

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
DEBATES**

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Mr E. A. Mensah, M.B.E.	Serjeant-at-Arms

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Thursday, 20th November, 1958

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Members :—

Alhaji Adamu, Sarkin Tafarki	(Bauchi Central)
M. Muktar Gajiram ..	(South Bornu)
M. Malachias Bawa, Wakilin Ayuka ..	(Pankshin)
M. Yakubu Alanana ..	(Akwanga)
M. Shehu Kazaure, Wakilin Sana'a Kano	(Kano North West Central)
M. Mahmudu Koro ..	(Lafiagi)

PAPERS (ADJOURNMENT)

Papers distributed to Members during the Adjournment and deemed to have been laid on the Table, pursuant to Standing Order 11 (3) :—

(1) Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the fears of Minorities and the means of allaying them.

(2) Annual Report of the Mines Department for the year ended 31st March, 1957.

(3) Electricity Corporation of Nigeria—Seventh Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1958 [by Ordinance].

(4) Report by the Resumed Nigeria Constitutional Conference held in London in September and October 1958.

(5) Annual Report of the Federal Education Department for 1958.

(6) Draft Supplementary Estimates of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, 1958-59 (November).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*O.267. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Prime Minister what progress has been made in the search for the missing child at Odogbe to whom reference was made in Question O.254 ; whether he is aware that the Village Head of Ogga and some men have been arrested in connection with the disappearance of the nursing mother, Madam Omotunde, from Ogga and if he will make a full statement.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : I regret that the child, which I said in reply to Question 254 had been reported missing from Odogbe, has still not been traced despite extensive enquiries by the Police.

With reference to the hon. Member's enquiry about Madam Omotunde, the Question as worded is apt to be misleading.

It is true that one Madam Omotunde, who was a nursing mother, disappeared from Ogga early in 1957 and is believed to have been drowned. It is also true that the Village Head of Ogga and three men were arrested and charged with failing to report the disappearance of Madam Omotunde, and were found guilty by the Magistrate and sentenced to a fine of £2 each.

There is, however, no known connection between Madam Omotunde of Ogga and the child reported missing at Odogbe.

The name of the child is Lydia Thomas.

*O.265. Mr A. E. Ukattah asked the Minister of Education :—

Whether he is aware that the recruitment policy of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology in connection with its Academic Staff does not encourage qualified Nigerians to take up appointment with the College, and if he will remedy the situation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : The recruitment policy of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology does encourage qualified Nigerians to take up appointment with the College, Sir. No suitably qualified and experienced Nigerian has ever been passed over for appointment in the College.

The difficulty lies in finding these qualified and experienced Nigerians who are willing to take up appointment as lecturers.

Now that material is becoming available in the Arts and Sciences from the output of the University College, we may expect the number of Nigerians on the Academic Staff of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology to increase. One of the most recent appointments to the staff of the College—a lecturer in Engineering was one of the first of the students to be turned out by the University College who after further training and practical experience has qualified for a lectureship and for recognition by the University College, Ibadan, and the University of London.

Supplementary to O.265.

Mr Ukattah : Is the Minister aware of the fact that the difficulty in obtaining people is likely to be due to the recruitment policy of the Government ?

The Parliamentary Secretary : I have explained that the recruitment policy is to offer jobs to those who are qualified for them.

***O.266. Mr A. E. Ukattah** asked the Minister of Education, what is the strength of the Academic Staff in each of the branches of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, and how many lecturers in each branch of the College are Nigerians.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : The strength of the Academic Staff in each branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology together with the number of Nigerians in each branch is as follows, Sir :—

The Enugu Branch : The Academic Staff totals 23, of whom 6 are Nigerian lecturers. 4 of the 6 are visiting lecturers.

The Ibadan Branch : The Academic Staff totals 39, 10 of whom are Nigerian lecturers. Two of the Nigerians are visiting lecturers.

The Zaria Branch : The Academic Staff totals 47, 2 of whom are Nigerian lecturers.

***O.268. M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Education, what percentage of the adult population can read and write either in their own language or English in the Federal Territory of Lagos and the Southern Cameroons ; and how is reading matter supplied to these literates.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : The only figures available, Sir, are those to be found in the 1952-3 Population Census of Nigeria. In the Federal Territory of Lagos with a total population of 213,000 of age 7 years and over, 33.7 per cent had reached the standard of Elementary Class IV (or Standard II) or higher in reading and writing either in their own language or English and all other literates accounted for 15.4 per cent.

