti North-West I
44. Awopeju, Mr J. O.	...	...	...	Ijebu-Remo North
45. Babatola, Hon. J. E.	...	...	...	Ekiti North-East II
46. Babayemi, Mr A. A.	...	...	...	Egba North-West
47. Bello, Mr A. B.	...	...	...	Oyo Central II
48. Deko, Chief G. A.	...	...	...	Ondo North-East II
49. Ebubedike, Mr F.	...	...	...	Badagry East
50. Edeki, Mr I.	...	...	...	Afenmai North-West II
51. Ekwejunor-Etchie, Chief G. E.	...	...	...	Warri West
52. Elusade, Mr T. E.	...	...	...	Ife Town South
53. Ewah, Mr B. G.	...	...	...	Ishan North-East
54. Fadahunsi, Mr J. O.	...	...	...	Ilesha Rural South
55. Fadayiro, Chief E. A. A.	...	...	...	Egbado North-West
56. Fajimi, Mr S. L. A.	...	...	...	Ibadan South-East Suburban
57. Fani-Kayode, Mr R. A.	...	...	...	Ife-Ila South
58. Fashola, Mr O.	...	...	...	Ibadan South-West Suburban
59. Fawehinmi, Alhadiji B. U.	Ondo West I
60. Fetuga, Mr M. A.	Ijebu Central-East
61. Gbolahan, Mr. O. O.	Oyo North-West II
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63. Igugu, Mr T. E.	Central Urhobo East
64. Ijie, Mr M. O.	Ishan West Central
65. Imafidon, Mr E. O.	Benin Central East
66. John, Mr C. O.	...	...	...	Oyo East I
67. Kehinde, Mr J. O.	...	...	...	Ede Ejigbo North
68. Kotoye, Mr N. A. B.	...	...	...	Egba East II
69. Lana, Mr R. A.	...	...	...	Oshun North-East II
70. Lawal, Mr J. L.	...	...	...	Oshogbo South-West Urban
71. Layonu, Mr S. A.	...	...	...	Ede-Ejigbo South
72. Momoh, Hon. K. S. Y.	...	...	...	Afenmai North-East
73. Obadara, Mr A. O.	...	...	...	Ibadan North-West Suburban
74. Obisesan, Mr B. O.	...	...	...	Ibadan North-East I
75. Odebiyi, Chief J. A. O.	...	...	...	Egbado North-East

MEMBERS—contd.

76. Odigie, Mr J. O....	Ishan South-East
77. Odotuga, Mr J. A.	Epe North
78. Ogundiran, Hon. D.	Ibadan East Rural II
79. Ogunmuyiwa, Mr J. A.	Oshun South-East II
80. Ogunyele, Mr Y.	Oshun South-East I
81. Ojeniran, Mr B.	Oshogbo North II
82. Oke, Mr E. O.	Ogbomosho South-West
83. Okeya, Mr S. A....	Ekiti South-East II
84. Okumagba, Mr D. E. T.	Warri East
85. Okusaga, Mr A.	Ijebu South-West
86. Okweša, Mr P. V.	Aboh East
87. Olaitan, Mr O.	Ilesha Urban East
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95. Omokowajo, Mr J. O.	Okitipupa North-West
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97. Onasanya, Mr S.	Ijebu Central West
98. Opaleye, Mr Z. A.	Egbado South-East
99. Popoola, Mr D. A.	Oyo South-West
100. Oputa-Otutu, Chief F.	Aboh West
101. Orowole, Mr D. O.	Iwo West II
102. Osadebay, Mr D. C.	Asaba North-East
103. Osagie, Mr B. E. O.	Benin West II
104. Ositelu, Mr I. A.	Ikeja North
105. Osuhor, Mr F.	Asaba South-West
106. Osuntokun, Chief J. O.	Ekiti North-West II
107. Otobo, Hon. J. E.	Urhobo East I
108. Otubanjo, Mr S. A.	Ijebu South-East
109. Oviasu, Mr G. I.	Benin Central West
110. Owonikoko, Mr K. O.	Oyo Central I
111. Oye, Hon. J. O.	Afenmai North-West I
112. Oyewole, Mr S. A.	Ibadan Central West
113. Rerri, Mr A. T.	Urhobo West I
114. Riemu, Mr J. A....	Urhobo West II
115. Sanni, Mr S. A.	Ibadan North-East II
116. Sobañde, Mr O.	Egba East I
117. Sogbein, Hon. S. O.	Egba North-East
118. Somotan, Mr A. S.	Ibadan South-West Central
119. Tabiowo, Mr P. K.	Central Urhobo West
120. Tifase, Mr J. L.	Ondo North-East I
121. Tinubu, Hon. S. A.	Oshun North-East I
122. U omi, Mr F. H.	Asaba South-East
123. Williams, Mr C. A.	Epe South
124. Zuokumor, Mr A. A.	Western Ijaw II

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The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House	Member
The Minister of Health and Social Welfare	Member
The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Member
The Minister of Lands and Housing	Member
Chief Adedapo Adekeye	Member
Mr S. T. Adelekan	Member
Chief J. O. Fadahunsi	

Western House of Assembly Debates

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker	...	Chairman
The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House	...	Member
Mr J. O. Awopeju	...	Member
Mr S. T. Adelegan	...	Member
Mr G. I. Oviasu	...	Member

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Mr J. A. Odutuga	...	Member
Mr A. Adelodun	...	Member
Mr M. O. Ijie	...	Member
Mr I. A. Olukoju	...	Member
Mr B. I. G. Ewah	...	Member
Mr A. B. Bello	...	Member
Mr S. O. Akerele	...	Member

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The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House	...	Member
Mr N. A. B. Kotoye	...	Member
Mr S. A. Akerele	...	Member
Mr F. H. Utomi	...	Member
Mr O. Olaitan	...	Member

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Chief Adedapo Adekeye	...	Chairman
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Mr J. U. E. Agbaza	...	Member
Mr A. Ajibola	...	Member
Mr D. A. Popoola	...	Member
Mr S. Sobande	...	Member
Mr Y. Adekunle	...	Member
Mr V. I. Amadasun	...	Member
Mr P. K. Tabiowo	...	Member
Mr R. A. Akinyemi	...	Member
Chief J. O. Fadahunsi	...	Member

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

A. Adedoyin, Esq.

DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

S. T. Adelegan, Esq.

OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE

Mr J. M. Akinola	...	First Clerk to the Regional Legislature
Mr E. Akin-Williams	...	Second Clerk to the Regional Legislature
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Mr R. S. A. Akinriamide	...	Second Serjeant-at-Arms

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1960

(The House met at 10.15 a.m.)

The Clerk in the Chair

PRAYERS

OATH

The following new Members took and subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance:—

1. Prince Adeleke Adedoyin	...	...	Ijebu-Remo South
2. Chief S. L. Akintola	...	...	Ogbomosho South-East
3. Chief S. O. Ighodaro	...	...	Benin (Special Member)
4. Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi	...	...	Egbado North-East
5. Oba C. D. Akran	...	...	Badagry West
6. Chief G. Akin Deko	...	...	Ondo North-East II
7. Chief J. O. Osuntokun	...	...	Ekiti North-West II
8. Alhaji D. S. Adegbenro	...	...	Egba South I
9. Chief A. O. Adeyi	...	...	Oyo South-East
10. Mr J. O. Adigun	...	...	Ogbomosho North-West
11. Chief S. O. Sogbein	...	...	Egba North-East
12. Chief E. A. A. Fadayiro	...	...	Egbado North-West
13. Mr J. E. Babatola	...	...	Ekiti North-East II
14. Mr J. E. Otobo	...	...	Urhobo East I
15. Mr K. Momoh	...	...	Afenmai North-East
16. Mr Duro Ogundiran	...	...	Ibadan East Rural II
17. Dr J. O. Omitowoju	...	...	Ife Town North
18. Dr S. D. Onabamiro	...	...	Ijebu North II
19. Mr C. I. Akere	...	...	Ishan North-West
20. Mr E. Anuku	...	...	Asaba North-West
21. Chief G. E. Ekwejunor-Etchie	...	...	Warri West
22. Mr J. O. Oye	...	...	Afenami North-West I
23. Chief S. A. Tinubu	...	...	Oshun North-East I
24. Mr D. C. Osadebay	...	...	Asaba North-East
25. Chief J. O. Fadahunsi	...	...	Ilesha Rural South
26. Mr B. Olowofoyeku	...	...	Ilesha West Urban
27. Mr G. I. Oviasu	...	...	Benin Central West
28. Chief F. Oputa Otutu	...	...	Aboh West
29. Mr Adeoye Adisa	...	...	Ibadan South-East Rural
30. Mr R. A. Akinyemi	...	...	Ikeja South
31. Chief J. L. Tifase	...	...	Ondo North-East I
32. Mr S. A. Otubanjo	...	...	Ijebu South-East
33. Mr S. Onasanya	...	...	Ijebu Central West
34. Mr B. O. Obisesan	...	...	Ibadan North-East I
35. Chief A. Adekeye	...	...	Ondo West II
36. Alhaji Z. A. Opaley	...	...	Egbado South-East
37. Mr Y. Adekunle	...	...	Ogbomosho South-East Urban
38. Mr P. Ojeniran	...	...	Oshogbo North II
39. Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa	...	...	Oshun South-East II
40. Mr S. A. Okoya	...	...	Ekiti South-East II
41. Mr B. E. O. Osagie	...	...	Benin West II
42. Mr J. O. Odigie	...	...	Ishan South-East
43. Mr J. G. Adeniran	...	...	Ibarapa West
44. Mr A. O. Akingboye	...	...	Okitipupa South-West
45. Mr R. A. Olusa	...	...	Owo North I
46. Mr C. A. Williams	...	...	Epe South
47. Mr V. I. Amadasun	...	...	Benin West I
48. Mr P. V. Okwesa	...	...	Aboh East
49. Mr F. H. Utomi	...	...	Asaba South-East
50. Mr S. T. Adelegan	...	...	Ijesha Rural North

51. Mr I. A. Adedodun	...	...	...	Oyo North-West II
52. Mr D. K. Oluofin	...	...	...	Owo North II
53. Mr A. Okusaga	...	...	...	Ijebu South-West
54. Mr J. A. Odutuga	...	...	...	Epe North
55. Mr S. B. Aruwajoye	...	...	...	Owo South II
56. Mr S. A. Adeniya	...	...	...	Oyo East II
57. Mr A. Atolagbe	...	...	...	Ekiti North-West I
58. Mr A. Atie	...	...	...	Western Ijaw I
59. Mr A. L. Adenekan	...	...	...	Egba Central II
60. Mr A. A. Adesanya	...	...	...	Ijebu North I
61. Mr J. O. Adeyemo	...	...	...	Oshogbo North I
62. Mr N. A. Adibi	...	...	...	Ogbomosho North-East
63. Mr J. U. E. Agbaza	...	...	...	Urhobo East II
64. Mr V. A. Aina	...	...	...	Egba South II
65. Mr A. Ajibola	...	...	...	Ibadan North-West Rural
66. Mr L. A. Ajimobi	...	...	...	Ibadan South Central
67. Mr S. A. Akerele	...	...	...	Ekiti North-East
68. Mr I. O. Aniyi	...	...	...	Iwo West I
69. Mr R. O. Areola	...	...	...	Ekiti South-East I
70. Mr B. Ashiru	...	...	...	Egbado South-West
71. Mr J. O. Awopeju	...	...	...	Ijebu Remo North
72. Mr A. A. Babayemi	...	...	...	Egba North-West
73. Mr I. Edeki	...	...	...	Afenmai North-West II
74. Mr B. G. Ewah	...	...	...	Ishan North-East
75. Mr B. O. Fawehinmi	...	...	...	Ondo West I
76. Mr A. A. Fetuga	...	...	...	Ijebu Central East
77. Mr O. O. Gbolahan	...	...	...	Oyo North-West II
78. Mr M. A. Ibedo	...	...	...	Afenmai South-East
79. Mr M. O. Ijie	...	...	...	Ishan West Central
80. Mr J. O. Kehinde	...	...	...	Ede Ejigbo North
81. Mr R. A. Lana	...	...	...	Oshun North-East II
82. Mr Y. Ogunleye	...	...	...	Oshun South-East I
83. Mr E. O. Oke	...	...	...	Ogbomosho South-West
84. Mr B. Claniyan	...	...	...	Ibarapa West
85. Mr I. A. Olukoju	...	...	...	Owo South I
86. Mr D. O. Orowole	...	...	...	Iwo West II
87. Mr D. A. Popoola	...	...	...	Oyo South-West
88. Mr S. A. Sanni	...	...	...	Ibadan North-East II
89. Mr O. Sobande	...	...	...	Egba East I
90. Mr A. A. Zuokumor	...	...	...	Western Ijaw II
91. Mr J. O. Abiosun	...	...	...	Iwo South Suburban
92. Mr O. Adebayo	...	...	...	Ibadan South Suburban
93. Mr K. S. Adebesin	...	...	...	Egba Central I
94. Mr M. A. Adewunmi	...	...	...	Ibadan Central East
95. Mr W. Aghahowa	...	...	...	Benin South-East
96. Mr J. A. Ajuwon	...	...	...	Ibadan East Rural I
97. Mr S. O. Akerele	...	...	...	Ife-Ila North
98. Mr E. B. Arowojolu	...	...	...	Okitipupa South-East
99. Mr A. Atoghegbe	...	...	...	Benin North-East
100. Mr A. B. Bello	...	...	...	Oyo Central II
101. Mr F. Ebubedike	...	...	...	Badagry East
102. Mr T. E. Elusade	...	...	...	Ife Town South
103. Mr S. L. A. Fajimi	...	...	...	Ibadan South-East Suburban
104. Mr O. Fashola	...	...	...	Ibadan South-West Suburban
105. Mr T. E. Igugu	...	...	...	Central Urhobo East
106. Mr E. O. Imafidon	...	...	...	Benin Central East
107. Mr C. O. John	...	...	...	Oyo East I
108. Mr N. A. B. Kotoye	...	...	...	Egba East II
109. Mr J. L. Lawal	...	...	...	Oshogbo South-West Urban
110. Mr S. A. Layonu	...	...	...	Ede Ejigbo South
111. Mr A. O. Obadara	...	...	...	Ibadan North-West Suburban
112. Mr D. E. Okumagba	...	...	...	Warri East

113. Mr O. Olaitan	Ilesha Urban East
114. Mr C. O. Olamigoke	Okitipupa North-East
115. Mr J. O. Omokowajo	Okitipupa North-West
116. Mr B. E. O. Osagie	Benin West II
117. Mr I. A. Ositelu	Ikeja North
118. Mr F. Osuhor	Asaba South-West
119. Mr K. O. Owonikoko	Oyo Central I
120. Mr S. A. Oyewole	Ibadan Central West
121. Mr A. T. Rerri	Urhobo West I
122. Mr J. A. Riemu... ..	Urhobo West II
123. Mr A. S. Somotan	Ibadan South-West Central
124. Mr P. K. Tabiowo	Central Urhobo West

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: I beg to move that the hon. Member Prince Adeleke Adedoyin should take the chair of this House as Speaker. Hon. Members are quite aware that barely three years ago the Hon. Member for Remo South was elected in this House unanimously as the Speaker. I would not like to repeat all that was said on that occasion, but I will like to say that the hon. Member has had a distinguished career as a civil servant, a lawyer, an economist, a politician and a judicial officer. *(Cheers)*.

I think I am right in saying that it is as a politician, and "prince-charming" that he has commended himself to the admiration of Members of this House, and that all of you who were Members of the old House and those of us who have had occasion to watch the proceedings of the old House from the gallery will testify to that fact. This House would not have made a better choice of the Speaker of the present enlarged House. I am quite sure you will all testify to the fact that on all occasions on which it has been necessary for him to exercise his judgment he has always exercised it admirably and judiciously. I am quite sure that Members of the whole House will testify to it that on one occasion in the history of the Legislature when the ruling of the Speaker had to be challenged the eventual decision was that the Speaker was right.....
(Opposition Members: Too early; that is too early).

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Chairman, Sir, I rise to second the Motion ably moved *(Cheers)*. I am doing so not because the hon. Member is a very good politician, but because in the old House the standard of his impartiality in the Legislature was second to none in the Federation of Nigeria. *(Cheers)*. Because of that Mr Chairman, I think that the Opposition is of the opinion that Prince the honourable Adeleke Adedoyin is a very proper person to be the Speaker of this enlarged House of the Assembly. *(Cheers)*.

Mr Chairman, Sir, on the eve of Nigeria becoming independent, I think I have to reserve all that I have to say. *(Laughter)*.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

(Hon. Adeleke Adedoyin accordingly elected. Speaker of the House) (Cheers).

Mr Speaker: Chairman, I beg to express my grateful thanks not only to the proposer of my name and the seconder, but also to the whole House. I will only say that I am fully aware of the honour, the dignity, the authority and the impartiality of the high office, and I shall endeavour at all times to uphold the traditions of this high office of Speaker. I have nothing more to add to what I said at the time I was first elected Speaker except to say that it has fallen to my fortune once more to create another record of being the first Speaker in the whole of the Federation against whom a vote of no confidence has been moved and not only was it defeated, but that, instead, a vote of implicit confidence has been moved in this same House and passed on me. *(Opposition Members: By us) (Laughter)*. Yes, by the whole House altogether. Apart from that, this vote of confidence has gone beyond this honourable House—it went right into my constituency and I have been re-elected. Not only that, all Members of this honourable House have confidence in me by electing me as Speaker of this House. I am grateful indeed and thank you ever so much.

(Mr Speaker and Members of the House then moved out of the Chamber to attend to the other House and on returning.....).

Mr Speaker: I have to report that your choice of me as the Speaker of this honourable House has received the approbation of His Excellency and I, on the other hand, hereby acknowledge your choice of me and I promise to carry on the duty of Speaker faithfully and without partiality.

ELECTION OF A DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr D. K. Olumofin: Mr Speaker, I rise to move that the hon. Mr. S. T. Adelegan, Member for Ijesha Rural North be elected Deputy Speaker of this House.

I wish to begin by saying that to know the hon. Mr Adelegan is to know honesty, industry, sincerity, impartiality, and broadness of outlook. Mr Adelegan is a teacher by profession and so belongs to that category of workers that shapes and moulds the characters of the future generation. He is only thirty-seven years old and has taught in many schools including Saint Luke's Collège, Ibadan and now he is Principal of the Ipetu-Jesha Secondary Grammar School. He was educated at Saint Andrew's College, Oyo, he also attended the University College, Ibadan, where he graduated B.A. He has been a teacher all his life and with his many years of experience and trust we think he will be able to perform useful service when the occasion arises for Mr Speaker to say to him, "Take the Chair on my behalf".