With regard to the supply of reading matter to these literates, there is no agency which undertakes direct supply, but there are Adult Literacy Classes in Lagos for which a fee of 4s for a course of four months duration entitles each student to the free supply of the reading material prescribed for the course. Reading material may also, of course, be purchased from the bookshops.

I have given information for Lagos only since my Ministry is not concerned with the position in the Southern Cameroons.

***O.269. M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Education, if he is aware that the right type of reading matter is not being supplied to adult literates in the Federation and whether he will take steps to check the circulation of immoral publications and to supply adults with instructive reading matter.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : Mr Speaker, I must confine my reply to the situation in the Federal Territory of Lagos as I am not responsible for these matters elsewhere in the Federation.

As I indicated in my answer to the last question, certain reading material is supplied to persons entering the Adult Literacy Classes in Lagos. The Western Region Literature Bureau also provides readers in the Yoruba language for purchase. In addition, the bookshops in Lagos are well supplied with suitable literature.

No immoral publications have been brought to the notice of the Minister. The distribution of obscene literature is an offence under the Criminal Code and should cases be brought to the notice of the Minister he will cause appropriate action to be taken.

House of Representatives Debates

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[Oral Answers]

20 NOVEMBER 1958

[Oral Answers]

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*O.270. Mr A. E. Ukattah asked the Minister of Education, if he will state the number of men and women trained as Grade II and Grade III teachers respectively in each of the years 1955, 1956 and 1957, indicating how many men and women in each grade obtained certificates at the end of the training and how many failed to do so.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education: I think the hon. Member refers to Teachers trained in the Lagos Teacher Training College. No candidates were admitted to the College for the Grade II Course in 1955 and 1956. In 1957, 28 men and 2 women were admitted. Those will take the qualifying examination at the end of this year.

In the Grade III Course, 29 men and 14 women were admitted to the College in 1955. Of these 25 men and 11 women obtained their certificates the following year; 4 men and 3 women failed. In 1956, out of 37 men and 14 women admitted, 34 men and 10 women obtained their certificates the following year. 3 men and 4 women failed. The 32 men and 20 women admitted in 1957 will take the qualifying examination at the end of this year.

O.271. Mr J. Assadugu asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, whether he will consider extending the supply of electricity from Yola to Numan which has a large number of potential consumers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power: To extend the supply of electricity from Yola to Numan would entail approximately 40 miles of 33,000 volt transmission line. Together with the distribution system in Numan township and the extension to the Yola Power Station the cost of this project would be in the region of £100,000. On the figures available at present it would seem that the probable revenue from sales of electricity in Numan would be insufficient to warrant such a large capital expenditure.

O.272. Mr C. C. E. Onoh asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, whether he will explore other markets for Nigerian coal, particularly in the Belgian Congo, in view of the statement made by the Chairman of the Nigerian Coal Corporation that the Corporation

would be facing large-scale redundancy, due to the dieselization policy pursued by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the Electricity Corporation, if other markets are not forthcoming.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power: The Coal Corporation is aware of the need to explore export markets for Nigerian coal in view of the gradually decreasing internal consumption.

Hon. Members will realise the difficulty there is at the moment in finding an export market for Nigerian coal due to world over production. For example, stocks of coal in the United Kingdom for which there is at present no market, amount to over 17½ million tons. And the price has recently been reduced in an effort to sell these stocks.

During the past year however, the Coal Corporation has been in touch with importers in Portuguese East Africa, Liberia and the Belgian Congo. The U.K. Shipping Lines and the Associated Portland Cement Company have also been contacted. The Coal Corporation is continuing with unremitting energy its efforts to find new markets and to expand its existing industrial markets.

O.274. Mr C. C. E. Onoh asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, whether in view of the discovery of iron ore deposits near the Udi coalfields, he will consider advising the Nigerian Coal Corporation to develop an iron-smelting industry.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power: The Nigerian Coal Corporation was established in 1950 to take over the responsibility of all the Government owned colliery undertakings and I cannot consider advising it to extend its activities beyond the management of the collieries.

I am aware, none the less of the existence of iron ore deposits near Udi, and the Federal Government is fully alive to the desirability of developing an iron smelting industry in the country. The deposits above the Enugu escapement, extending as far south as Udi, as well as those at Agbaja in the Northern Region have been investigated from a geological and mining aspect, and as a further step towards their development, the United Nations agreed to investigate, from the metallurgical point of view, the possibility of using Nigerian iron ore

10 of the Ordinance. This section provides that a letter-writer may not charge or take any fee or reward exceeding the rates specified in the Schedule. The Bill now before the House doubles the rates previously in force and brings them into line with those now in force in the Western Region and in the Southern Cameroons. The previous rates were fixed in 1920 and it was the opinion of the House when this matter was debated in August that they were too low.

It must be remembered that this is a residual matter and legislation passed in this House will only apply to the Federal territory of Lagos.

There are two other provisions in the existing schedule which the Government believes to be inappropriate to the Federal territory of Lagos. These provide for the payment of fees in kind and for any sub-charge taken by way of travelling expenses or lodging allowances to be subject to the approval of an Administrative Officer. I can find no record of any such approval being sought in Lagos for many years. These provisions may possibly still be useful in the rural areas but I am confident that the House will agree that they are not suitable in Lagos, and will agree that these should be deleted by the amending Bill which I am now presenting.

The Bill is, I think, simple and non-contentious. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. M. Inuwa Wada): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Government on the introduction of this Bill. (*Applause*). The introduction shows the large-heartedness of the Government. It shows the depth of consideration which Government has for the lower and higher classes of people. The Bill, if passed into law, as I pointed out while moving the motion for the introduction of the Bill, will result in reducing the inequality of incomes and in raising the standard of living of the public letter-writers.

Private members' motions have little chance of success, but we are now confident that reasonable motions will always receive sympathetic consideration. We are confident too that the forces of freedom and the

forces of despotism at warfare elsewhere merge in this House into the forces of freedom and equality.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I must congratulate the Minister for making provisions to help the honourable profession of letter-writers. (*Some hon. Members: Honourable?*) Yes, *honourable*, but I would like to make one point Mr Speaker, and that is that letter-writers should be discouraged from practising as solicitors. They prepare Civil Summonses, and conveyances which most properly belong to solicitors. Many of the illiterate people are poor people and they get into very grave difficulties with documents improperly prepared by letter writers. I am suggesting to the Minister to ensure that while letter-writers should be encouraged to practise the art of letter-writing that they be discouraged from practising as solicitors and getting unfortunate illiterates into serious difficulties with the law courts. (*Applause*).

Mr L. A. Tobun (Epe): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to say this, that two Members of this House

Mr Speaker: Will the hon. Member please speak as loudly as he can, I find a little difficulty in understanding him.

Mr Tobun: What I am trying to say Mr Speaker, is this, that for every original letter or document, the charge for 100 words or part thereof is five shillings, and in the Lagos and Colony area you find many people who are illiterate who make use of letter-writers, and some of these are business men, and business letters very often are only 20 words. I do not know how the Minister will explain this part of the Bill. Two previous Members of this House have congratulated the Minister on this Bill, but I do not congratulate him.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a most welcome piece of legislation. My only regret is that its application is going to be restricted to the Federal Territory. It is good to emphasise that while provisions are being made to compensate letter-writers adequately, it must also be stressed that they should, as far as practicable, avoid abusing their office. There are some letter-writers we know who go outside the provisions of the law and charge exorbitant fees. The people for whom they write the letters are illiterates and it makes it difficult for them to be brought to law.

(12)

One point raised by a Member is that letter-writers should not act as solicitors. That is correct, but we cannot fail to realise that many things are not very clearly distinguished. For instance, barristers cannot easily be distinguished from solicitors (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to 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 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

M. Usman Angulu Ahmed (Kwara): Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to know from the Minister, because this law is going to be passed, and it is to protect the illiterate people of this country. But I want to know how the Minister is going to make the illiterate people know about this, so that they will be free from cheaters.

The Chairman: That is really not an argument which is relevant to Clause 3. It could be done on the second reading or possibly on Clause 2, but it is not relative to Clause 3 which is only about the schedule.

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just wish to complain about the rate of increase in the schedule. I understand the original Ordinance was passed in 1920 and since then there has been increase upon increase for several types of workers. We have had enquiries and commissions suggesting what percentage increase of salary should be paid to certain types of people, and I take it that letter-writing is a profession. (*Some hon. Members: No.*) I think it is, an honourable profession! I beg to suggest that the increase should be on the same level as those of regular workers. The increase at the moment is welcome, and it is to be hoped that in due course the necessary comparisons and adjustments with certain other professions may result in a more appropriate increase to enable a letter-writer to have a reasonable income and stop the tendency to act as barristers or solicitors, and to encourage barristers and solicitors to do their work.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, that the Bill be now read the Third Time.