Mr J. O. Awopeju: Mr Speaker, I beg to second the Motion so grandly moved by the hon. Member for Owo North II. In supporting the Motion, I should like to add that this is an honour done not only to the hon. Member for Ilesha Rural North but also to the teaching profession. I might as well say that today is a teachers' day. A teacher moved the election of a Deputy Speaker and it is being seconded by a teacher. This House takes the lead in giving honour to whom honour is due: honour was done to the institution of chieftaincy by the election of a chief as the Governor of the Region, and today, honour is done to the teaching profession by the election of a teacher as the Deputy Speaker and even the Premier himself is a reflection of this honour to the teacher. So I begin to fear that if things go on at this rate, we may not get people in that profession but, however, it is for the good of this Region.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

(Mr Adelegan accordingly elected Deputy Speaker).

Mr S. T. Adelegan: Mr Speaker and hon. Members of this House, I rise to give you my thanks for my election as Deputy Speaker of this honourable House. My thanks are particularly due to the Mover and the Seconder of this Motion. This is my first occasion of making a speech in this House and.....*(loud interruptions from Opposition Members).*

The Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): As a rule, when new Members of

the House make a speech, you should be indulgent enough to listen.

Mr Adelegan:As I was saying, I give my grateful thanks to this House for electing me Deputy Speaker at its first sitting. This is a post which I understand is most honourable. I have given my thanks to the House because of the value it attaches to the teaching profession. On behalf of all teachers in this Region I return my thanks and when the occasion arises for me to perform my duty I shall do it to the best of my ability.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Midwest Areas

The Premier (Chief S.L. Akintola):

Hon. Members will recall that agitation for the creation of a Midwest State started soon after the establishment of the Western Region as a political unit within the Federation of Nigeria. My Colleagues in the Regional Government were sympathetic towards this aspiration of the people in establishing a Midwest area. A resolution was moved by the hon. Chief M. S. Sowol; Action Group Member in the Western House of Assembly and was warmly supported by the Government, that this House pray Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to make necessary constitutional arrangements to give effect to the creation of a separate state for Benin and Delta Provinces. But constitution making however, is not the duty of the Regional Government alone and this matter of the Midwest State has lingered through the years 1953 to 1960.

It necessarily became involved in the crucial problems of Regional self-Government, treatment of minorities and allaying their fears and of the granting of Independence to the Federation itself.

The Government; however, never lost sight of the question of satisfying the aspirations of the people of the Midwest areas. While the creation of a Midwest State was on the Constitutional balance my colleagues in the old Government under the able leadership of Chief Awolowo studied the problems closely, sympathetically and were fortunate in having among them Chief the hon. Anthony Enahoro who devoted much of his energies and talent to achieving a satisfactory solution. He visited the United Kingdom and studied the solution of the same kind of problem in Wales. The result was that the Government created a Ministry of Midwest Affairs with Chief Enahoro as the Minister and also announced the establishment of a Midwest Advisory Council with the following Terms of Reference:—

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

(i) "To meet from time to time for the interchange of views and information on development in the social, economic and cultural fields in Benin and Delta Provinces; and

(ii) to ensure that the Government is adequately informed of the needs of the area and of the impact of Government's policies and activities in the general life of the people of Benin and Delta Provinces."

3. Before the Midwest Advisory Council could actually start its work, agitation for the creation of more states in the country became clamorous and the 1957 Constitutional Conference recommended that a Commission should enquire into the agitation and recommend measures for allaying the fears of minorities not only in the Midwest but throughout the Federation of Nigeria. Hon. Members will recall the appointment of the Willink Commission, the exhaustive representations made before the Commission and the subsequent findings and recommendations of the Commission. Sir Henry Willink and his colleagues did not recommend the creation of a Midwest State or of any other additional state in the Federation but concentrated their recommendations on measures to allay the fears of minorities. As regards this Region they said, *inter alia*—

"We were impressed with the effort which the Western Region had made in this matter".

They commended us for establishing the Midwest Advisory Council and made proposals to make it more representative of the areas and suggested that it "should continue with an advisory responsibility for the development and welfare of the Edo-speaking peoples and in particular for the preservation of Edo culture. Hon. Members will note that the Willink recommendations excluded Asaba and Aboh Divisions from the proposed Edo Minority area and also included the Western Ijaw in the so-called special Area which will be covered by the Niger Delta Development Board.

As hon. Members are aware the Willink Report was considered by the Resumed Constitutional Conference held in London in 1958. The Conference by implication accepted and endorsed the principle on which the Midwest Advisory Council was voluntarily established by the Government of the Western Region. In pursuance of this principle the Conference agreed that—

(a) "A Minority Area should be created in the Western Region and should consist of the whole of the Benin and Delta

provinces excluding Warri Division and Akoko-Edo District, on the understanding that the position of Warri division in relation to the proposed area should be further considered locally by the Government of the Western Region. The Conference took note of the undertaking by the Western Region Government that they would discuss the question further with all interests concerned on their return to Nigeria.

(b) The proposed Council should be composed of Members of the House of Assembly, House of Representatives and House of Chiefs, elected or appointed from within the area.

(c) The functions of the proposed Council should be, broadly to foster the well-being, cultural advancement and economic and social development of the Minority Area, to bring to the notice of the Western Regional Government any discrimination against the Area and to exercise such executive powers as might be delegated to it from time to time by the Regional Government".

In the meanwhile, we have established the Midwest Advisory Council and under the Chairmanship of Mr (now Senator) Dalton Asemota, the Council has done excellent work. Its first Report has been published and it was laid before the House as Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1960. Since the Resumed Constitutional Conference of 1958 the Government has, in accordance with its undertaking, considered the position of Warri Division in relation to the Midwest Area. The Government considered representations received from all the interests concerned in arriving at a decision to exclude Warri Division from the Midwest Area towards the end of 1959.

My purpose now is to let hon. Members know the Government's immediate intentions in regard to Midwest Affairs. The views of my party as regards the creation of more States in the Federation is well-known and the procedure for creating more States or adjusting boundaries between existing Regions is already laid down in the Independence Constitution. The creation of more States, as I said before, is a Constitutional matter which cannot be determined by one Region alone. As hon. Members are already aware, there are demands for the creation of States also in the Eastern Region and in the Northern Region. The decision concerning the Midwest State cannot, therefore, be taken in isolation.

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

Until all the political parties agreed to the creation of additional States in the East, North and West my Government has decided to proceed along the following lines: We shall replace the Midwest Advisory Council with its nominated members with the Midwest Minority Council which is parliamentary in character in that its members are drawn from the Federal and Regional Legislative Houses including the Senate. In other words, all the Members of these Houses who are from the Areas concerned can automatically become members of the Midwest Advisory Council. I should like to seize this opportunity to pay tribute to Senator Asemota and his colleagues in the Midwest Advisory Council for the valuable service which he and his colleagues have rendered to the peoples of the Midwest Area in the short period of the existence of the Council. I am sure their second Report, which is not being processed, will prove to be of as much interest as the first. I am particularly happy that Senator Asemota will be a member of the new Council and this will ensure a certain measure of continuity.

The new Midwest Minority Council will be under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Midwest Affairs (*cheers*) and its members will come from the Benin and Delta Provinces excluding Warri Division and Akoko-Edo District, which area will be declared a Minority Area in accordance with the decision of the Minorities Commission. My Government proposes to delegate certain executive powers to the Minister for Midwest Affairs who will exercise these powers on the advice of the Midwest Minority Council. Such matters may include certain aspects of Chieftaincy matters (*interruptions*), Local Government affairs and Customary Land Tenure in the Midwest area (*cheers*). I understand that the Customary Courts have been so severe in their treatment of Members of the Opposition (*interruptions*) (*Opposition Benches: It is true. Are you happy at that as Premier?*)

I wish to emphasise and this is very important, that the creation of this Midwest Minority Council confirms the belief of the Action Group Government of the Western Region in the right of self-determination for every minority area in the Federation of Nigeria. It is one more positive step towards the realisation of the ambition of the people of the Midwest Area. Frankly, we do not offer the Council as a substitute for a new State. We continue to stand by the right of the people of the Midwest to have their

own State, but, unfortunately, it is not a thing exclusively within the powers of this Region. We are prepared to create the Midwest State as soon as my colleagues are ready (*loud cheers*) but in the meantime, we will do what is next best and we are doing what no other Government in the Federation is doing for any Minority Area.

We are acting in accordance with our policy all the time; we want the Midwest State to be created but we cannot create the Midwest State all by ourselves on this side. If you can speak to your friends in Lagos, or you.....(*loud cheers*) we shall be happier than we are in trying to persuade them to.....(*interruptions*) and we wish you the very best. I am quite sure (*interruptions*).....use better weapon that may be instrumental to my friend Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh. If you are ready, he knows how to persuade the other fellows (*interruptions*).

Hon. Members, I have limited this Ministerial statement to a brief review of the agitation for the creation of the Midwest State and of the measures which the Government has taken in the past and now proposes to take in the immediate future in order to allay the fears of the Minorities in that part the Region, pending the time when a Midwest State might be created. The details of the functions of the new Council will be a matter for the Minister of Midwest Affairs, and I hope he will be in a position to present a White Paper to the House on the subject in the near future. I wish to stress that my Government is determined to act in this matter in the true spirit of democracy which, although allows for the majority to have its way, also obliges that majority to allay the fears of the minority, whether or not those fears are well-founded.

We are fortunate that the Western Region as a unit of the Federation, enjoys a cohesion which is second to none in this country, but in order to maintain and strengthen that cohesion, a certain measure of devolution of powers is desirable. My Government is satisfied that the arrangements now proposed for the Midwest area are in the best interest of the people of the area and, of the Region as a whole.

Opposition Members: But why delay?

Chief Akintola: I understand there was a delay. What delay? There is no delay whatsoever. We must move and keep pace with constitutional development. I may say, in reference to delay, that the last Constitutional Conference was held only in May last year—not even in May; the final

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

one was held in July—so that no decision could have been taken until that constitutional conference; so there was no delay. We are anxious not only to maintain peace and unity in the Western Region. Even, it is our interest that there will be unity and mutual understanding and goodwill between us and whatever Government rules the Midwest. (*Long cheers*). This presents an opportunity for the hon. Members here. There are many Members opposite me who are sincerely critical of the attitude of this Government, merely because sufficient information is not at their disposal. After the creation of the new Council any Member who wants information can go there quietly, sit down and examine the minutes of the functions of the Council and in the light of that his judgment will be much fairer than it is at the moment. As to the value of Government's investment in the Midwest, I am sure very few Members opposite can say accurately (*Interruption*). I don't blame them.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr D. C. Osadebay): On point of order. If this is a Ministerial statement we cannot answer that, and if we cannot answer that why is the Premier bringing these provocative statements?

Chief Akintola: I am sorry for more or less offending the hon. Member.

Mr Osadebay: I am offended.

Chief Akintola: I am quite sure that if you wish there will be ample opportunity for you. If I have in any way offended you in this statement would you kindly pretend that you did not listen. (*prolonged laughter, cheers and jeers*).

Mr Speaker: This is the first time that this enlarged House is meeting. There is a lot of latitude and violation of the Standing Orders and I hope our visitors in the gallery will take this as a warning that they have no right to take part in the debate here; they must not even clap their hands or murmur, not to talk of speaking. I therefore warn them that at any time that the clapping of hands is heard they may be asked to leave. This is only a warning.

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (4).

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, if the House

will permit me, I beg to move two Motions standing in my name so as to regularise the business of the House. I therefore move that Standing Order 4 (4) be suspended during this meeting.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

FREE PASSAGE TO THE HOUSE FOR MEMBERS

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

That this House pray His Excellency to give directions that the Commissioner of Police shall keep, during the Session of the Legislature, the streets leading to the House free and open and that no obstruction shall be permitted to hinder the passage thereto of Members of the House.

I must say that what happened this morning, I understand, was that there was a rehearsal by members of the Force and as a result Members were not allowed to come to the House as early as possible. I hope after the passage of this Motion instructions will be given to the members of the Police so that Members will be accorded free passage to this House.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Business of the House

Chief Odebiyi: I beg to move that the House do now adjourn until 4th October. The proposal, Sir, is that both Houses of the Legislature will receive Her Royal Highness, Princess Alexandra at a joint meeting of the Houses in the House of Chiefs' Chamber. Then at the end of that day we shall adjourn until 10th October when a few Bills that have already matured will be taken. It is hoped that the meeting will be for about three or four days.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 1.45 p.m. until Tuesday, 4th October, 1960, at 10.00 a.m.

**WESTERN HOUSE OF
ASSEMBLY**

MONDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 1960

(The House met at 10.00 a.m.)

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATH

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I have to report to this honourable House that since the last meeting, a report has reached me that the hon. Member, R. A. Fanikayode has sworn before a Judge of the High Court.

(Mr R. A. Fanikayode then signed the Register).

BUSINESS MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

The Minister of Finance (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is intended that the meeting of this House should last for only a few days. In other words, the House will adjourn *sine die* tomorrow. I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) therefore be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting after 1 p.m. if necessary.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Chief S. O. Ighodaro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 7 (6)

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 7 (6) be suspended to enable the House to take all stages of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Chief Ighodaro: Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (1)

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (1) be suspended to enable the House to go through all stages of Income Tax No. 2 Amendment Bill.

Chief S. O. Ighodaro: Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION:

NEW MEMBERS

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Chief A. Adekeye, Mr S. T.

~~Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi:~~
members of the Committee of Selection.

Chief S. O. Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

**PRESENTATION AND FIRST READING
OF PUBLIC BILLS**

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

(i) Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1960.
(The Minister of Finance).

(ii) Produce Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1960. (the Minister of Finance).

(iii) 1960-61 Supplementary Appropriation Bill. (The Minister of Finance).

The following Bill was presented and read the First time: It was ordered to be read a Second time tomorrow:—

Education (Amendment) Law, 1960
(The Minister of Education).

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT)

BILL, 1960—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a law further to amend the Income Tax Law, 1957.

As hon. Members will observe from the objects and reasons, this Bill is designed to make provision for the exemption from Income Tax of the official emoluments of the present Governor who, being a Nigerian, is subject to the provisions of the Regional Income Tax Law.

Prior to the epoch-making event of the appointment of a Nigerian as the Governor of this Region, the officers Administering the Governments of the Federation, being expatriates, were all subject to the Federal Income Tax Ordinance under which their official emoluments are exempted from Income Tax.

I feel certain that there is not a single Member of this House who would be so naive as to suggest that His Excellency, Sir Adesoji Aderemi, should not enjoy a privilege which had been enjoyed by all his predecessors in this Region and is being enjoyed by his counterparts elsewhere.

Sir, I beg to move.

Chief Ighodaro: Mr Speaker, I beg to second the Bill.

Question proposed.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is a non-controversial one and all I want to say, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that since the Governor is a native, will it not be much better for the improvement of the Western Region, for that very Governor to pay a certain amount as a native? I know it is so stated in the Federal Income Tax Law, but I want the Minister of Finance to say something about this. The West Regional Government should pray the relevant authorities to see that in respect of indigenous Governors some sacrifices are made.

Mr R. A. Fanikayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, I understand that this Bill is non-controversial but I would have thought that this Government which has always advocated that the same law should be applicable to every person in this Region should be ready to make amendments at this stage of our history to bring us in line with that thought and I would have thought that they would introduce a legislation by which the Governor of the Region would pay tax. This is not a time to follow the English pattern blindly.

I am surprised that this Government, led by these same people who have been advocating unity in the country, could not do better, because I always thought, as they advocate, that the same Law should bind all individuals, irrespective of status in life, or in the country.

Sir, I am saying this—let them know that if they do not amend it now, a future Legislature of this Region will amend it.

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker Sir, I should have thought that the Opposition has learned to be consistent. Somebody said on this side, "This is not controversial", "It is acceptable". The new Messiah of the NCNC says "it is controversial". That is what the NCNC stands for. It is very early in the morning. As early as it is, this side does not know what is in the mind of that side.

We happen to have the first African Governor. By the Grace of God, soon we are going to have a Governor-General. We hope you will introduce this first in Lagos.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr D. C. Osadebay): Mr Speaker Sir, we thought that this Bill was uncontroversial until the Premier rose to make it controversial. My learned and hon. Friend from Ife did not make it controversial. He did

the duties of the Opposition. Even though we are not opposing the bill, we are entitled to make comments on it. The other point I want to make is this. The Government is making this Bill too personal. When the Minister of Finance moved the Second Reading of the Bill, he dragged the name of Sir Adesoji into it. That is unnecessary. The point is, are we agreed on the principle that the Officer Administering the Government of this Region, that is, the Governor, should or should not pay tax? It is unfair to drag the name of the present Governor, Sir Adesoji, into it. The Minister of Finance is a very good debater. He likes to put people into a dilemma. If you oppose the Bill, it looks as if you are opposing Sir Adesoji.

Next time they bring a Bill or legislation, they should divorce it of personality and let us face the issue.

I support it.

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 and 2 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

PRODUCE SALES TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to amend the Produce Sales Tax Law, 1957. One of the duties of the Regional Tax Board which has been established under the Income Tax Law is to undertake the assessment and collection in the Region of any tax imposed by any enactment other than the Income Tax Law whenever the Board is directed so to do by the Minister of Finance.

It is my intention to direct the board to assess and collect taxes due under the Produce Sales Tax Law. In order to vest the Board with this authority, it is necessary to amend the Law by substituting the word "Board" for "the Commissioner of Inland Revenue" whenever the latter occurs in the provisions of the principal Law.

As members will be aware, the post of Commissioner for Inland Revenue has been abolished.

Sir, I beg to move.

Chief S. O. Ighodaro: I second the Bill.

Question proposed.

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 1-10 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

1960-61 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill for a Law to make Supplementary Provision for the services 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 and the 1960-61 Supplementary Appropriation (No. 1) 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 introduction of this Bill.

Of the total supplementary expenditure of £1,720,443 which is covered by the Bill, £318,345 is accounted for under the First Schedule and the balance of £1,402,098 under the Second Schedule to the Bill.

I should like to deal first with details of recurrent expenditure under the First Schedule. With the exception of Head 325—Pensions and Gratuities—and Head 340—Electoral Commission—the bulk of the provision which has been made under each of the Heads of Estimates listed in the First Schedule to the Bill is designed to meet the personal emoluments of newly appointed Ministers, Regional Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. The other significant provision which merits special mention relates to the provision of £24,400 under Head 336—Ministry of Local Government—which is required to meet additional grants in respect of the salaries of Obas and Chiefs.

Mr Speaker Sir, I need hardly add that this provision gives eloquent expression of Government's declared intention to encourage the institution of, and to uphold the dignity of, chieftaincy in this Region.

Hon. Members will find that other items of recurrent expenditure are explained in detail in the supporting Supplementary Estimates,

and I do not wish to take up the time of the House by trying to explain them over again.

With your permission, Mr Speaker Sir, 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 supplementary expenditure of £1,402,098 is required for Capital Expenditure for the remainder of the current financial year. Of this sum, £682,645 represents revotes of unspent balances in previous financial years, the bulk of which is required to enable completion in the current financial year of certain capital projects on which work is already in progress. The balance of £719,453 represents in the main new commitments, provision for which must be made as a matter of urgency. Of this figure, the largest single item is an increase of £555,000 under Head 705—Loans. This increase is made up of three individual sums, details of which are as follows:

Under sub-head 2, we now want a separate provision of £235,000 to enable loan facilities to be granted to an indigenous company for the operation of rubber plantation, forest concessions, saw-mills, rubber crepe and sheet factories in the Midwest area.