M. Usman Angulu Ahmed (Kwara): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to put it before the Minister that when this law is passed it should be publicised so that the illiterates might know the actual charges because the illiterate people in the rural areas are being cheated by these letter-writers.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson): I am grateful to the last speaker and I hope that he will be an ambassador for his area in this connection. I would like to remind him that that is one of the reasons why he is here—to interpret the laws to the illiterates.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.

LAW REVISION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move, That a Bill for an Ordinance entitled the Law Revision (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance be now read a Second Time. Now, the purpose of this Ordinance is to make provisions for minor omissions, amendments and additions to the laws of the Federation and Lagos for the purpose of the preparation of the revised edition of the laws. Honourable Members will be aware that there is in the course of operation by Sir Donald Kingdon, the Commissioner for the Revision of Laws, a revised edition of the laws. His revision is provided for in the revised edition of the laws, subsection 2 of section 6 of that ordinance—that if the Commissioner appointed for the purpose of preparing a revised edition of the laws considers it desirable that there should be omissions, amendments or additions other than those authorised by the law then such omissions, amendments and additions may be provided for in the form of one or more additional Ordinances.

This Ordinance is introduced in consequence of the provision and covers a number of omissions and minor amendments which the Commissioner has recommended in the course of his work which are beyond the scope of this authority. These omissions and amendments are however not a matter of great importance, dealing as they do with only minor changes of circumstances and correction of minor faults.

It will be generally agreed that this Bill is not controversial. I will not therefore detain hon. Members with the explanation of the various amendments, the reasons for which are clearly set out in the Objects and Reasons for the Bill.

As I said earlier the duty of the preparation of the revised edition is the responsibility of the Commissioner for Revision of Laws of the Federation and the Commissioner has compiled all the omissions and additions which he considers, if passed, will facilitate his work. I, therefore, present them to you and I hope there will be no difficulty in passing them. Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : There is nothing to add. The Minister has assured us that he knows what he is talking about. He will consequently have no difficulty in having this Bill passed. We have confidence in him. We will pass it.

Mr R. A. Fani Kayode (Ife) : I would like to raise the question of the Medical Laboratory Technologists because the Registration Ordinance provides for a certificate to be issued by the Superintendent of a Forensic Laboratory. Can he tell us what grade or what qualifications these Technologists will have? It is a very big name; you will find it in the schedule.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Point of Order, Sir. Will it not be appropriate for the hon. Member to raise this point on the Third Reading? I can deal with the points he has raised then.

Mr Speaker : I think it can be taken on the Third Reading. If the hon. Member will just finish what he intends to say.

Mr Fani-Kayode : I know the Minister wants adequate time to consult the Technologists sitting beside him. I will give him that time.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South) : I do not want to be a hitch in the way of Government business but I would like to ask that reasonable time be given for reading these Bills in conjunction with substantive Ordinances. We have to pass these Bills, pass them blindly. I pray that all Ministers take note of this.

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 2 agreed to.

Clause 3.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Although this Bill is rather complex in composition, it is really very simple. What is happening is that in certain Ordinances offices and functions have had to change in nomenclature. For instance, in the case of Superintendent of Forensic Laboratory, the Superintendent is no longer called the Superintendent but a Medical Laboratory Technologist. In the case of the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance there used to be an Association of Medical Practitioners and Dentists but this no longer exists. In its place you now have a Nigerian Branch of the British Medical Association.

So also in many of the other sections; for instance, there was one that referred to the Director of Medical Services. Well, we all know that we have no longer a Director of Medical Services but a Medical Adviser to the Federal Government. That is the spirit in which this amendment has been couched. I think perhaps it is up to the Minister to explain further if I have not gone as far as would satisfy some Members.

Sev. hon. Members : Yes, Parliamentary Secretaries.

Dr Awduche : This little explanation and the points I have made will, I trust, clear the apparent illusion that appears to becloud this very clear, very straightforward and welcome Bill.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support

Clause 3 agreed to.

First Schedule agreed to.

Second Schedule proposed.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): I now hope, Sir, that the Minister has been able to consult someone on this point. I have been watching him very closely, Sir, and he does not seem to have made a single move. The importance of this Section is that in the past.....

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: Which Section?

Mr Fani-Kayode: Second Schedule Section 201 (11): "Delete, the words..... 'superintendent of a forensic science laboratory' and substitute... 'an officer in the Public Service of the Federation employed in a forensic science laboratory in a rank not below that of a medical laboratory technologist.'" The importance of this amendment is that in the past when evidence was to be given in Court the superintendent of the laboratory might absent himself from the trial and a certificate issued by him could be used as evidence. Here is a head of a department, therefore we all presume that he will be well versed and conversant with his job but when that power of issuing certificates is vested not only in the head of department but in somebody acting on the face of this Bill, lower than that head of department, we should like to know what grade or what experience or what standard this technologist is. Is he just a laboratory attendant?