Under sub-head 3, legislative sanction is sought for a supplementary provision of £160,000 to meet the cost of a first-class hotel to be built in Ibadan by the Western Nigeria Development Corporation in partnership with another firm.

An additional provision of £45,000 is required under sub-head 6 for the Western Region Sports Council. This Corporation has been established by the Government to undertake the promotion of sports in this Region. The provision has been made to enable the Corporation to carry out certain duties during the remainder of this year. Hon. members who were chanced to be present at the opening ceremony at the Liberty Stadium a few days ago will agree with me that the Council deserved to be congratulated for the efficient manner in which the events which took place at the Stadium during the Celebrations were organised.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief S. O. Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed

Further consideration of Bill adjourned till tomorrow.

Sitting suspended at 10.35 a.m.

Sitting resumed at 10.40 a.m.

INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) (No. 3)
—BILL, 1960—SECOND READING

Order for Second Reading read.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 3) be read a Second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the principal Law to provide for an increase in the membership of the Regional Tax Board from seven to ten; in the number of independent members from three to six (including the Chairman) and in the number of members of the Board appointed from among the members of the public service of the Region under section 3A (1) (b) of the Law from two to three. The Bill also provides for other amendments consequential to the foregoing. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

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

Question proposed.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill will be strongly opposed by Her Majesty's Opposition because this is characteristic of the Action Group whenever they win an election in this Region. You will see from the "Objects and Reasons" that the Bill seeks to amend the Income Tax Law, 1957 by providing for an increase in the membership of the Regional Tax Board from 7 to 10. I want the expression, "from 7 to 10" to be underlined; in the number of independent members from 3 to 6. I also want that to be underlined..... (*Government Benches: Under line it*). Why is it that you have 50 per cent increase in the number of independents? Is this not a way of satisfying those of your followers who have fallen by the wayside during the elections. Tell us, who are going to be appointed there? If they want to win an election let them go to the electorate and campaign. What are the qualifications to be possessed for this appointment? I hope the qualifications are not going to be, "unless you are a field secretary of the Action Group."

Mr Speaker, here is the House for debate. Let us know the qualifications of the members and of the person to be made Chairman. Mr Speaker, I am asking that this Bill be opposed.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Again, Sir, we are being treated to this same example of

waste. The Minister of Finance cleverly got up and gave us a piece of paper containing some Objects and Reasons for the purpose of legislation. He wants to increase the membership. Why? Tell us! Why do you want to increase the membership? You cannot just go about spending public money without giving full reasons and explanations for it. When we look at this Bill, it amuses; the object is given but no reasons. Surely, we are not school children for the Minister of Finance to treat us in this way. Neither are we here..... (*interruptions*)..... I suggest that unless the Minister of Finance can give us reasons we are compelled, Sir, to believe that this is another attempt at giving jobs to the boys at Government expense. This Government has been running on these lines for the past eight years..... (*Government Benches: You have been with the Government for the past eight years*)..... It is good, if one has been sinning for the past eight years, one should repent. I have repented (*cheers from the Opposition*)..... This is a shameful exploitation of the funds of this Region for non-Government purposes but for purely political reasons. We wish to oppose this unholy Bill with all the emphasis at our command.

This Government should think twice before coming to this House with just "Objects" without giving reasons. I beg to oppose.

I hope the Government will have the decency, which I doubt, to withdraw the statement. (*Government Benches: They don't even cheer you*).

Mr A. T. Reri: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to fall in line with what my Colleagues on this part of the House has said so far. In saying so, I wish to say that the original amendment to this Tax Law came as a result of valuable work done by the NCNC in criticising the Government of the day as regards the atrocities which were perpetrated in those days and as a result the good that has arisen is now being used as a way of feeding the boys who did the job during the elections or during some other time. My submission, Mr Speaker, is that the Minister of Finance should tell us why these new Members are required and if we know that it is just the number we want we shall put in expatriate experts who will do the job. (*Government Benches: Shame, Shame*). In the alternative, I suggest that if Government is serious about the increase in composition, they should do it in consultation with the Opposition so that we may make sure that obedient boys of

the Action Group are not just being put into power to compensate them for their work during the elections.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi: When the Minister of Finance got up to analyse this Bill, he was trying to feed us as if we are chickens. (*Government Benches: They are cocks.*) Mr Speaker, Sir, from my experience of the House in these few days, I have found the Minister of Finance to be a brilliant debater but mediocre administrator conceived in the magnitude of the Paper (*Fire on, Fire on*). Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. the Minister of Finance has introduced this Bill and we are opposing it on this side of the House. Why? Because he said he is going to put in some independent members. Who are the independent members? The Action Groupers who have fallen by the wayside or organising Secretaries—people you have been looking for jobs for. (*Government Benches: Whom are you talking to?*) I am talking to you. And we of the Opposition, we know that the time will soon come, if indeed it has not yet arrived, when we shall not allow a Minister of the West Regional Government to continue to be a squandermaniac and continue to hide under Appropriation Bills, Income Tax Laws in order to find jobs for their boys. I am saying.....(*Government Benches: Say something new*). If this was to be increased.....(*interruptions*). It is characteristic of the Government when they find somebody criticising them to interrupt him. Mr Speaker, why are they going to increase the number? Why is it that after the elections they are going to increase the number? Why not increase it before the Elections and who are the people they are going to put there? Are they not members of the Action Group? Is there any independent member who is going to be put there, a person who stands clear of party politics or as far as politics is concerned, advocates a policy of neutrality? What are the types of people to be put there? Why place brothers of Minister—the Attorney-General or the Minister of Home Affairs there? Why is it? Because he is Action Group. And so, Mr Speaker, we are opposing it.

Mr Speaker: Order, Order. Will you please withdraw "brothers of Ministers or Attorney-General".

Chief Odebiyi: He is a new man.

Mr Akinyemi: I will continue to criticise them on that side but I will take cognisance of what the Speaker has said. (*Government Benches: Withdraw, withdraw*)

All those Regional Ministers and those people who are shouting "withdraw, withdraw", they never knew what the effect of this particular Bill is. Today, it is on your side. You are trying to get jobs for your brothers, for everybody, and when you get there now, I am sure, Mr Speaker, no Members of the Opposition or the NCNC will be included. It is consistent with the practice and policy of the Action Group Government to do this type of thing. I am submitting, Mr Speaker, that we on this Side of the House are stoutly opposing the Motion and I think the Minister of Finance will be good enough to use his good offices to withdraw this thing.

Chief J. O. Fadahunsi: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is quite clear that one of the weapons of oppression in this Region is income tax and these numerous amendments are not meant in the general interest of the public of this Region. They are only meant to suit the Action Group where they feel they will be helped. The original Law allowed Local Government Councils to recommend members of the Assessment Committees to the Minister for approval and that approvalwell, of course, the members of the Local Government Councils are the people who know their men, who know those who know the worth of their people, their competence. The Minister is never resident in that area and in the past the Minister used to approve names forwarded by the Local Government Councils but when they found out that probably NCNC Councils were thriving in some places, well, being autocratic, as they always are, they felt they should do something to amend the Law to oust Members of the NCNC from anything which has to do with assessment.

Just recently Councils controlled by the NCNC sent in names of people they felt would be able to assess and know the worth of everybody in their areas. What we found was that the Minister came round and submitted other names of those defeated Action Group members that fought the elections and could not win (*shame, shame*) and then they were the people who were being appointed to assess in District Councils of the NCNC. Now it appears what this Government does always is not in the interest of the general public but in the interest of those supporters of theirs and I am strongly appealing to the Minister of Finance to reconsider his views over this type of thing. Unless there is a change, I do not know what the future will be for the people of this

[CHIEF FADAHUNSI]

Region but at any rate (*Government Benches: Very bright*), we are now independent. The Government of the country is ours (*Hear, hear*). (*Interruptions from Government Benches*). No Region may make liberty impossible for its people and so if any Region dares to oppress unnecessarily the Federal Government will see about it. (*interruptions*). If the Action Group had been fair from time nobody would have opposed this Bill, but knowing the Action Group, what they used to do in things pertaining to income tax, we feel that all those that are going to be put there must be Action Group supporters. (*Opposition Benches: Yes, yes*) and therefore we are strongly opposing the Bill.

The Minister of Midwest Affairs (Mr J. E. Otodo): Mr Speaker, Sir, one is naturally amazed at the quick trend of debate in this House so soon after the General Elections. The Bill before us, Mr Speaker, is quite simple; namely, one that seeks to amend the Income Tax Law, 1957, by providing for an increase in the membership of the Regional Tax Board. (*Opposition Benches: Why?*) Listen. Opposition to this Bill has been founded, Mr Speaker, not on trying to ascertain the reason for the increase but merely on the suspicions that the increased membership will be thrown to Action Group supporters. (*Interruptions*) Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that I am not on that side. (*Hear, hear*). Now that I am glad that I am not on the other side, I am quite sure that the old question of confidence from the electorate will not arise. (*Interruptions*). If we may digress a bit, Mr Speaker, I am satisfied that all of us have come here on renewed votes of confidence. (*Hear, hear*). Now, I come to the point. Mr Speaker, Sir, I have consistently maintained that a Government is either a Government or it is not at all. (*Hon. Members: Quite right*) and I have always maintained, Sir, that a Government has to carry out its policies and not those of the Opposition Party. Why do I say this? Before the elections, Members of the Opposition rallied round the Western Region with one propaganda stunt: that as soon as they came into power they were going to abolish all customary courts and put in their own members.

Mr Osadebay: That is a contradiction in terms. If we abolish the customary courts, how do we put in members?

Mr Otodo: That is quite a minor point. The idea is merely to abolish customary courts, set up new panels and put in new

members. These were statements made to the Western Region electorate time and again before the elections. Secondly, the Opposition also paraded that if they came into power they were going to pursue a changed income tax policy. One energetic spokesman said they were going to abolish income tax. Another enthusiastic member said that they were going to reduce it to a flat rate of £1. The less reliable members of the Opposition also went so far as to say that they were even going to reduce it to 7s 6d.

Throughout the elections we had these conflicting views or statements regarding this income tax policy. I should like to emphasise this, that in all these we were silent on our part; silent in the sense that if they won the elections they were at liberty to project their income tax policy. In the same way, they will concede to us that having won the elections we too are at liberty to project our own policy and the fact that the Western Region electorate has voted us into power here is proof that the Western Region electorate is prepared to accept our own income tax policy. The point I make, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that it will be uncharitable of us, in fact it will be most unparliamentary to expect that we are voted into power to carry out their own policy. (*Uproar*).

Opposition Benches: Tell Awolowo.

Mr Otodo: I am not saying, Sir, that the increased membership will necessarily be taken up by Action Group supporters, but even if that were done, it is only, as I said, Sir, legitimate, and it could be defended on the ground that in order that a Government could carry out its policy it has to be sure that it has a majority on any board set up by it. The best that can happen is, in obedience to parliamentary practice, we could assign to them a number of seats proportionate to their representation in this House.

But, Mr Speaker, Sir, quite frankly I am not able to understand the view of the Leader of the Opposition. Provision is merely being made for increase membership; the seats have not been filled and they are afraid.

Mr Osadebay: You know what will happen from our eight years' experience on this side.

Mr Otodo: The eight years' experience must be founded on wrong premises altogether and, Mr Speaker, I must say that the impact of that experience is misplaced in the sense that if that experience were as oppressive as the Opposition would like us to

HEAD 345.—MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS

Question that the sum of £4,000 for Head 345—Ministry of Chieftaincy Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 346.—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question that the sum of £4,000 for Head 346—Ministry of Information—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 347.—MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Question that the sum of £4,000 for Head 347—Ministry of Labour—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Question that the total sum of £318,345 stand part of the First Schedule, put and agreed to.

SECOND SCHEDULE

HEAD 701.—BUILDINGS

Question that the sum of £72,399 for Head 701—Buildings—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 702.—ROADS AND BRIDGES

Question that the sum of £117,588 for Head 702—Roads and Bridges—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 703.—URBAN WATER SUPPLIES

Question that the sum of £470,530 for Head 703—Urban Water Supplies—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 705.—LOANS

Question that the sum of £555,000 for Head 705—Loans—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 706.—EDUCATION BUILDING GRANTS

Question that the sum of £967 for Head 706—Education Building Grants—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

OTHER NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

HEAD 722.—PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question that the sum of £59,500 for Head 722—Premier's Office—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 723.—TREASURY

Question that the sum of £500 for Head 723—Treasury—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 724.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Question that the sum of £325 for Head 724—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 725.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question that the sum of £154 for Head 725—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 726.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question that the sum of £1,658 for Head 726—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 £79,319 for Head 727—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 £13,412 for Head 728—Ministry of Home Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 730.—MINISTRY OF MIDWEST AFFAIRS

Question that the sum of £1,000 for Head 730—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 731.—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING

Question that the sum of £24,086 for Head 731—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 732.—MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question that the sum of £1,360 for Head 732—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 £240 for Head 733—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 736.—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Question that the sum of £4,000 for Head 736—Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 739.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE BOARD

Question that the sum of £60 for Head 739—Local Government Service Board—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

TOTAL

Question that the sum of £1,402,098—Total—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

BILL: FIRST READING

CHIEFS (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) BILL

This Bill brought from the Other House, was presented and read the First time. It was ordered to be read a Second time immediately.

**CHIEFS (AMENDMENT) (No. 2)
BILL—SECOND READING**

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Local Government (Alhadji D. S. Adegbenro): I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law further to amend the Chiefs Law, 1957. This Bill is a non-controversial one. The object is only to assign responsibility for Chieftaincy matters to the Minister in charge of Chieftaincy Affairs. Section 2 of the principal Law stipulates that the "Minister" means the Regional Minister to whom responsibility for Local Government matters has been assigned in accordance with the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council, 1954. Now that a Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs has been appointed it has been found necessary to amend that section of the Law so as to assign responsibility to my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs.

Chief J. O. Osuntokun: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi: Mr Speaker, Sir, while we do not oppose this Bill because it is a non-controversial one I shall make this comment. When the hon. the Premier spoke in respect of this chieftaincy matter on the Appropriation Bill he digressed and directed the attention of the House to the fact that the question of chieftaincy matters was in the hands of what is called the Advisory Board and that this Board will always advise the Minister in respect of chieftaincy matters.

I will, at this stage Mr Speaker, say that this Bill should not be so made as to make the chiefs puppets in the hands of the Regional Minister. That is, the Minister responsible for Chieftaincy Affairs should not be in a position to dismiss and destool any chief at his own discretion. (*Interruptions*). In the case of the Alani of Idoani, there were allegations that he was an NCNC supporter and that his appointment would not be approved as he was an NCNC supporter and it was not until the Alani of Idoani was forced to get an Action Group membership card that he was recognised.

Even the Minister of Local Government knows that I was present when the chief came to him.

I must make it clear to this honourable House that the time has come when Ministers(*Interruptions*). While we are not opposing this Bill we must make sure that the institution of chieftaincy is safe-guarded. The Obas must be safe-guarded in the hands of tyrants. We are happy about this amendment that places the matter outside the hands of the Minister of Local Government. We know that the Minister of Local Government has been using his position recklessly and has made things difficult for those who are not members of the Action Group. It should be the duty of the new Minister for Chieftaincy Affairs to see to it that he takes advice from this Advisory Council because, according to the Premier, they are all Obas and are in a position to know one another. With due respect, Mr Speaker, Sir, may I say that I am not opposing the Bill but I am criticising it in order to give this safeguard so that the future of these Obas will be secure and no Regional Minister can take up his pen and dismiss an Oba.

Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye: Mr Speaker Sir, history will have to repeat itself. It is a great surprise to me that the hon. Member for Ikeja will come to the floor of this House to say that the Obas should be cared for. Recently, the former NCNC-controlled Council of Ilesha said that the Owa of Ilesha should be removed. That was an NCNC-controlled Council and now, showing their inconsistency, they are here fighting that the Obas should be cared for. That will show Mr Speaker how very planless the NCNC is. There is nothing controversial in this Bill. It is introduced just to pass the functions of chieftaincy to the Minister of Chieftaincy Affairs and why all the noise that the Obas should be cared for, whereas the Obas know their friends? Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to support.

Mr F. H. Utomi: Mr Speaker Sir, we know the Action Group Government to have a dictatorial policy. We are here to protect the interest of our sacred titles and that is why we are here to speak of these chieftaincy matters. I know what has happened in Asaba Division. The Action Group Government manufactured titles.

Last year the Minister dissolved another District Council without any charge of maladministration, without any charge of lack of vision or waste of money.

Government Benches: Why do you wear underwear to this honourable House.

Mr Utomi: This is my national dress, I do not think there is anything wrong with it; it is the same as your Yoruba dress (*Cheers, cheers from the Opposition Benches*) simply because the Caretaker Committee composed of the Action Group (*Interruptions from the Government Benches*) election to the House of Chiefs has not been held in the Asaba area. We want the Minister in charge of Chieftaincy matters not to misuse his power but to keep and respect our sacred institution and tradition.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you and the hon. the Minister for Local Government who has allowed me to speak in his place. This morning the hon. the Premier of this Region made a certain categorical statement about a certain provision in the Constitution of this country regarding the creation and the existence of the Council of Chiefs.

In the first instance, regarding the provision under the Constitution, I am asking the hon. the Minister of Local Government to tell us what provision under the Constitution the Premier was referring to and, secondly, although he voted £2,000 to a gentleman who was happy when the money was passed yet when the matter for chieftaincy comes up he is as silent as ever. In a few weeks time he shall justify the confidence of the Government which he has not got. We are not to be deceived by any paper work by the Government; we know what democracy this Government can have on paper; we have seen their democracy at work in certain councils in removing chiefs. And now they tell us the chiefs have power to control their own affairs. If the Government is honest they should incorporate in the Chiefs Law a provision for making it impossible for any of these commoners to remove them (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*) but they also have the power to include in the Chiefs Law composed by them a provision that the Minister shall consult the Council of Chiefs on all matters and shall be bound by their advice. There and then only will the Chiefs be venerated from the ruthless control of this Government. People are saying that the Chiefs are free: free for what or free from what? In 1956 (*interruptions from Government Benches: When you were here?*) In 1960 the whole country got independence; when will the Chiefs gain their independence from you? (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). They have the

audacity and effrontery to come here and say that the Chiefs control their own destiny. (*Shouts of shame, shame, from the Opposition Benches*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, if the Chiefs are left alone they will not be running about in the night in small cars instead of their big cars to go and campaign for the Action Group. Why do they do this? Because our Chiefs are made organising secretaries by these people. You should cry with me, Sir, when the highest institution of the land is made a puppet. If, Sir (*interruptions from Government Benches*) I challenge the Government, they have the right and authority to (*Shouts of "how, how" from the Government Benches*) (*Prolonged laughter from Opposition Benches*). Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a very great difference between the character, temperament and ability of the Oba in reference and the Oni of Ife. I speak with all (*interruptions*) and I do not (*shouts of "how far? how far?" from Government Benches*) if I believe that the Minister sitting before us has no sense of responsibility, I shall repeat it but I believe that the Minister has a sense of responsibility, but let him get up and tell us what the plans are. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). Let him tell us that the Council of Chiefs (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*) of any Minister who is responsible for the recognition and disposition of the Obas. I give way, I give way, Sir.

The Minister of Economic Planning (Oba C. D. Akran): I wish to say that the Government has created the Council of Chiefs into whose hands chieftaincy affairs with regard to discipline and so forth have been handed; and there is no single instance where the Government has, as yet, acted in contradiction to their advice. (*Cheers from the Government Benches*).

Mr Fani-Kayode: Here, Sir, you see the wisdom of tradition. He says there has been no instance as yet, as yet. You follow him, the important word, and emphasis (*interruptions from Government Benches*) in other words, Sir, the right to reject is within the hands of the commoner (*Opposition Benches: it is shameful, very shameful*) is completely within the hands of the executive. Why do they have to go on campaigning for the Action Group? As I have been saying this morning, the time has come for the Obas to be liberated. Let me put forward this policy: let an Oba be made Minister in charge of Chieftaincy Affairs and not a commoner (*Prolonged cheers from Opposition Benches*).

Alhadji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is very difficult to understand the crocodile tears being shed by my hon. Friends on the Opposition side because, as already indicated on the Bill, this Bill has been passed unanimously in the House of Chiefs, and my Friend the hon. Member from Ife-Illa and also the hon. Member for Ikeja has to be in the Upper House this morning to listen to the praises being showered on me by various speakers there.

Mr Fani-Kayode: If they fail to do that you will depose them.

Alhadji Adegbenro: The *Hansard*, Mr Mr Speaker, will bear testimony to the encomiums already showered on this Government. Now, the sincerity of the Government of this Region has always been demonstrated by the fact that any Bill affecting Chiefs are always initiated in the House of Chiefs because not only that the Chiefs are already represented in the Executive Council but also because we would like the Chiefs themselves to formulate policies and also make their recommendations in all matters affecting them. This morning we have not departed from that policy.

Hon. Members on the other side have spoken about amending the Constitution so as to make the House of Chiefs Executives. At the last London Constitutional Conference, it was agreed to set up a Council of Chiefs in the North and also in the West. But now it is surprising that they turn round here now and say that further amendments should be made to that Constitution. If hon. Members could be allowed to speak and be listened to attentively, it is only right and proper to listen to my reply. It is only a coward who will make a case and will never allow the other side to reply.

As I was saying, it was agreed at the Constitutional Conference that a Council of Obas and Chiefs should be set up in the North and the West. If that is true, then what is the quarrel? Is that a fact or not? The powers of the Council of Obas and Chiefs in the Western Region are identical to the powers of Obas and Chiefs in the North. There is no difference whatsoever, and if there is any Member who feels there is any difference, may I ask him what the differences are. The thing is that it was agreed that the Government will only act on the advice of the Council of Obas and Chiefs in matters relating to their appointment, discipline and all matters affecting Obas and Chiefs in this Region. This is not

what obtains in the East. But here, we comply fully with the provisions of the Constitutional Order, 1954.

If I may take up the baseless and also unwarranted attack which has been made not only today, Sir, but even yesterday on the Chiefs of this Region, my friends on the other side need to have been in the Upper Chamber this morning to listen to the unanimous protest which the Obas and Chiefs made about this. They have no regard whatsoever for tradition. If they do they won't come to the floor of this honourable House under parliamentary privilege and attack personalities, the sacred institutions and so on and so forth. An hon. Member has referred to this side as "these commoners" whereas he knows that on this side of the House at least we have our respected Oba and there are other dignifying Chiefs. Is this proper? As you know, Mr Speaker, not a single member on that side is a chieftaincy title holder and so they do not know the value of it.

Opposition Benches: We do not want it.

Alhadji Adegbenro: Unlike in the Eastern Region, we do not issue warrants for appointing Chiefs. (*interruptions*). If somebody has not measured up to the standard in his own constituency and has not been deemed fit to be honoured with a chieftaincy title, it is up to him, and that does not mean that he should come here and slight chiefs.

There has been an unnecessary addition, they have mentioned the "injection" of traditional members into the Asaba District Council. Mr Speaker, Sir, you will remember that throughout the life of the last House, Members had cried about this. Even the present Leader of the Opposition threatened at one time that if this provision was made in the Instrument of the Council concerned there would be rioting. In fact, the Chiefs were included. I took the immediate opportunity thereafter to visit Asaba. Not only was there nothing like rioting, but I was well received there: there was dancing and beating of drums by various sections all over the place.

I have already indicated that we have complied fully with the provisions of the Constitutional Order in Council, 1954 and that the Executive Council has always acted on the advice of the Council of Obas and Chiefs. The Law which was passed in this House is identical to the one in the North, and if it is considered by the Obas and

[ALHADJI ADEGBENRO]

Chiefs themselves that they require more powers, of course, Government is prepared to give their representation due consideration. *(Cheers from Government Benches).*

I have assured hon. Members of the Upper House this morning that they should look up to the same co-operation, loyalty, sympathy and dignity and respect which they have always received from me in the past from my hon. Colleague who now takes over Chieftaincy matters for this Region, and it was a sincere assurance.

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 and 2 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

Bill reported without amendment, read the Third time and passed.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION (REPORT)

Alhadji D. S. Adegbenro: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to report to the House the recommendations of the Committee of Selection.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House	Member
3. The Minister of Health and Social Welfare	Member
4. The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources	Member
5. The Minister of Lands and Housing	Member
6. Chief Adekeye	Member
7. Mr S. T. Adelegan	Member
8. Chief J. O. Fadahunsi	Member

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House	Member
3. Mr J. O. Awopeju	Member
4. Mr S. T. Adelegan	Member
5. Mr G. I. Oviyasu	Member

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Justice and Attorney-General	Member
3. Chief S. B. Aruwajoye	Member
4. Mr J. A. Odutuga	Member
5. Mr A. Adelodun	Member
6. Mr M. O. Ijie	Member
7. Mr I. A. Olukoju	Member
8. Mr B. I. Ewah	Member
9. Mr A. B. Bello	Member
10. Mr S. O. Akerele	Member

HOUSE COMMITTEE

1. Mr Speaker	Chairman
2. The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House	Member
3. Mr N. A. B. Kotoye	Member
4. Mr S. A. Akerele	Member
5. Mr F. H. Utomi	Member
6. Mr O. Olaitan	Member

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

1. Chief Adedapo Adekeye	Chairman
2. Mr S. Onasanya	Member
3. Mr J. U. E. Agbasa	Member
4. Mr A. Ajibola	Member
5. Mr D. A. Popoola	Member

6. Mr S. Sobande	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
7. Mr Y. Adekunle	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
8. Mr V. I. Amadasun	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
9. Mr P. K. Tabiowo	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
10. Mr R. A. Akinyemi	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member
11. Chief J. O. Fadahunsi	...	...	...	...	...	...	Member

Question proposed (that the recommendations be accepted).

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Chief Adeyi): I propose that the House do now adjourn.

Alhadji Adegbenro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Wild Animals

Mr A. A. Adesanya: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to raise a matter of utmost importance not only to my constituency but also to all hon. Members of this House and the people of the Region. Many of us have never seen an elephant. The only thing many of us have ever seen or known of it is the picture and what we read in the papers. (*Interruptions... No. Many have seen it*). In any case, Mr Speaker, Sir, for the past two years, elephants have been molesting the peace of the inhabitants of some farm villages in Ijebu-Igbo area. They have destroyed not only farm crops but on many occasions have entered the villages and in the process had killed not less than two people. Many farm villages have been totally abandoned. Those who have the courage to remain in their farms live in constant fear of their lives. To people who live on farming, needless to say that as a result of this, that people have been thrown out of employment. When it is also remembered that many of these displaced people have many children in primary and secondary schools, it could be appreciated how great their sufferings are. Make no mistake about it, we have renowned hunters who can kill elephants with their cap-guns, but they are handicapped. I am told that to kill an elephant one needs to obtain a permit. Not only this. I am told also that permits would not be issued to kill more than four elephants in a year in the whole of the Western Region. Sir, the time has now come when we have to decide which is more valuable—the lives and properties of men or the lives of elephants. I am sure all hon. Members would vote for the first. The law is made for man and not man for the law. I therefore strongly appeal to this Govern-

ment and through the Government of this Region to the Government of the Federation to issue as many permits as possible to kill these destructive elephants or in the alternative to give us the authority to kill them in self defence of our lives and properties. Thank you.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Chief G. Akin Deko):

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am fully aware of the predicament which the hon. Member has indicated on the floor of this House, but as he himself is aware, we are being guided and guarded by certain policies which are of interest not only to this House but also to the entire people of the Federation. These elephants are not supposed to live in this village. What happened is that we have got some species of this wild animal. The Government of the Federation, in the preservation of wild animals, thought that some of these species were becoming extinct and so ordered that people should not be allowed to destroy these species, and the elephant happens to be one. These elephants go from place to place. Today you hear of them in Ibadan, tomorrow in Ijebu and the next day in the Eastern Region, and therefore their lives and existence are of interest not only to one member of the village but to the whole Federation, and because of this the Committee for the preservation of wild animals has recommended that not more than six permits should be issued for the destruction of these particular species of inhabitants in the forest and we cannot exceed that. I have to say that if an elephant or any other wild beast makes the mistake of coming into the town, say in Ibadan, it is not my concern whether they are killed or not, they are only under my control when in the forest (*laughter*). When they come to the town it is not my duty, people can do whatever they like to them. But when they are in the forest only six permits can be issued to kill them.

Question put and agreed to.

The House accordingly adjourned sine die at 2.45 p.m.

INDEX

Column

(to Omnibus Issue No. 22)

ABBREVIATIONS:

Am=Amendment
1R, 2R, 3R=read First, Second or Third Time.
M=Motion

A	Column
ADEGBENRO, ALHADJI D. S.:	
Chiefs (Am) (No. 2) Bill, 2R ...	75, 79-81
Committee of Selection: Report ...	81-2
ADELEGAN, MR S. T.:	
Election of Deputy Speaker ...	7-8
ADESANYA, MR A. A.:	
Adjournment: Wild animals ...	83-4
ADISA, MR A.:	
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Bill, 2R ...	59-61
ADJOURNMENT:	
Accommodation for Members in Ibadan	39-40
Business of the House ...	14
Western Region Flag ...	33-9
Wild animals ...	83-4
AKINTOLA, CHIEF S. L.:	
Adjournment: Western Region Flag ...	35-9
Income Tax (Am) Bill, 2R ...	17
Ministerial Statement ...	8-13
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Bill, 2R ...	61-7
AKINYEMI, MR R. A.:	
Chiefs (Am) (No. 2) Bill, 2R ...	75-6
Income Tax (Am) (No. 3) Bill, 2R ...	23-4
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Bill, 2R ...	41-3
AKRAN, OBA C. D.:	
Chiefs (Am) (No. 2) Bill, 2R ...	78
AMADASU, MR V. I.:	
Election of Speaker ...	5-6
Income Tax (Am) Bill, 2R ...	17
Income Tax (Am) (No. 3) Bill, 2R ...	21
AWOPEJU, MR J. O.:	
Election of Deputy Speaker ...	7
B	
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE: ...	14, 4
C	
CHIEFS (Am) (No. 2) BILL:	
1R ...	75
2R, 3R ...	75-82
COMMITTEE OF SELECTION:	
New Members ...	15-6
Report ...	81-4
D	
DEKO, CHIEF G. AKIN:	
Adjournment: Wild animals ...	84

E	Column
EDUCATION (AM) BILL:	
1R ...	16
2R, 3R ...	31-3
ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER ...	7-8
ELECTION OF SPEAKER ...	5-6
Speaker's acceptance speech ...	6
ELUSADE, MR T. E.:	
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Bill, 2R ...	43
F	
FADAHUNSI, CHIEF J. O.:	
Income Tax (Am) (No. 3) Bill, 2R ...	24-5
FANI-KAYODE, MR R. A.:	
Chiefs (Am) (No. 2) Bill, 2R ...	77-8
Income Tax (Am) Bill, 2R ...	17
Income Tax (Am) (No. 3) Bill, 2R ...	21-2
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Bill, 2R ...	43-6
I	
INCOME TAX (AM) BILL:	
1R ...	16
2R, 3R ...	16-8
INCOME TAX (AM) (No. 3) BILL:	
1R ...	61
2R, 3R ...	21-31
K	
KOTOYE, MR N. A. B.:	
Election of Speaker ...	5
Income Tax (Am) (No. 3) Bill, 2R ...	28-9
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Bill, 2R ...	47-50
L	
LAYONU, MR S. A.:	
Income Tax (Am) (No. 3) Bill, 2R ...	27-8
M	
MEMBERS: FREE PASSAGE TO THE HOUSE FOR (M) ...	14
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:	
Midwest Areas ...	8-13
O	
OATH ...	1-6, 15
ODEBIYI, CHIEF J. A. O.:	
Adjournment: Accommodation for Members in Ibadan ...	40
Adjournment: Business of the House ...	14, 41
Committee of Selection: New Members ...	15-6
Income Tax (Am) Bill, 2R ...	16
Income Tax (Am) (No. 3) Bill, 2R ...	21, 29-31
Members: Free Passage to the House for ...	14
Produce Sales Tax (Am) Bill, 2R ...	18
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61) Bill, 2R ...	19-20, 67-71

	Column
OKUMAGBA, MR D. E.:	
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61)	
Bill, 2R	54-6
OLUMOFIN, MR D. K.:	
Election of Deputy Speaker	7
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61)	
Bill, 2R	51-3
OMOKOWAJO, MR J. O.:	
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61)	
Bill, 2R	53-4
ONABAMIRO, DR S. D.:	
Education (Am) Bill, 2R... ..	31-3
OPALEYE, ALHADJI Z. A.:	
Chiefs (Am) (No. 2) Bill, 2R	76
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61)	
Bill, 2R	56-8
OSADEBAY, MR D. C.:	
Adjournment: Western Region Flag ...	33-5
Education (Am) Bill, 2R	33
Income Tax (Am) Bill, 2R	7-8
OSUNTOKUN, CHIEF J. O.:	
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61)	
Bill, 2R	58-9
OTOBO, MR J. E.:	
Income Tax (Am) (No. 3) Bill, 2R ...	25-7

	Column
OYEWOLE, MR S. O.:	
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61)	
Bill, 2R	50-1
P	
PRODUCE SALES TAX (Am) BILL:	
1R	16
2R, 3R	18-9
R	
RERRI, MR A. T.:	
Income Tax (Am) (No. 3) Bill, 2R ...	22-3
Supplementary Appropriation (1960-61)	
Bill, 2R	46-7
S	
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION	
(1960-61) BILL:	
1R	16
2R, 3R	19-20; 41-75
T	
TABIOWO, MR P. K.:	
Adjournment: Accommodation for Mem-	
bers in Ibadan	39-40
U	
UTOMI, MR F. H.:	
Chiefs (Am) (No. 2) Bill, 2R	76-7

[MR OTOBO]

believe the Western Region electorate would have answered them. But it will not do and we had better stress this point. The Opposition chase their tails every minute. They ought to be ashamed of themselves. Before the elections, the Leader of the Opposition even paraded every village in my constituency to tell them that the NCNC had some laudable policies to pursue after the elections. In spite of those policies paraded all over the Region they were rejected and yet these very people who had been rejected by the electorate come here to shout.

Opposition Benches: Carpet-crosser.

Mr Otobo: Mr Speaker Sir, I have this to say by way of an aside. I happen to overhear of somebody saying "carpet-crosser". When I crossed over to this side of the House I was challenged to go and test my popularity. I have done so now and I am here. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). While we are talking of carpet-crossing, I will, Mr Speaker, make no comments on some members forming a grand alliance with the NCNC today and tomorrow forming another grand alliance with the NPC. (*Cheers and jeers from both sides of the House*).

However, Mr Speaker, the point I wish to make is that on all these Boards and Corporations as much as possible the Opposition will be given a place not inferior to their representation in this House. We want it to be absolutely made clear to the Opposition that Government is determined not to project the policies of the Opposition. In view of the noise made before the elections, now that we are in power the best way to project our policies is to ensure that our members are in the majority on all boards so as to project, not the policies of the Leader of the Opposition, but our own policies. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Mr S. A. Layonu: I rise to oppose the Bill not because I am a Member of the Opposition but for the simple reason that the Bill is designed as a means to oppress the Opposition. When the last speaker got up, I was expecting to hear the reasons why the membership has been increased but I did not know that he was going to support his senior Minister. In fact I was very much surprised that a person who was born by the NCNC politically and later on, for one reason or the other, joined the Action Group could get up to say that it is merely according to the policy of the Government. He laid much emphasis on the results of the last elections, but I must tell him this, that of all

the Members of this House the Members of the Opposition.....(*interruptions*). The reason is, I am sure that the last regional elections were not fairly conducted. The Government party won the elections by fraudulent means and so they should not boast much about their victory. I am quite sure, Sir, that in future when elections are conducted by the Federal Government you will see that the NCNC will take over the Government from the Action Group. This party will continue to win future elections.

The membership of this Income Tax Board has been increased mainly to secure appointments for members of the Action Group who acted as Organising Secretaries during the last elections. The Minister of Finance and the subordinate Minister who has just spoken have failed to state the reasons. What the Opposition members want to know are reasons why you have increased the membership; if they could state those reasons we would know what to say. I know the Government has different ways of victimising members of the Opposition. The Minister of Local Government is here. This is another means to oppress the members of the Opposition. Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

Mr N. A. B. Kotoyé: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this very admirable Bill. (*Cheers from Government Benches*). I do not intend at this stage to answer the palpable ignorance which has been displayed by the Opposition in respect of the powers of the Federal Government *vis-a-vis* this Government, but I would like to say, Sir, that taking stock of the speeches of Opposition Members in regard to those aspects of it which are relevant and salient, you will agree that the speeches have lacked objectivity and clarity and have been full of repetitions of one aspect and a careful analysis will show that there is a great deal of unemployment on the other side of the House. This is quite clear because the Opposition is not saying that Action Group members should not sit on this Board. What they want is that an opportunity should be created for unemployed Members of the other side.

I think I can say that this Bill is not designed to relieve unemployment on the Opposition Benches. It is actually to promote the welfare of this Region; to provide, to cater for able and independent people as the reasons and objects of the Bill have shown.

As a floor Member of the House, I would like to sound this one note of warning and it is this, that if there is anybody in this Region

[MR KOTOYE]

who should be not allowed to sit on the Regional Tax Board, it is certainly Members of the Opposition because all of us are quite aware of the statement which they made in respect of income tax before the election—a statement which has not been retracted. And I think if there is any enemy which should not be allowed to sit on the Regional Tax Board, it is certainly people who have said they are going to abolish tax, they are going to make it impossible for the Government to co.....(*interruptions*) make it impossible for this Government to work. But, be that as it may, Sir, I would, I think, like to draw the attention of hon. Members to the objects and reasons of this Bill (*interruptions*). It is only people who have not read it clearly who would say that the objects and reasons are not clear.

One thing is certain; an independent Member is an independent Member whatever you might say, and it is quite clear that in so far as the Opposition Members are concerned, nobody is an independent member in this Region unless he is a Member of the NCNC. Surely, even in spite of the eight years' experience which they have talked of, they have not been able to specify examples or instances where this Government has actually departed from pledges stated in objects and reasons and where we have started that independent people will be appointed to posts and, in point of fact, people of party affiliation have been put (*interruptions*)..... I think it is only in this way that any criticism from the Opposition would deserve any answer from this side of the House, and I would say, Sir, that it is to be regretted that, taking all the speeches from the Opposition together, Government is not helped at all by any suggestion as to what should be done (*interruptions*). I say, Sir, that the objects of this Bill are quite clear; the reasons are also quite clear and I don't have to read (*interruptions*.....) the objects and reasons. It is this:

"The reasons are to provide for an increase in the membership of the Regional Tax Board and in the number of independent members from three to six."

I support the Bill, Sir.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope the hon. Members of the Opposition will listen very carefully to what I shall say. As Members are aware the present membership of the Regional Tax Board is seven: one Chairman who is a public officer, three independent members and three Civil Servants. The reason why we want to increase the number of independent members

is to make them more in number than those officials.....(*Opposition Benches: that is no reason*). Mr Speaker, Sir, first they would say "there is no reason"; when the reasons are given, they say "not good reasons". Not only that, Sir; for the information of Members who are new, these days, you see, the political pendulum keeps swinging from left and right, to centre and left, backwards and forwards, for those who are just new in the House and I have great pleasure in welcoming the hon. Member for Ife.....(*interruptions*). As far as one party is concerned, he is known in one division in this Region and fortunately, his crude form of fascism has been taken away—uprooted from this Division.....(*interruptions*).

When the hon. Patron of the NCNC.....(*interruptions*).....he mixed up the Income Tax Law with the Local Government written regulations. The Income Tax Law is quite different from Local Government Regulations. The complaints which have often been made by Members of the Opposition are that Assessment Committees of Local Government Councils were assessing people arbitrarily (*interruptions*), but the application of the Income Tax Law does not fall to the ground on the same precept because it was officials who used to administer the Income Tax Law and what we are now trying to do is to have independent Members who, in addition to officials, would advise the Minister of Finance as to the functions and the Minister's functions in relation to the raising of revenue. Somebody also has said that what he intended to do was to provide jobs for the boys. Mr Speaker, Sir, I don't know of any Government in the Federation today which, in one way or the other, does not provide jobs for the boys.

Only last week, Sir, since the inception of the new Houses, we have not had the opportunity of the presence of the hon. Member for Ife-Ila because.....(*interruptions*). He has been my childhood friend. In view of the fact that the hon. Member for Ife-Ila North has been my childhood friend, I should not like to embarrass him. Now, Mr Speaker, the hon. the Minister for Midwest Affairs has already told the House of the consistent inconsistencies of the NCNC.

Opposition Benches: We are consistent.

Chief Odebiyi: You are consistent in your inconsistency. During the electioneering period we heard from the veritable Member for Ife that tax should be completely avoided (*interruptions*). Mr Speaker, Sir, one thing we have been told, and Members on this side of the House will agree with me, that charity begins at home; is that so or not? That being so, Sir, one would have expected

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

that the Federal Government in which they are the junior partners and also the Eastern Regional Government, ought to have done exactly the same thing which they ask us to do in this Region (*interruptions*). For, Mr Speaker Sir, I know the reason why they wanted us to raise less revenue in this Region than in other parts of the Federation. The social amenities provided in this Region since the inception of the Action Group Government have become an object of envy, spite and contempt.....(*interruptions*). The hon. the Leader of the Opposition says he is a native of this Region (*Opposition Benches: It is so*) and I am very happy to say that after a few years which he enjoyed in Aba he is now back in the Region.

I do not, however, intend to take more of your time and more of the time of the hon. Members of the House. I can only say, Sir, that this Government will not appoint just anybody to the Regional Tax Board. I myself will stake my personal reputation on this. The Federal Members of the Regional Tax Board are as follows:

One Mr Giwa-Osagie in Benin;

One Mr Lloyd who is a worker in Lagos; and

Chief Samuel Akinsete who is a timberman.

Anybody can satisfy me that any of them is a politician; I am prepared to prove it (*interruptions*). Incidentally, Sir, they have the right to make allegations but I will be the judge of who a politician is. So with these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

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. (House in Committee).

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the chair.

Bill reported without amendments, read a Third time and passed.

EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1960

—Second Reading

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education (Dr S. D. Onabamiro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of the Bill for a Law to amend the Education Law, 1954. Mr Speaker Sir, in doing this I consider it good fortune on my side that the theme of my maiden speech in this honourable House is

one in connection with the Second Reading of a Bill which is absolutely uncontroversial.

Mr Speaker Sir, there are three amendments proposed for the Education Law, 1954, the provisions of which Members of this House are well acquainted with. I will take the amendments one by one. One is in connection with the time of notices for opening new educational institutions. In the old law, the time limit was three months, and the experience over the years, Sir, is that those who want to open the schools have not got enough time to do so early in January if they send their notices in September. Before the various processes of inspection and other items of procedure are gone through they would not receive notices in time for January. This is very inconvenient for proprietors of educational institutions, and so we are proposing to amend that law to read "July preceding the January". I take it that Members of the Opposition will agree with me that this is a most desirable amendment. (*Opposition Benches: We agree*).

Mr Speaker Sir, the second amendment refers to secondary modern schools which are of a private character. The law as it stands says that only public secondary modern schools are likely to set up bodies of managers. Many years ago there were only public secondary modern schools. As far back as 1954 there were only seventy-one of such schools. The law therefore relates to those, but these schools have since become very popular and as a matter of fact there are over 300 secondary modern schools today, most of them private. I believe that all Members of this House will agree that it is the duty of Government to protect parents of children from irregular practices by proprietors who may not be fulfilling those conditions laid down for secondary modern schools. It is thought that all secondary modern schools, be they private or public, should set up bodies of managers. The bodies of managers shall comprise six members out of which the proprietor himself is enabled to nominate two-thirds leaving the Minister of Education the proviso to nominate the remaining members on the bodies of managers. I take it again, Sir, that this is a desirable amendment (*Opposition Benches: We agree*).

The third one is a very simple one, Sir. The Government set up the Teachers' Terms of Service Committee some years ago, but in the law it was only the Chairman of the Teachers' Terms of Service Committee who could convene meetings of the Committee. We have found it rather difficult to process again Government business that should be

[DR° ONABAMIRO]

referred to this Terms of Service Committee. At the moment the Chairman of this Committee is in England and there are many matters on which I would like to consult with this Teachers' Terms of Service Committee without undue delay. The amendment is to enable the Minister to convene meetings of the Terms of Service Committee if and when necessary.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr D. C. Osadebay: Mr Speaker, Sir, I have been advised by the educationists of this side of the House that this is really non-controversial (*Cheers*). It is therefore our intention to deal lightly with the Minister especially as he is a new Minister.

Sir, we support 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).

Clauses 1 to 10 agreed to.

Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn till tomorrow morning.

Chief Ighodaro: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Western Region Flag

Mr D. C. Osadebay: Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to register the protest of the Opposition in the matter of the flag of the Western Region. One would have thought that in a matter of selecting a flag for the Region the Government should have consulted the Opposition. For instance, when an African was being appointed Governor of this Region the Opposition was consulted. It does not mean that if the Government consults the Opposition we (the Opposition) will not let them have their way. I think it is unfair to all of us to wake up one morning to hear on the radio that the Western Region has got a separate flag.

I have charged the Government for about eight years with separatist tendencies. It was this Government that started having its own

Commissioner in London and when other Governments followed suit they gathered all Commissioners for Nigeria in Nigeria House, but this Government kept their own Commissioner far away from Nigeria House. Then again there was the Mbanefo Commission: this Government started a different Commission—the Morgan Commission. I again called their attention to it. Why must this Government pursue a separatist policy?

The country is only about one week old in Independence and even if the Government wants to have its own flag, why not wait one or two years. Even then, why must we have another flag?

Now they may try to point to Australia, Canada and that sort of thing. In trying to find all these examples they must know that the Nigerian Federation is unique. It is unique in the sense that we are the only country that started in a unitary form and from that we split into a Federation—no other country in the whole world has done that. Ours is a case of one country being turned into this. Even if the Government wants to have a flag for the Western Region what they should have done was to emboss the symbol of the Western Region in the Green White Green flag of the whole nation. After all even the Union Jack is used in doing something like that. You will find in it the red ensign that is used by Australia and some other countries, and you will find that the Union Jack is embossed in one corner. You will find that in the white ensign used in the Merchant Ships the Union Jack is embossed in one corner. You will also find that in Canada.

If we have chosen a Green White Green—although I may not agree with it—my suggestion is that the Government should not have adopted a new flag different from the national flag. That flag which the Government has chosen is even worse than the national flag. As a matter of fact those who study colours will tell you that it signifies mourning. If you look at it there is nothing pleasing about it. The whole thing is blue black. The Green White Green is already dull enough. I don't agree with the flag being Green White Green but for patriotism (*interruptions*).

Quite apart from that I have raised two points and I want to say them again. The Government should have consulted us. They consulted us when they were choosing the Governor. The Premier sent to me and it does not matter whether I agreed with him or not; the Opposition was consulted before the Governor was appointed.

[MR OSADEBAY]

I am calling upon the Government to withdraw the flag.

Perhaps you will start thinking of writing a Regional Anthem. (*Interruptions*). On point of seriousness, Sir, I think it is wrong of the Government to choose a Regional Flag without consulting the Members of the Opposition and I think it is wrong to choose a dark blue flag. They should put our crest on the White of the green so that we all go the Nigerian way so that people may not think the Western Region is a separate country from Nigeria. (*Cheers from the Opposition*).

Chief S. L. Akintola: Speaking for this side of the House, may I say how grateful I am to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition for raising this vital issue. The Government of this Region is the collective responsibility of all Members of this House. The responsibility may only vary in degree (*Laughter*). All of us are collectively responsible and from the fine way the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has put his argument, this is one more proof of his realisation that he is part and parcel of the Government of this Region. (*Cheers*).

May I say how deeply sorry I am that the usual consultation which used to take place between us did not take place in this case. Accept our apology from the bottom of my heart. It is not with a view to slighting the Opposition at all that this consultation did not take place. It is one of those things that one can regard as inescapable in life. Sincerely, I am deeply sorry that this consultation did not take place. I am quite sure, for the benefit of you pompous Members of that side, may I mention that this is just one solitary case of lack of consultation with Members of the Opposition. (*Cheers*). In the interest of my Friends opposite, hon. Fani-Kayode should stand up from the front bench (*interruptions*) because he will be arguing from the knowledge which he has not possessed of the doings and misdoings. I will ask Members not to listen to him. He would like to copy what is happening elsewhere. Those who know the implications of newcomers are in the habit of not listening to Fani-Kayode. He used to be Action Group of this side not of the other side..... (*interruptions*).

Mr Fani-Kayode: On point of Order, Sir.

Government Benches: What order, please? He has no order.

Chief Akintola: May I say again that if you are AG (of this side) and left of your accord, why should an attempt be made to be AG in Lagos by the back door? (*Laughter*).

All of us are not surprised that the Attorney-General is not from that side. (*Cheers*).

Mr Osadebay: The Attorney-General of the West or of the Federation?

Chief Akintola: I must protest on behalf of my Friends that that is too expensive a joke. (*Laughter*).

Hon. T. O. Elias is Attorney-General of the Federation and hon. Fani-Kayode is not; and of course, the Attorney-General is A.G. just as we are A.G. on this side. (*Cheers*).

May I go back to the question of this flag. I have expressed my apology that there was no consultation in accordance with the standard established in this Region; not the standard established elsewhere in the Federation. The Opposition in Lagos was never consulted in the matter of the National Flag. There was no consultation with the Opposition in Lagos. I say this with all sense of responsibility because I know a bit of all that is happening there just as I know what is happening here. I say lack of consultation on the basis established here, not on the standard established in Lagos. If I went by the standard established in Lagos, I would not be sorry at all for not consulting you because the Opposition in Lagos was never consulted.

Now may I proceed too to say that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition was very sorry. Of course, the colour chosen here depicts mourning. I notice that the flag of the Region is blue-black, according to him, and yellow. From my own knowledge of colour, black indicates mourning, not yellow, not blue-black.

Mr Osadebay: The main flag is blue-black. (*Interruptions*).

Chief Akintola: It is blue-black. Even if it depicts mourning, for the purpose of argument, isn't it proper? After all there are so many political funerals now going on. (*Laughter*). Some are even dying politically today and some are living in golden ages. (*Laughter*). It is proper to have an element of mourning too.

May the souls.....(*interruptions*).

Opposition Benches: You mean those who lost the Federal Elections.

Chief Akintola: Those who lost the Federal Elections are still groaning. Also we have some of these pillars of Society who are fit to be seen in the Legislature never to be heard again.

Government Benches: Shame, shame.

Chief Akintola: Whether you like it or not, the Action Group is to be reckoned with, not only in this country but throughout the world. (*Cheers*). About nine people went from Nigeria to New York. People heard very little of the nine. It is always "Balewa spoke in New-York, Balewa spoke in London". (*Interruptions*).

Unfortunately, some of the Members opposite me were not even considered fit to go to New York.

Government Benches: Shame, Shame.

Chief Akintola: Now on the question of flag, may I say for the information of Members that we have not done anything which may be considered as a departure from the general agreement reached by all Government of the Federation. All of us met and we agreed that there should be a National Flag and that each Region has a right to choose its own flag. (*Interruptions*).

I can reply to some of my Friends whose associations I know about, but there are some opposite whose associations I do not know anything about.

Opposition Benches: You don't need to know.

Chief Akintola: Well, I don't need to know whether hon. Adisa is a Hausa man or an Ibo man. (*Laughter*). For the purpose of information, hon. Adisa is a Hausa man from Ibadan (*Interruptions*).

He happens to be a Hausa man who does not know a single Hausa word. (*Laughter*).

Now, to come back, we all agreed that each Region should have its own National Flag—I am happy the Leader of the Opposition was kind enough to admit that—and that it must depict life within the Region and symbolise something from the people of the Region. In the light of the context of the agreement we reached with the North, with the East, with the Federal Government, we exercised that right to depict a flag which we felt would be symbolical and whose symbol would be understood by the people of this Region. So we got a separate flag of our own, but in order to demonstrate the oneness of the country, we stated specifically that the flag of this Region should be

flown together with the National Flag. What else should we do? I am sure and I know, the Opposition Leader is a lawyer. The Eastern Regional Government has had a specific flag of its own. The National Flag which is defaced with the crest of the Eastern Region is no longer a National Flag. It is a specific flag of the Eastern Region. The Northern Region has had its own flag which is defaced by the crest of the Northern Region.

Opposition Benches: It is so done all over the world.

Chief Akintola: It is not so done all over the world.

We have all accepted the Federal form of Constitution. The Western Region Government is not a Provincial Administration under Balewa. This is a Government in its own right.

Mr Osadebay: Bare legalism.

Chief Akintola: May I say this.....

Mr Osadebay: They can do anything and nobody can ask.

Chief Akintola: The Constitution of Nigeria was not made by you. Your book vendor will tell you that we put into that Constitution more than you realise.

Opposition Benches: Learn from Ghana.

Chief Akintola: Balewa is not Nkrumah. Nkrumah is not Balewa, and Chief Awolowo is not the Leader of the Opposition in Ghana either. The Action Group is not the type of Opposition anybody can trample upon. I am in sympathy with those who are on the other side of the House. They are clever enough to enslave Azikwe. May I end on this note—We stand for the unity of the Federation of Nigeria, and we are prepared to work towards unity in the country. But take note, we are not going to play second fiddle to anybody. If anyone does anything to challenge democracy in this country, he will be sorry for himself.

Opposition Benches: We won't challenge democracy, we will use democratic means.

Chief Akintola: May I ask some of my Friends opposite to study the Constitution again. (*Cheers from the Government Benches*). He is a lawyer and I am a politician. I joined in drafting the Constitution right from the beginning to the end.

Mr Osadebay: While I was in the Bar, you were a student in London.

Chief Akintola: That is why I always say, "Long live all aged Members".

May I say this. In the Constitution of Nigeria, there is no provision under which the Federal Government can dissolve any Legislature.

Mr Osadebay: If the Premier does not agree, I can tell him how the Federal Government can dissolve a Regional Legislature. They will bring two Motions. The first to amend the Constitution, the second to dissolve the House.

Chief Akintola: May I say Sir, that under the Constitution, the Federal Government has no power to dissolve the Northern House of Assembly, or the Eastern House of Assembly. But may I say this, for those of you who were not there, that was stated in the Constitution that the position obtaining in any Federal Constitution is.....(*Cheers from Government Benches*).

Opposition Benches: Wait and see.

Chief Akintola: In case of emergency, that is, when law and order have broken down.....(*Interruptions from Opposition Benches*).....the people who want to assume power in the Region are those who cannot even control themselves. If you think you have the power, may I tell you that Balewa knows better than any of you. (*Prolonged interruptions from Opposition Benches*).

If you have the power to dissolve the Western Regional Government, I challenge you; go and do it.

ACCOMMODATION FOR HONOURABLE MEMBERS IN IBADAN

Mr P. K. Tabiowo: Mr Speaker Sir, I wish to raise a matter here this morning which I hope is not controversial. It is a matter that affects Members of the Regional Legislature on both sides except the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. For about eight years (old Members will bear me out) the question of accommodation for hon. Members during the session of this House has always been very difficult. We always expect Members to be at their best, they must also, therefore, put themselves in better places with comfort and ease. I am dividing my debate into two parts. First, I made an approach to the Government during the life of the old House that Members of the House should be provided with suitable accommodation and I think Government agreed to this matter, but till now there has not been any sign of anything being done. Nothing has been done to ease Members' difficulties.

Now, Mr Speaker Sir, when we came for the Independence Celebrations, before we came we sent in application for accommodation in the Catering Rest House. But we were told that all the Catering Rest House chalets were occupied by the Government and that each Member should look for accommodation by himself. When we came, it was different from what happened in 1956 during the Queen's Visit, because at that time when chalets were taken up by the Government, they were all actually taken up and occupied. But in this instance, the chalets were not all occupied but yet Members were denied accommodation. There was a short break. When we returned we found it quite impossible to obtain accommodation and we were told that the Government Order was still on. What did we see? All the chalets were taken up by football visitors. Hon. Members were all denied accommodation even up to this morning. I applied before I left on the 5th but when I reached here, I had to go about Ibadan looking for accommodation, while we have these football players occupying all the chalets.

I hope you will place yourself in our own place. We are all responsible people from our own area (*An hon. Member: Is that so?*)... Yes, I am responsible. Up to this moment, the football players are all there in the Catering Rest House—even while we were taking our breakfast. I am asking that Members should be given due respect as hon. Members. There is no need calling us hon. Members when we are treated in this way. I appeal to the Minister of Home Affairs also to get in touch with members of his staff that they give us due respect.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am in sympathy with the views expressed by the last speaker. Members are aware, we have a large number of distinguished guests to provide accommodation for during the Independence Celebrations and the people occupying the Catering Rest House are some of the people taking part in one of the items of the Celebrations.

It is true Members made representations to the Government for the building of, chalets or blocks of flats for Members convenience when the House is sitting. We are still trying to work out details, such as, how the House will be used when we are not meeting. I intend to pass it to the House Committee who will go into details and report to us sometime later.

Question put and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 12.30 p.m. until tomorrow, Tuesday, 11th October, 1960 at 10.00 a.m.

WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 1960

The House met at 10.10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Finance and Leader of the House (Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi): Today being Tuesday is Private Members' Day. However, since the dissolution of the House and fresh elections the Motions that were before the old House have lapsed.

Suspension of Standing Order 4 (2)

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Order 4 (2) be suspended this day to allow the House to continue sitting at 1.00 p.m., if necessary.

The Minister of State (Agriculture and Natural Resources) (Mr C. I. Akere): I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

Chief J. A. O. Odebiyi: I beg to move that at its rising this day the House shall adjourn *sine die*.

Mr C. I. Akere: I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

1960-61 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (No. 2) BILL

Adjourned Debate on the Question (10th October)—“That the Bill be read a Second time”.

Question again proposed.

Mr R. A. Akinyemi: Mr Speaker Sir, we of the Opposition are not opposing this Bill as it stands in principle but we have so many things to criticise in it. This Appropriation Bill is another demonstration of the way in which the Western Region Government squanders public money. In the first place most of the items of the Appropriation Bill are for increases in connection with the salaries and allowances of Ministers. I do not know why the Regional Government should be creating a Ministry within a Ministry. There is a Regional Minister of Education and another Minister

in the Ministry of Education and there is also a Parliamentary Secretary. The Government have eighty Members on that side and there are twenty-two Ministers. For each of these Ministers there is a sum of £2,000 being voted as salary for eight months only.

That is another squandermania. It is astonishing to find out these figures in the Appropriation Bill.

The Government has not made any effort to make any provision for any economic development of the Region in this Appropriation Bill. The only thing we can find is the loan for housing. We are not quarrelling with that, but why is it impossible for the Government to reduce the number of Ministers in order to get money for other capital expenses? I think the Government is trying their usual way to get money into their pockets by creating puppet Ministers in order to consolidate their gains in those places where they won during the last elections.

Chief Odebiyi: What is wrong with that?

Mr Akinyemi: It is astonishing that the Minister of Finance has agreed that what they have done was intentional and it has borne out the charge of the Opposition that this Government is the most wasteful Government in the whole of Nigeria. After all—I will dilate a bit—even in the Federal Legislature where you have three hundred and five Members, there are not as many as seventeen Ministers there. When we know what is happening in the Federal House, this is a clear indication of squandermania. The salary of a Parliamentary Secretary has been revised and it is now £500. The Parliamentary Secretary will earn money, the Regional Minister in the Ministry will earn money and the Minister proper himself will do the same and all these subordinate Ministers are created in order to find Ministries for people who are good boys of the Party in power.

Apart from the provision made in the Ministry of Agriculture for the encouragement of cocoa planting and extension work there is no money allocated for any other thing. In the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare there is a huge amount set aside for hospitals whilst in Mushin constituency, where I come from, there is not a single hospital and a single health service. Apart from the roads at Ikeja there are no roads in Mushin and there is no water supply except that provided by the Federal Government. What have we so far in education? Nothing.

That is all I have to say as far as this Bill is concerned. We are supporting it in principle but we are criticising it as far as the items are concerned.

Mr T. E. Elusade: Although it is occasionally necessary for Government to present supplementary estimates to the House, I will say that these supplementary Estimates are beyond what is necessary and justifiable having regard to our educational, social and industrial development. In these Supplementary Estimates it has been clearly manifested that the aim of the Action Group Government is just to provide extra luxury for the very few on top at the expense of the masses. For example, Regional Ministers in Ministries have been provided for in the following Ministries: Justice, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Trade and Industry, Local Government, Education and Economic Planning. These are puppet posts created by the Government because every Member of the Government side must be a Minister. Rather the following new Ministries have been created: Ministry of Information, Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Chieftaincy Affairs. All these should have grouped under one Head; this is sheer waste of money and there is only one reason, and one reason only to justify all this type of expenditure—to provide extra luxuries for the very few on top at the expense of social development and the common tax-payer. Mr Speaker, Sir, I am vehemently opposing this supplementary Bill. (*Government Benches: Have you finished? If you have finished, sit down.....laughter, laughter*) (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*).....Head 328, Sub-head 1, Head 329, Head 330, Head 334, Head 336 and Head 337. These are expenditures involving the tax-payer in thousands of pounds and what are they to get from it? They are personal emoluments for those on top. Moreover, we have not been able to know specifically what the duties of the Minister for Chieftaincy Affairs consist of (*Government Benches: There is no work, there is no work*). The only reason for creating such can only be to give it to a particular division where the Government used to have support simply because they are now losing their support and this is the only way out to get the people back. Because of this—to provide luxuries for the few on top—I say that it is sheer waste of money and unjustified.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is amazing that this Government which has always boasted of being the Government with the most planned economy submitted an Appropriation Bill earlier on and is now

submitting a Supplementary Appropriation Bill to the tune of £4 million. What happened to the £24 million? (*Interruptions from Government Benches.....Cheers from Opposition Benches*).....It is a pity that the hon. the Premier is away when we are discussing this most important Bill but it seems to me, Sir, that where any Government, any responsible Government, has made a plan for the development of the Region for a fiscal year very urgent and very important matters only can make it come before the House again to ask for more money, excepting the Government which is completely and totally irresponsible. (*Shouts of "fire on, fire on," from Opposition Benches*) I make bold to say that this Government, headed by this Premier, is totally, completely and absolutely irresponsible, and the best evidence of that is this very Appropriation Bill which is the most nefarious to be presented to this honourable House. I am certain, Sir, that if this Bill is placed before the electorate in a referendum it can never be passed (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). The hon. the Minister of Finance misdirected me a few minutes ago and I know that to be the attitude of Members from that Bench (*Interruptions from Government Benches*).....Sir, the full amount appropriated from this House happened to be £56,533,845. I am now saying, Sir, that it seems to me that this Government now wants another £1,402,098. The advent in this Region of the hon. the Premier and this Government seems to be an incentive to an orgy of reckless expenditure and I am certain, Sir, that past Governments of this Region and, possibly, past Premiers, owing to their tribal characteristics and personal feelings, would quiver about such an Appropriation Bill. (*Cheers from the Opposition Benches*). This Region has got a catalyst for squandermania of the most reckless nature of the public funds of this Region and, looking at the Bill proposed, it seems to remind me of the Liberian army a few years ago, where you had fifty soldiers, forty generals and twenty lieutenants. We have (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*)...It is amazing, it is shocking, and only this Government which claims to be a paragon perfection in this country can come before a legislature with such a Bill. It is amazing that under such circumstances the Premier can be amused by such a Bill. It is amazing that under such circumstances the Premier can be amused, where Organising Secretaries become Ministers in this House. (*Opposition Benches: Shame, shame, shame*) simply because they are members of the Party in power, because what else should we have

when we have twenty-four of these people at £2,000 per annum only for eight months! (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*)..... (*Interruptions from Government Benches*).

The Premier (Chief S. L. Akintola): But we were together there.

Mr Fani-Kayode: It is most unbecoming for a Premier of a Region to join in a group of hecklers. (*Prolonged cheers from the Opposition Benches*)..... I am very surprised to see that a Premier can wallow in the gutter of politics.

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Gentleman please withdraw that sentence.

Mr Fani-Kayode: Withdrawn, I withdraw. (*Government Benches: shame, shame, shame*)..... It is most unbecoming for the Premier or any Minister to refer to another Member of the House by name: "Fani-Kayode does this," "Osadebay did this," "Balewa said that" or "Azikiwe said so." It seems to me as if the irresponsibility of this Government is not only confined to financial matters. (*Government Benches: shame, shame, shame*).

Mr Speaker: Order, order. I must confess that since many Members are new, I have allowed some latitude for Members of this honourable House to describe other Members either by their names or Constituencies and although this is not in the Standing Orders I allow both the Government and the Opposition to carry on in that fashion.

Mr Fani-Kayode: I am very happy Mr Speaker, and I am sure all new Members, like the Premier, of this House will stick to that. It is quite clear that this sum is provided for sustaining the Obas. (*Government Benches: we have an expenditure of how much for this?*) £24,000 (*Government Benches: for the organising secretaries*). No, they are no organising secretaries but principal organising secretaries, and it is amazing, Sir, that this House, this socialist party, this welfare state people, these people who promulgate all over the world that they are for the masses of people, will have the effrontery again to come before this House to ask for £24,000 to increase the salaries of the Obas; and, furthermore, Sir, let us look at the Estimates of the Minister for Chieftaincy Affairs. I think, Sir, that something was said that the Obas were the rulers and controllers of their own destiny. What do we have? They have made the Obas in this Region a complete jest, and furthermore, they put the Obas in the conflict of politics; they have turned them into a bust of ridicule.

Chief Akintola: Do not deceive yourself; the Obas know their friends.

Mr Fani-Kayode: If not this why is it that one Minister should be able, just with a stroke of the pen, to remove any of them? When they are fed up with any Oba who is becoming too troublesome in the provinces they bring him to Ibadan and keep him in a silver cage.

In all seriousness, the time has come for this Government to repent. We shall not oppose this Bill for the simple reason that we are not going to waste the time of this honourable House, but I think that the conscience of both the Premier of this Region and the lot of you must prick you and I am sure you will repent passing this Bill in this House.

Mr A. T. Rerri: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to align myself with the views expressed by those who have spoken before me. I mean the Members on the Opposition side. In the first instance I would like to criticise the Government for intending to rush these Supplementary Estimates in the way they have done and are still doing. I should like to say this, that no Member on the Government Bench, the Minister of Finance included, can claim to have made a comprehensive study of these Estimates within the few minutes they were out yesterday. This is surely an attempt on the part of the Government to play an unfair game with the Opposition.

In the second place, Mr Speaker, it has been said that those who helped the party one way or the other during the last elections have been given jobs as Ministers, Regional Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. It can be said that this also has been done in anticipation of the creation of a Midwest State so that Government may have a majority there.

Another point, Mr Speaker, is that a cursory study of the Estimates shows that developments tend to be concentrated in a section of the West. I do not like to refer to them in a tribalistic way, as they use to say, but Mr Speaker, Sir, without going to any details it can be seen that the major proportion of developments is concentrated in a part of the Western Region other than the Midwest, and I am not happy about this. Well, Sir, the hon. Minister on the other side is annoyed about this but I suppose this is simply a fact and need not annoy anybody. Now, Sir, as an example, as I think it will be unfair on the Leader of the House and on the House generally if I make a statement which

[MR RERRI]

I cannot substantiate, there is no large town in this part of the Region without water supply. But a town like Sapele has no water supply. There is no other town of the same importance and size in the whole of the Western Region which has got no water supply, but it does not follow that this is of general application.

Now, Sir, there is one other point which was raised: the question of the Government using our Chiefs as their Principal Organising Secretaries. It is a fact, and everybody in this House knows it, that it is impossible now to the end of time that with the present set-up, the machinery for the selection or election of Chiefs, that an NCNC-inclined or NCNC member Chief can ever enter the House of Chiefs. That is not because there are no NCNC Chiefs, but because as soon as a Chief identifies himself overtly with the NCNC, his chance of ever becoming a Member of the House of Chiefs is ruled out. I am citing another example. There is a Chief from my area, the Chief of Jese. This Chief keeps his mind open. He is a Chief of the people but I dare say that he has NCNC sympathy and automatically therefore there have been difficulties in his having his chieftaincy title approved by the Government. Now a society in which the Regional leaders ensure that a member can be barred for ever and a day from any institution, be it the House of Chiefs or the House of Assembly, is a bad one. At least provision should have been made for the minority areas. For instance, in the present House of Chiefs there are 124 members, all Action Group, and there is not a single NCNC. Now, I am saying this not because we are going to oppose this Bill, but it is necessary for us to point out some of the atrocities and undemocratic elements which it contains. As the Premier is good at answering questions he would probably like to answer himself so that he can relieve the Leader of the House of the pain of answering the charges levied against the Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said before we do not intend to oppose the Bill but we have undoubtedly made a number of points to which we would like the Leader of the House to reply.

Mr N. A. B. Kotoye: Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I would first of all like to deal with the criticism made this morning of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. This is the first occasion this year that this Government is bringing a Supple-

mentary Appropriation Bill to this House, so I say without fear of contradiction that we have not done worse than any other Government in the Federation. As a matter of fact we may have done better because the Federal Government, which the hon. Members on the Opposition Bench would like to refer to as an example, has brought not less than four Supplementary Appropriation Bills, and I am quite sure that after they shall have returned from the United Nations we shall be having another Supplementary Appropriation Bill. What is also more is this, that a careful look at the Supplementary Appropriation Bill will give a clear answer to the reason for bringing it. The first part of it is devoted to the increase in the Government which is made necessary first by the enlarged status of this House, and secondly by the amount of responsibilities which will now devolve upon this House in an independent Nigeria; what is also more is that for the first time, I think we can say, there is hardly any nook or corner in this Region where this Government is not truly represented by able and responsible men in this House. I will make no apology, and I am sure the Government will make no apology either, for ensuring that the Government of this Region is well represented by able and responsible men throughout the Region. This, as a matter of fact, we have done in a very honourable way. Unlike in the Eastern Region where Organising Secretaries have been made Provincial Commissioners, and what is more, we have no election in view at the present moment. When the Provincial Commissioners were created in the Eastern Region, it was with the Federal elections in view. In the Western Region, we have won the elections in a convincing manner and the elections was supervised by a man in whom you reposed confidence at that time.

What is also more—the Members opposite have criticised the items in the Estimates which this Government has made provision for.

As a matter of fact, under the capital expenditure which this Government has made provision for under Capital Non-Recurrent expenditure in the third schedule of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, you will find that nearly 1½ million pounds have been provided for buildings, roads and bridges, rural water supply, loans to farmers, education grants (*interruptions*).

Mr A. Adisa: In the Action Group areas.

Mr Kotoye: I need not go all the way to explain what this Government has done in its generous and simple way to provide for the people of this Region. What we have done in Ilesha stands out to all other (*interruptions*). (*Shame, shame*) (*cheers*).

Chief Odebiyi: On point of order. I want to reply to the Member who said "in Action Group areas". The Member for Ibadan, Mallam Adisa, talks of Action Group areas. The trouble with the hon. Member is that he does not belong to it (*prolonged laughter from all sides*).

Mr Kotoye: Now an hon. Member has referred to the rushing of the Estimates. I am quite sure that if this Government had wanted to do so, this Bill could have been passed yesterday. We have given them every opportunity to be able to clear their points.

The last point, I should like to touch on is the criticism which has been made by my hon. and learned Friend from Ife-Ila constituency. I am sure, and the Members on this side will bear me out, that his criticism of Chiefs is uncalled for because he is a frustrated Member. (*Shame, shame*).

I am sure that he is in too bitter a mood to see the progress and advancement in this Region since he took his seat on that side. Here is an hon. Member who went from this side of the House into another House and spent the greater part of his time defending the cause which he believed to be right, that is the case of the Alafin of Oyo. He has used every effort within his power to defend this right. And here is also an hon. Member who has spent the last twelve months of his life in criticising our respected and revered Governor, the Oni of Ife.

Mr Fani-Kayode: On point of order.....

Mr Speaker: The Governor of the Western Region should not be drawn into this debate.

Opposition Benches: Shame, Shame, (*laughter*).

Mr Speaker: You can refer to him as the Oni of Ife and not as Governor.

Mr Kotoye: I am referring to the Oni of Ife in person, Mr Speaker, I am not referring to the Governor but to the Oni. Therefore it is good to mention his name with due respect. We know the hon. Member to come from Ife township but it is not surprising to refer to his constituency as Ife-Ila because he cannot spend even a night in Ife (*interruptions*).....and the hon. Member knows very well the he would not

have come to this House with a single vote of a responsible citizen of Ife and that is why he has gone to the rural areas through the back door. (*Shame, shame*) (*prolonged laughter*). In any event I would like to say that this Government has done far more than any other Government in the Federation in raising the status of Chiefs and Obas in this Region. In the other House we have the Obas and Chiefs from all over the Region belonging to the Action Group as well as to the NCNC.

Opposition Benches: It is a lie; there is not a single NCNC there.

Mr Kotoye: Go to the Eastern House of Chiefs and tell me whether you can find any Action Group Member.

Opposition Benches: The Obong of Calabar is an Action Group member.

Mr Kotoye: Go to the Northern House of Chiefs. You cannot cross from the NPC to the Action Group and still remain in the House. On the other hand we have ensured that the traditions of our forefathers, as far as Obas and chiefs are concerned (*Hon. Members: What tradition? Traditions trampled*).....have been made intact and their status has been enhanced. It will not be, I am sure, to the credit of this Region and to the Members of the Western Region Legislature for the obas and chiefs to go to the street as paupers and beggars and that is why we are ensuring that these people are well paid so that they can adequately provide for themselves and their families. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr S. O. Oyewole: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on this Ministry of Local Government (*Government, Benches: What? Fire on*). It is disappointing to see that, although Government continue to say that they are doing everything to make people happy, they seem to have neglected the Local Government Police barracks. (*Hon. Members: Where? What are you saying, fire on, fire on*) (*prolonged interruptions*). I must say to you that you are only trying just to bring some buildings, I mean finding jobs for your supporters (*An hon. Member: What has that got to do with local government barracks?*) (*interruptions*). Well, as a new Member in this House (*An hon. Member: No wonder*) (*prolonged laughter*).

Mr Speaker: Will hon. Members allow the Gentleman to speak and allow us to hear what he is saying.

Mr Oyewole: Every Member here is a new Member. I was going on with my speech before the interruptions. I said that the Local Government Police barracks are left untouched, and Government thinks that there are many buildings which should be erected before them, but I am saying that a local government police barracks is one of the buildings which should be considered. I am not standing to oppose the bill, but the policy is what I am going to point out to you.

Speaking about Ministries, say, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Labour, I must tell you that you have just created these posts to benefit your supporters alone. Somebody who lost the favour of his party has only to cross over. The next thing is to make arrangements to confer a chieftaincy title on him. When you are doing this I know you are going to increase your organising secretaries. Not only that, when speaking about labour there are thousands and thousands roaming about the towns jobless, you don't consider them, but you are just increasing the number of your Ministers. I am telling you that you are only wasting Government funds. As far as the Ministry of Works is concerned (*interruptions*).....you may not be happy to listen to me; it will be seen that nothing is given to the Opposition but rather there is an attempt to destroy the Opposition, and I can tell you that any Government without Opposition is no Government (*prolonged cheers, jeers and cries of "shame, shame"*).

Mr Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of Members to Standing Order 29 (4) and (5) which says that Members shall be silent and confer only in undertones and prohibit unseemly interruptions while any Member is speaking.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr D. K. Olumofin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to stand up and explain something to the Members on the opposite side, particularly the Member for Ife Ila. I mention him because I know that he is suffering from frustration, as somebody has said, hence he comes here to speak with bitterness. Most of the Members of the Opposition have spoken from ignorance because the argument put up against the presentation of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill is that "it is unnecessary", but I want to say that, with the enlarged House, we have an additional forty-four Members.

May I ask, Mr Speaker.....

Mr Speaker: You don't ask me, you ask them through me.

Opposition Benches: Shame, shame.

Mr Olumofin: Does it mean in effect that the 44 additional Members should not be paid? Because provision has been made for them in these Supplementary Estimates.

As somebody has said, and I think I would not like to mention the name, this is a question of the pot calling the kettle black. Members of the Opposition have criticised the Government by saying that there are too many Ministers. I want to mention that in the Federal House, in the Prime Minister's office alone, there are three Federal Ministers and three Parliamentary Secretaries; and Members of the NPC, Mr Adisa in particular, should not have the effrontery to say that this Government has too many Ministers.

Opposition Benches: Hon. Adisa please, not Mr Adisa. Withdraw that.

Mr Olumofin: All right, hon. Adisa. One of the Members of the Opposition mentioned that the Government made Organising Secretaries Ministers. This is an achievement. Even in Ghana, we hear of one Mr Krobo Edusei, a quondam Secretary of the C.P.P. He is now a Minister.

Opposition Benches: We are not in Ghana.

Mr Olumofin: Now I want to come to another important point that the Opposition Members have made and this is in connection with Chieftaincy matters. Chieftaincy is regarded in this Region as a very sacred institution and it is surprising to see Members of the Opposition coming here to drag the institution in the mud. This is an upardonable offence. It is the policy of the Action Group Government to keep the chieftaincy institution sacred.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if the Members of the Opposition are sincere in their criticisms of the chieftaincy institution, why is it that most of them run about here and there, asking for chieftaincies to be conferred on them. I would like to single out Chief Fadahunsi who nearly committed suicide because he was not made a chief. Later, he had to go to a village of about 120 persons and ask them to make him a Chief. Now, he will answer to the title "Chief", and yet Members of the Opposition will come here to say that chieftaincy is no good, Obas must not be paid. I am sure the Government of the Western Region will never do anything against the interest of Obas and Chiefs of the Western Region. Whether the Opposition likes it or not, chieftaincy will always be regarded as sacred in the Western Region.

[MR OLUMOFIN]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer, with your permission, to the speech of the hon. the Minister of Finance in the House of Assembly Debates of 10th October, 1960, page 19. I quote:

“As I mentioned a short while ago, a total supplementary expenditure of £1,402,098 is required for Capital Expenditure for the remainder of the current financial year. Of this sum.....”
and that is what I want to point out:

“£682,645 represents revotes of unspent balances in previous financial years, the bulk of which is required to enable completion in the current financial year of certain capital projects on which work is already in progress. The balance of £719,453 represents in the main new commitments, provision for which must be made as a matter of urgency. Of this figure, the largest single item is an increase of £555,000 under Head 705—Loans.”

What I want to point out here is that Members of the Opposition have not taken the trouble to read the speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Finance. If they had done that, they would have seen that it is only necessary that this Supplementary Appropriation Bill should be brought here for debate and for necessary action. Now the Members of the Opposition will need to answer the question whether they do not want this progressive Government to continue to provide amenities. This Government is known for attending to the welfare of the people. It provides amenities that ramify the whole of the Western Region more than any other Government in Nigeria and I challenge the Members of the Opposition to single out any other Government in the Federation that comes near the standard set by this Regional Government.

Mr J. O. Omokowajo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am ashamed of that Government. (*Cheers from Opposition Benches*). I am going to criticise the number of Ministers in the Western Region and I will say that instead of making these petrol sellers Ministers..... (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker: It is very undemocratic to refrain petrol sellers from becoming Ministers. In any case you should withdraw that.

Government Benches: Shame, Shame.

Mr Omokowajo: What I am trying to say, Mr Speaker, is this, I will support the Supplementary Estimates if the words “Regional Ministers” are deleted and “Senior Parliamentary Secretaries” substituted. We have been saying that the Action Group

Government creates posts to satisfy their good boys, but they are not doing that this time, but rather they are creating posts to satisfy people who would resign from their party if they acted otherwise. If we continue at this rate, the Government of this Region would soon begin to have a Minister of *Amala* and so forth.

If we go through the various Heads, e.g., 343, 344, 345, 346 and 347, we shall see that the Regional Government is wasting £3,000 on these Regional Ministers. These Ministers also have Parliamentary Secretaries, Labourers, cleaners, etc. Apart from these, each Minister has £300 for entertainment allowance. We should consider that there are some of us here today who were not earning more than £300 per annum before contesting election into this House. Someone on less than £300 per annum now begins to get £300 for entertainment allowance alone.

What I feel is that if these Ministers are allowed to remain there they will just be walking up and down, touring to Ijebu Waterside and other places.

Mr Speaker: Why does the hon. member choose to refer to Ijebu?

Mr Omokowajo: I would like to speak on Head 705—Loans.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker Sir, the hon. Member will have the opportunity of speaking on this item when we are at the Committee Stage of the Bill.

Mr D. E. Okumagba: I rise, Mr Speaker, Sir, to comment on the financial policy of this Government as reflected in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I am happy to make my comments in the presence of the hon. the Premier and the Members of his Cabinet. I was surprised this morning to see the reaction of the Members of Government Benches when a Member of the Opposition remarked that this Government was indirectly putting money into the pocket of their supporters. I should have expected some sign of shame on the faces of the Members of the Government Benches. (*Opposition Members: They are shameless*). Now, one would expect that the Premier and his Ministers are aware that the country is noticing the financial policy of the Action Group. The financial policy of the Action Group Government constitutes a danger and is arresting the attention of all right thinking people in the Federation. For the past eight years, the Action Group has been ruling this Region. There is one policy which they have been pursuing since Chief Akintola

[MR OKUMAGBA]

took over. The people of this Region when they were voting them into power, thought that there would be a change, but they have now realised that the Nigerian Hitler has taken over from a Mussolini.

The Members of the Cabinet from the Midwest should be ashamed of themselves. I even wonder whether they do attend Cabinet meetings, because if they do, I cannot imagine any man from the Midwest conniving at these evils.

Chief Akintola: On point of information. All my Ministers attend Cabinet meetings.

Mr Okumagba: Then your ministers should be ashamed that the financial policy of the Government is so base and corrupt.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker Sir, It is most unparliamentary to say that the financial policy of the Government is base and corrupt. He should withdraw.

Mr Speaker: The financial policy of the Government can only be criticised on a substantive Motion.

Mr Okumagba: Mr Speaker, Sir, when Government is asking for money to carry out projects that are not going to be completed without getting some extra fund, one would understand, and would not like to criticise, but when we find that there is a definite aim, and that the only purpose is to inject money into the pockets of supporters of the Government party, one must be alarmed. Now, why is it necessary to increase the number of Ministers. There is no reason whatsoever.

We have to tell the Nigerian public what is happening to the funds of the Regional Government. The only reason you have to spend about three hundred thousand pounds is to find jobs for the good boys who have been ruined in the election and want some financial support and the only way to get money into their pockets is to appoint them Ministers. I am not saying that the Government should not spend money, but if the only purpose is to give relief to members of the Government party, who have been ruined financially, then it becomes a very serious evil.

I now go on straight to Capital Budget. Members of the Government on the opposite side who are from the Midwest should be ashamed to find that when Government intends to spend this large sum of money the share of the Midwest is only £19,000. And you sit comfortably on your seats!

(Laughter from both sides of the House). We find in this Appropriation Bill that there is a tendency on the part of the Government to concentrate all Government funds for capital projects in the Yoruba West because they know the Midwest State will be created and there is no need to spend any more funds in the area. That is most unfair.

I take the section dealing with loans. There is a footnote which states "These loans are required for the development of rubber projects in the Midwest". We know that you are going to be very busy in the Midwest. We know that you are going to strengthen your campaigns because when Government will create the Midwest State you require some supporters and these supporters must be financed. Is that not an indirect way of injecting money into the pockets of their supporters? It is a very shameful way indeed. You give the money to your supporters and those people who have been oppressed have to submit and cross over to your side. That is a method of Hitler and Mussolini. Don't tell us that you are investing money in the Midwest because you are here with one and a half million pounds for loans to the Midwest. We are not impressed. We are aware of your shallow diplomacy and we are ashamed of this base financial policy of the Government.

In winding up, I will appeal to the Premier and his hon. Ministers, and the handsome and charming Leader of the House that they should reconsider their financial policy. (Government Benches: Tell Okotie-Eboh that). We can assure you that if the financial policy of the Federal Government were not sound, you would not have got over £100,000 for the Independence Celebrations. (Government Benches: It was borrowed). We are only asking that Members of the Government Party should realise that the voice of the Opposition must be respected when they make mistakes and so they should always listen. I hope that the Premier and his Minister will do better when they present another Bill to this House in future.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Alhaji Z. A. Opaleye): Mr Speaker Sir, in support of this Appropriation Bill, I will have to make the following comments. On Head 328, sub-head 27, the Member for Ikeja referred to the encouragement of cocoa plantation.....(Mr Akinyemi: I did not. You were not listening). I challenge the hon. Member to go back to his constituency and tell the farmers that the

[ALHAJI OPALEYE]

seedlings will not be useful to them. This provision of £60,000 is earmarked for more cocoa seedlings and private cocoa nurseries for farmers of this Region. I would like you to remember that I am here this morning to bring holiness to that side of the House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, because devils are parading inside the House, this Government is prepared to listen to constructive criticism. We are not here to listen to unreliable, unconstructive, and untenable criticisms. The NCNC do not like criticism. We remember what you did to Chike Obi because he brought honesty to your midst. And furthermore, our own leader is not a football for the centre-forwards of Okotie-Eboh and Balewa and so on. Members of the Opposition complain about the appointment of Regional Ministers. Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to refer to the approved Estimates of the Eastern Region.

In the approved Estimates of the Eastern Region, Head 421—Premier's Office—the Premier is on a salary of £4,000 whereas the Member for Ila, from where we get palmwine, referred to this Government as giving £3,000 to a Minister whereas the Regional Minister created under the Premier receives £3,000. Furthermore under sub-head 13—Subsistence allowance to members of Provincial Assemblies—we have £22,270. Secondly, disturbance and resettlement allowances amount to £1,580, whereas in the Western Region the same allowance for the Premier is only £40, but in the Eastern Region it is this colossal figure. These people come here to accuse us of waste of public funds whereas in the Eastern Region the Premier gets this fantastic allowance whilst our own Premier gets only £40. Furthermore, Sir, in the Eastern Region they have twenty-five Ministers, whereas the uninformed people on the Opposition, the irresponsible Opposition, come here to make a noise over twenty-two Ministers. In the Eastern Region they have Provincial Commissioners and Regional Ministers. Under hospitality to the Premier in the Estimates of the Eastern Region we have £4,710 whereas in the Western Region the provision is only £1,370.

The NCNC in the Western Region should be ashamed of their bragging that they control the Federal Government. Nobody ever won the last Federal elections. The Action Group has the credit of being the only party representing the three arms of the Federation in the Federal Parliament. In fact the Action Group is the only party which made it impossible for the aristocrats of the

Northern Region to control the Federation today. Whereas the NCNC call themselves the champions of democracy, they allied themselves with the aristocrats of the Northern Region because of ministerial posts. I challenge you to explain to us why you did not give Aminu Kano a ministerial post. The time has come when the NCNC should be taught how to deal with a Government. A Government is a Government and the Action Group Government of this Region is the most able in the Federation. We have never been guilty of squandering as is the position in the Eastern Region.

The Minister of Health and Social Welfare (Chief J. O. Osuntokun): Mr Speaker Sir, I will be very brief. All I want to do is to allay some of the fears of the Opposition. I think, the paramount duty of the Opposition is to criticise, but I think Members on the other side would agree with me that it is not only to pick holes in Government measures that is their duty, they have to contribute constructively towards the policy of the Government. I will therefore appeal very strongly to Members of the Opposition that we concede the right to them to pick holes but I think it is also their duty to point out the good deeds of the Government.

What I want really to point out is in regard to Head 705 of these Supplementary Estimates. That Head deals with Loans and under it you have the Finance Corporation, the Western Nigeria Development Corporation and the Western Region Sports Council. The Sports Council comes within my portfolio.

Members will be happy to realise that we have made additional provision of £45,000 under the Sports Council. As far as we are concerned in the Region here we are proud of showing the example of how to organise sports to the whole of the Federation. During the last Olympic Games we contributed £3,000 before any other Government sent in donations. May I say that the Western Region Sports Council has been established in order to promote sports among the people of the Western Region and also the Federation. For instance as we continue to develop as a nation we shall realise the importance of sports in the life of a country. Sports is a bridge towards national understanding and more mature countries attach great importance to sports. May I refer to the recent West African Games. The Nigerian team as a whole did fairly well but Members will agree with me that it was a disgraceful performance during the last football match and we think

[CHIEF OSUNTOKUN]

all the Governments should do something about it and that is why I am giving the hint that very soon the Regional Government will give another example to the whole Federation as far as the national football team is concerned. We shall not sit here and allow Ghana to continue beating us every time.

The Development Corporation has been doing something in the industrial life of the Region. May I say, Sir, that the Western Region is the most highly industrialised in the whole of the Federation. I shall mention some of the industries which have already been established in the Western Region. We have the Ikpoba Rubber Factory in Benin-City, the Lafia Rest House, the Lafia Canning Factory, etc., etc. I can continue naming them up to twenty industries. I hope that every Member of the Opposition will familiarise himself with all the industries established in the Region.

Mr Adisa: Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to criticise this Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I do know it is a non-controversial Bill and I hope Members opposite will listen very well, not only because it has taken me a long time to be recognised, but because I do know I am going to speak with the great restraint and freedom that characterises all the leaders of the NPC. I believe it was the hon. D. K. Olumofin who criticised the Opposition for thinking that this Government is not good for anything. I do not think that that is our view: I think that this Government is good in some respects. I wish it to be noted that as a member of the Mabolaje Grand Alliance that is in alliance with the NPC, I can assure the Government Bench that if they behave themselves, they need not worry that we shall deport them. If they do not behave, I have it on authority that not only will this Government be dissolved but even the very root upon which this Government can function, which is money and which the Federal Government provides, will be appropriately dealt with.

Chief Akintola: This is a very serious statement and I challenge the hon. Member to state on whose authority he is making it.

Mr Adisa: I have said it very clearly that the members of the Government Bench need not worry if they behave themselves. I am speaking on the authority of salient..... (interruptions).

Mr Speaker Sir, coming very closely to the criticism of the Supplementary Estimates, I wish to say this. I have tried to find out

upon what general principles the Action Group Government of the Western Region prepared its Estimates. I find no policy based on justice and the welfare of the people. I say that as far as we are concerned on this side of the House, our principal objective is to provide jobs for all the people of this Region, and going through the Bill, there is no provision whatsoever made by the Government to provide jobs for any of the citizens in this Region and this is why we criticise this Government.

There is no provision whatsoever to provide jobs for any of the citizens of this Region, those of them who have just come out of school and those who are about to come out. Because of this I am criticising this Bill. I feel sure that this Government is always most remarkable for high waste of public funds, otherwise how is it that a Region having only 6 million people will create so many ministries so that it can live on extravagance, on tribalism; so that it can give so many posts to the Ijebus, to the Oyos, to the Ogbomoshos, to be ministers? This is why all these ministries are created (*Mr Speaker: Ibadan is not given one.* (*Cheers from Government Benches*)). We do not take it amiss if other people rule us for some time. I say this because all these ministries are receiving fabulous sums of money for doing nothing. I take the particular instance of the Local Government Ministry and I refer particularly to the Ibadan District Council now controlled shamefully by the Action Group. Mr Speaker, Sir, at the time when the independence celebrations were being prepared for, everybody began to criticise the Federal Government, particularly the Action Group, over its plans to clear slums in Lagos, but what do we now find? We find the Action Group controlled Ibadan District Council driving out all women and pulling down their shops. And this is a great blow to the poor women. They were promised that after independence they would regain their shops (*Interruptions from Government Benches and cheers from the Opposition*). One thing, Sir, that is going on and must be checked is the idea of taking about 5s from each market woman and telling them that if they do not do so and join the Action Group..... (*Opposition Benches: Shame, shame*). I can say everything that relates to the Ministries and I am asking the Minister concerned to look into all these things and put a stop to these illegal practices. Now, I find that the Government has been claiming to lead others in the Federation, and particularly referring to the Liberty Stadium

[MR ADISA]

built at a cost of so many thousands of pounds. I feel very strongly about all that money that has been wastefully spent in the construction of the Liberty Stadium and should have better been used somewhere else and this is why I say that the Action Group Government of the Western Region has no financial policy.

Chief Akintola: One aspect of the last remark about sports which should be taken up is that no money in this Region will be spent on projects that do not help to solve our unemployment problem. And may I assure Members who are concerned about unemployment that Government has taken steps to prevent growing unemployment in the Region. I do not know what system the last speaker would like to follow. He said that a great deal of the money spent on the Liberty Stadium could have been spent to provide jobs for the boys. Hundreds of thousands of labourers in the Region (*prolonged cheers from Government Benches*) have been employed in the construction of the stadium. I would like to ask for a little information from the speaker (*..... interruptions from the Opposition Benches while prolonged cheers continued from Government Benches*)..... come from the different parts of the Region. We share the anxieties of the Opposition but for the unemployment I would appeal to the Opposition to sympathise with the Government for the steps that are being taken to stop unemployment in the Region..... We want these industries because on establishing them here jobs will be available but we do not stop only with industrialisation and I am sure when the opportunity presents itself the Government will give you statistics showing the number of people employed in this Region in the various industries established either by Government in co-operation with others in the Region or by itself. We are quite awake to the problem of providing jobs for our people. If a Government does not provide jobs for the people or ensure that the people are in good jobs, there will be poverty in the area of its authority and when poverty is widespread, it will be an ill wind which blows nobody good, because their economy is poor. If you are hungry there is nothing you can (*Cheers from Government Benches*) do and we want to ensure that all the workmen in this Region, all the young men and young women in this Region are properly taken care of, not only in possible employment but in good jobs also. It is not possible to provide jobs for everybody in this Region without the assistance of all members of the community and members of the Opposition, who have their work too to

establish their own industries also. I assure you that wherever we have any individual, regardless of his party, who wants to establish any industry in this Region the Government will be willing and prepared to assist such a person (*prolonged cheers from the Government Benches*)..... all that is necessary is to ensure that the industry is economic; and that it is not a field in which the Government and the Opposition differ; and may I say this once again, that the question of providing employment for our people is not a matter for the Government alone but one in which both the Government and the Opposition should join hands together. You are not going to be the Opposition for ever and you must join the Government to ensure that we create a community where all members will live in peace and in plenty. This is a matter to which the Government and the Opposition are jointly committed. The initiative in such matters should come always from the Opposition. If Members of the Opposition have no such initiative..... (*prolonged cheers and laughter from the Government Benches*)..... There is a provision we have made in which an indigenous industrialist in this country has invested a heavy amount of money in the development of plantations. He has deployed a large sum of money and there is danger of the business being taken away by an expatriate for lack of funds. The Government studied the situation and at the end we were full of praise and adoration for this gentleman in question for his tremendous success.

I assure you that whether you be members of the Opposition or not, if you have the initiative to set up any industry and you apply to the Government for assistance, we are fully prepared to help you.

If I remember rightly, we now have over 3,000 people working on the plantation which has been set up. Whether or not the gentleman is an Action Group, the fact remains that he has been able to provide employment by clean means to thousands of our people. It may be your sisters and brothers are included.

It has been said that that has been done in order to provide jobs for the 'boys,' and I appeal to you that this is not correct. Whether or not you are an Action Group—I repeat—if you have an industry, please come straight to me and provided the industry is economical and will add to the well-being of the people of this Region, you will receive the wholehearted support of this Government. (*Cheers from Government Benches*).

The Minister of State (Trade and Industry Chief. G. Ekwejunor-Etchie): Even, one of the managers of the gentleman spoken of, Mr S. E. Nganchi, is the NCNC organising secretary for Warri Division.

Chief Akintola: I am appealing to the Opposition once again that if they can suggest any way by which we can prevent unemployment in this Region, they will be welcome. It must be borne in mind at all times that the employment problem is for all of us to solve, and if there is anything the Opposition can bring in the way of advice we appeal to them to bring it.

The hon. the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources has spoken at great length on the floor of this House on the schemes of farm settlement which the Government is promoting today. If you can take the trouble of going round the Region today you will see the work which the Government is doing; you will find the farm settlements which the Government is planning and setting up. We are doing all this in order to raise a new generation of modern farmers so that tomorrow an average farmer will be able to stand against any town dweller, so that he will be able to live a higher standard of life. The young farmers own the land themselves and they are going to settle at the expense of the Government and ultimately the land will belong to them. I will appeal to you again, that it is not enough to listen to everything we have said, but if you go round and see what efforts we are making and you then have any suggestion to make, please let us know. If you do this you will be playing your part in the economic development of this Region and you will be improving what we have already done; it may be you are making this improvement for your children also.

It has been said that charity begins at home. It was said that the salaries paid to Ministers are too much. If any hon. Member opposite can get up and say that he will be prepared to receive £50 every year, then we will take you seriously. But then it must first of all start in Lagos. And then we will see what will happen to those flying gowns, whether or not they will be reduced. I want to say that when I was a Federal Minister I never lived in Ministerial houses. May I also point out that if Ministers' salaries are too heavy we have been forced in a number of things. Let us start firstly in Enugu and Lagos. I cannot understand what they are now saying. During the last session there was a representation made not towards the membership of the House of Assembly but it dealt with an increase. It

has wisely been pointed out that by way of comparison we have not done anything worse than what is being done in the Eastern Region where the NCNC is in power. There are twenty-five Ministers and junior Ministers for the seven million people.

Opposition Members: But that is proportionate.

Chief Akintola: What of the revenue? I can assure you that even if we have enlarged Ministries we can well afford to have them.

Well, I understand that standards are going to be lowered because of the efficiency of some of the Ministers we have. But I should like to say that our Ministers, by their education and experience, will stand with their counterparts anywhere in the Federation. I do not want to mention names, but I wish to point out that in Lagos I know of a Minister who could do no more than writing an English word at the bottom of a note and that word is "noted". (Laughter). Fortunately, my Ministers here do not belong to the "noted" brigade, and we have increased their numbers so that we might have adequate representation of all the sections throughout this Region. Is it being seriously suggested that simply because Members for Ibadan are made Ministers the Government did a bad thing? Are you now saying that because many more people are being brought to serve the Region the membership of the House is too large? Is it being said that as the Midwest representation has been increased the Government has unjustifiably done so too? We have nothing at all to regret. It may be that hon. Members on the opposite side are not aware of the immensity of the burden which our Ministers have to bear. If the work is to be carried on properly at the present stage of our country's development, and if you want to be there there is a great deal to be done; you have to do a lot of touring and there are a number of policy matters to be handled. This is the justification for enlarging the Cabinet. It is being suggested that we have done this in order to provide jobs for the boys. Perhaps it was to provide jobs for the boys that hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh was appointed Minister of Finance in Lagos; that hon. Jaja Wachuku is now a Minister; Omo-Osagie is a Minister without Portfolio. Is that also to provide jobs for the boys?

Yes, it is to provide jobs for the boys. As hon. Members here know, we have got to keep our people fully informed of Government activities and what Government proposes to do, and hence it is proper that these Ministers must be appointed. They

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]
are not masters but servants of this House and also servants of those who elect them (*Hon. Members: Servants? will they do our bidding?*) We are your servants and we are prepared to do your bidding provided the bidding is legitimate (*prolonged laughter*). Reference was also made to the institution of Obas and Chiefs. I am a little bit disappointed and I want to reply to the remarks of my hon. Friend who used to be on this side but who is now on the other side. When he raised this matter I felt very much disappointed in so far as the traditional institution is concerned. We have not evolved any new policy for the last twelve months. It is the same old policy from 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958 right up to December (*interruptions, laughter*). What we did in Oyo was with his consent and collaboration (*laughter*). In the case of the ex-Olota, when the Olota of Ota abdicated he was our principal adviser (*prolonged laughter*). Also in the case of the Olobiri. In the case of the ex-Olukare of Ikare we did nothing without the advise of the architect and that is the hon. Member (*interruption, laughter*).

An Hon. Member: He is just on the other side, he is still coming back (*prolonged laughter*).

Chief Akintola: And up to about twelve months ago, nobody defended this thing more actively than my good Friend. The new messiah must not (*interruptions*). When it comes to the question of financial Bills, the policy has been the same all along. During the London Constitutional Conference and in this Region it has been the same policy, and he subscribed to the policy and now he comes around to say, why are these policies? I want to emphasise that we do not evolve any new policy different from what he used to quote. I can say that the Action Group members in Lagos are still quoting the speeches of this Friend. I am quite sure that he is still part and parcel of this party. (*prolonged laughter from both sides*). As far as Obas and Chiefs are concerned in this Region, we were naturally the first to advocate the House of Chiefs in the whole of the Federation of Nigeria and we did that to enhance the prestige of the traditional office of Obas and Chiefs in this Region and we are the first to merge the chieftaincy title with democracy. I agree with my hon. Friend that the prestige of the Obas and Chiefs should be raised and that has always been our policy. It is because we wanted the prestige to be raised that we created the House of Chiefs which has been copied in the Eastern Region and elsewhere.

We also established the Council of Obas consisting of seven members. All these seven members are responsible for the question of discipline and appointment of Obas and Chiefs in this Region. It is through the instruments of this Council of Obas that the Government of the day operates as far as the question of appointment and discipline of Obas are concerned. There is no single person vested with the power of discipline of Obas and if there is any petition they should be submitted to the Council of Obas which is filled exclusively by the Obas of this Region. The point which my hon. Friend has raised is a matter which has been settled once and for all. It is nothing new at all and I am now telling the Opposition that the question of discipline of Obas has already been raised above the level of this House and that the question of discipline of Obas is in the hands of the Obas themselves.

An Opposition Member: That is not democracy.

Chief Akintola: I understand that that is not democracy. Is it not democracy if those we elect are put in charge of affairs. That is what we have done in this Region. May I say that the Government will only act on the advise of the Council of Obas. May I remind you again (I keep on referring to my hon. Friend because he was present when the laws were made,) that we are always happy with the decisions taken by the Council of Obas. I am quite sure that we may even be grateful for the hon. Member for Ife-Ila because I understand that some of the Members opposite me are not as yet well informed as they will be and I hope that this their new messiah will prove every opportunity to keep them well informed (*cheers, laughter from both sides*).

Now may I also refer to the question raised about the salaries of Obas and chiefs. One Member said that the salaries of Obas and Chiefs should be increased and another said that the Obas should no longer be treated as a privileged class. What we have done here is to make provision for the increase of Obas' salaries to many of our Local Authorities who are not in financial position to pay in full what the Obas and Chiefs are entitled to and so we decided to assist the Local Authorities with regard to the payment of the increased salary of the Obas. If you really want to enhance the prestige of the Obas, certainly they deserve all financial assistance which the Government can give them. All we have given here is £24,000, but I hope that the hon. Member will remember that the Government of the Western Region is not undemocratic (*cheers*). Mr Speaker, Sir,

[CHIEF AKINTOLA]

every Member here will agree with me that it is unfair for the Secretary of the Council to be earning fat salaries when the Oba who is above him earns next to nothing, and so we decided that in keeping with the policy established in the Region we should supplement whatever the Oba is being paid by his own Council. I do not want to canvass about the areas which have already been covered, but may I say that those who keep on accusing the Government of discrimination as far as the Midwest is concerned are unfair to the Government of the Western Region. I have to say that whenever members want to criticise the Government, they should produce facts and figures. It is not sufficient for an hon. Member to jump up and say that the Midwest is neglected and that the good things are being piled up in certain areas of the Region. This is far from being correct about the Government. The Government is spending a large sum of money in the Midwest area and in relation to the population we are spending in the Midwest far more than we are spending in the other part of the Region. If you doubt this I want you to bring to this House statistical facts and figures.

Now may I say that I do not see anything in the points made by the Opposition. Supplementary Appropriation Bills are nothing new. Every expenditure of the Government must receive the approbation of this House and if unforeseen circumstances arise (*interruptions*). What we have here is for capital expenditure and the items are not exclusively for one part of the Region. They are for the whole Region. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, having listened to the very eloquent exposition of the hon. Premier in replying to the uninformed and misinformed Members of the Opposition, I do not intend to take away much of the time of the House. If the hon. Member for Ikeja in his pardonable ignorance of Government's policy complained that the Regional Government has not been able to provide a hospital for his constituency, may I reiterate the Government's policy in relation to the provision of hospitals. The statement reads thus: "It is the policy of the Action Group Government,"—I am quoting verbatim from the 1952 Policy of Health—

"It is the policy of the Action Group Government to provide one hospital for each division where such does not exist." In so far as the constituency of the hon. Member lies within Ikeja division, and Ikeja

has a hospital, the policy of the Government has been carried out up to the last letter. The hon. Member also spoke about water supply at Mushin. It is true, Sir, that there has been some amount of delay about the provision of water supply for Ikeja area, particularly Ikeja and Mushin. Only a few days ago an agreement had been reached between this Government and the Federal Government that 2 million gallons of water will be supplied per day this year and as from next year it will be 3 million gallons per day on payment of an amount which has been agreed between both Governments.

The reason, Sir, why this matter has not been properly settled before now is due to the fact that some of our Colleagues at the Federal level wanted to play politics with the provision of amenities in areas which are adjacent to Lagos. The Senate's Counsel has prevailed and this matter has now been settled.

A few of the other Members on the opposite side of the House have complained about the frequency with which we have brought to this House Supplementary Appropriation Bills. May I assure them, Sir, that as Minister of Finance, I shall continue to place before them Supplementary Appropriation Bills. I shall explain why. Prior to the status which this Government assumed in 1957, the old system of legislative sanctions in respect of public expenditure was vested in the old Finance Committee of the House. That Finance Committee always met monthly, and it was its duty to approve new financial provisions until the next meeting of the House when they would be ratified. Since the abolition of this Finance Committee and the Exchequer system of public expenditure was introduced, we have had to create a vote known as the Exigency Vote in which we have half a million pounds. This sum is always devoted to items of unforeseen nature which may crop up between meetings of the Legislature, and when the meetings of the Legislature is summoned, we always see that a covering approval by Legislature is given in respect of the particular expenditure. In what way, Sir, have we done what is wrong? (*Cheers*).

May I also sound a note of warning? As young children, we were taught that if we went to a place and we didn't know what was being done there, we had to keep our mouths shut. I feel, Sir, that Members of the Opposition will derive more benefit if only they will listen and watch proceedings of this House; if only they will read and inwardly digest the proceedings of this House, then they will be able to contribute intelligently to the debates (*Cheers*).

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I have been told, Sir, that any party takes its cue from the characteristics and qualities of the leaders of that party. I am not surprised that some of the things that have been exhibited on the floor of this House have been particularly interesting. They have more or less shown the type of duels to which a few years past many political leaders on this side of the House have been asked to be joined by the erstwhile leaders of the Opposition. Otherwise, people will not be striking the benches, thumping their feet and behaving as if they would need the assistance of our good friend at Aro.

Somebody spoke about the creation of the Midwest State. I think it is the hon. Mr Rerri. He spoke about the Midwest State. The trouble, Sir, with the NCNC is that they always speak with a discordant voice. Only a few days ago, the Leader of the NCNC and Premier of the Eastern Region, Dr Okpara, made a statement and stated that no COR state would be created because the COR state is anti-Ibo. (*Shame, shame*). Is it being suggested, Sir, that the reason why the NCNC wanted the creation of the Midwest States is because it is anti-Yoruba. If, according to him, a COR state should not be created because it is anti-Ibo, the implication and inference is that.....(*Interruptions*).

It seems to me that Members of the Opposition on this floor will soon disown their Leader. (*Government Benches: Shame, shame*). It may be of interest to ask from my hon. Friend, the Member for Ibadan—whether South or South-West—what the Mabolaje/NPC alliance led by hon. Adisa say what about the creation of States.

Chief Akintola: More States?

Chief Odebiyi: As I said before, Sir, if the NCNC and the NPC are really serious about the creation of States, they have ample opportunity to do so now that Nigeria is independent. I can even go so far as to throw a challenge to them that they should even, if they like, create first the Midwest States and see what will happen in other places.

Opposition Benches: Nothing will happen.

Chief Odebiyi: You can go and create a Midwest State and see what will happen if you don't create the COR States. (*Interruptions*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should have thought that the NPC and the NCNC had a basic principle of agreement before they had a coalition.

Opposition Benches: That is not your business.

Chief Odebiyi: The NCNC wanted the creation of States, the NPC does not want the creation of States.

Mr V. I. Amadasun: There is no morality in politics.

Chief Odebiyi: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very very grateful for the testimony which has been given by the hon. the Chief Whip of the Opposition.

Now, the Member for Ibadan spoke when the hon. the Premier talked about the advancement which this Region has made in the field of industrialisation and stated that the sum of 4½ million pounds had been spent in establishing the Ewekoro Cement Works. The hon. Member for Ibadan said that that amount is not enough. Is it being suggested, Sir, that the Western Regional Government should go abroad and borrow money with interest? (*Interruptions*). I know, Sir, that some Members of the Opposition so overwork themselves that they have no time to service themselves. (*Laughter*). Otherwise they won't suggest that we should carry out a policy which is incompatible even with human nature.

May I state publicly, Sir, that since the establishment of the Loans Advisory Council, being Minister of Finance and a Member of that Council by the Grace of God, I can say that the Regional Government has not borrowed a single penny from the loans which my Colleagues in the Federal House have negotiated for.

I say this, Sir, that we on this side of the House will continue in the same path of financial prudence which has been our watchword all the time. We will not borrow money unless it is going to be diverted into profitable channels; we will not borrow money unless it is going to be fruitful. I will assure Members of this House that if and when it is necessary to borrow money, we will do so. (*Opposition Benches: Shame, shame*).

It will be interesting to note that my good Friend is an industrialist and he himself knows that he cannot muster all the capital required for doing his business. In any event, I would like, Sir, to assure the Members of the House that our economy will continue

[CHIEF ODEBIYI]

to be a planned economy. We will not start an industry in this Region just because we want an industry. We will have an industry because we consider it necessary to have it and we have the raw materials and the markets to dispose of the finished products. That will be the policy of the Action Group which, for the third time in succession, has been enthroned by the electorates of this Region. (*Interruptions from Opposition Benches: Fraudulently*).

Chief Akintola: I understand this was done fraudulently. They said in 1952 it was fraudulent, in 1956 it was fraudulent, in 1960 it was fraudulent. If anybody is foolish enough to be defrauded three times, he should not be entrusted with the affairs of a State. (*Interruptions from the Opposition Benches*) (*Prolonged cheers from the Government Benches*).

Chief Odebiyi: As has been stated by the hon. the Premier, the question of employment is being faced vigorously. In this, Sir, I think both Members of the Opposition and Government Benches should do everything they can to help. I have in mind Members of the Opposition who insist on doing the work in their Chambers themselves instead of employing clerks to do it for them. I will appeal very strongly, Sir, to my hon. Friend the Member for Ibadan and also the new Lawyer Member who has got a constituency different from his home, to go home to co-operate with their people. Be that as it may, I recommend the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1960, for approval.

Question put and agreed to.

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

Sitting suspended at 1.00 p.m.

Sitting resumed at 1.40 p.m.

In the Committee.

FIRST SCHEDULE

HEAD 322.—PREMIER'S OFFICE

Question that the sum of £11,055 for Head 322—Premier's Office stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 325.—PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

Question that the sum of £32,550 for Head 325—Pensions and Gratuities—stand part of the Schedule, but and a rest to.

Bill—Second Reading

HEAD 328.—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**Question that the sum of £112,760 for Head 328—Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.*

HEAD 329.—MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question that the sum of £2,760 for Head 329—Ministry of Economic Planning and Community Development—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 330.—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question that the sum of £5,260 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 £2,600 for Head 331—Ministry of Health and Social Welfare—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 334.—MINISTRY OF MIDWEST AFFAIRS

Question that the sum of £4,000 for Head 334—Ministry of Midwest Affairs—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 335.—MINISTRY OF LANDS AND HOUSING

Question that the sum of £23,350 for Head 335—Ministry of Lands and Housing—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 336.—MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question that the sum of £27,160 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 £2,760 for Head 337—Ministry of Trade and Industry—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 340.—ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Question that the sum of £81,020 for Head 340—Electoral Commission—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.

HEAD 343.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE BOARD

Question that the sum of £1,070 for Head 343—Local Government Service Board—stand part of the Schedule, put and agreed to.