We would like some explanation because it will be very dangerous if a signature of a mere laboratory attendant appended to a certificate is issued and must be taken as evidence in Court. I think, Sir, that this goes beyond "amendment" because we are saying, or at least the Minister has told us that the purpose of this Bill is to make recommendations and to make slight changes, like nomenclature, as my friend here called it, but this goes beyond it because it gives more people power. It says "any officer"—*any officer*. An officer in the Public Service of the Federation employed in a Forensic Science Laboratory in a rank not below that of medical laboratory technician. That means a lot of people besides the head of that department will have the right to sign certificates which will be admissible in Court.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: I am deeply grateful to my Friend and I must apologise for disappointing him because I have never had anybody whispering to me telling me exactly what reply to give. Well, if I have disappointed him for not consulting people, I am very sorry for that, but I think there are Bills—like this one—the virtue of which consists in the degree of its unintelligibility!

In any case, it is not presumed here that the power given by the original provision giving power to a superintendent of a forensic science laboratory, would be taken from him. That is not the intention of this Bill. Now, this particular Bill does not give any new law. It only makes up the omissions and amendments to the old law, and it does not make it a provision for any clerk, for that matter, to play the role of a medical science forensic expert. That is not the intention. Now what it puts in here is that in place of the superintendent of the forensic science laboratory—that is deleted—we substitute "an officer in the Public Service of the Federation employed in a forensic science laboratory, like the superintendent himself, in a rank not below that of medical laboratory technologist, and the technologist is not a novice. He used to sign previously for the superintendent, and what we do now, instead of on each occasion the superintendent having to give him power to go there, he is now clothed with the authority to go there on his own and wherever he appears he carries the same weight of authority as the superintendent himself.

I will repeat, even before now the officer described here has been performing precisely the functions which hon. Fani-Kayode was referring to but he was performing them as a means of the authority delegated to him by the superintendent. He must of course be an expert in himself, and what is wrong now with removing this piecemeal delegation and vesting him with specific power of performing these functions. We feel it is right. We are by no means lowering the standards whatsoever, and we are not opening the flood-gate whereby all sorts of frauds and such like will come in.

Second Schedule agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third Time.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation for confessing that this Bill is unintelligible!

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): I would like to make a very serious remark on the way and manner in which some Bills are being brought to this House for debate. Oftentimes the public has taken us to task about certain Bills which have been discussed in this House, passed and we are unable to explain them. It is very very unfair that Members in this House who are responsible for passing laws cannot explain them to the people. A Minister will produce a Bill to-day and will urge the Bill through the House the very day without giving sufficient time for members to study it. After all we are men. We come here to make laws for the people, not to bamboozle people. We ought to be given two or three days to study a Bill like this so that we know what we are passing. We are not here to congratulate people who do not do anything, like the Action Group which congratulated their leader Chief the hon. Obafemi Awolowo when in fact he did nothing in the Constitutional Conference to warrant.....

Mr Speaker: It appears irrelevant to make remarks on the Action Group on the Third Reading of this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.

THE POST OFFICE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that "A Bill for an Ordinance entitled the Post Office (Amendment) Ordinance" be now read a second time, and, in moving this Bill, I must remind the hon. Members, at least those of the Members who need to be reminded, that this Bill has already been published on three consecutive occasions in the *Gazette* of the Federation. If any

Member has not seen it up till this morning, I would extend to such Member my whole-hearted sympathy.

The purpose of the Bill is to make certain amendment in the Post Office Ordinance so as to make it more closely applicable to present day conditions within Nigeria. The pace of development in Nigeria has been very rapid in recent years, and this is certainly true as far as the Post Office is concerned. Members will recall the Statement of Policy on the Establishment of Post Office within Nigeria which my predecessor introduced in this hon. House as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957. This White Paper heralded great changes in the post offices of this country, and some of these changes have already come into effect. The increased tempo of development in the postal services of this country has drawn attention to the fact that the Post Office Ordinance as it stands to-day is not altogether adequate in certain respects to meet modern requirements, and especially to keep pace with the constitutional changes in the country.

Most of the amendments included in the Bill which I am now presenting to you are of a very minor nature, and they require no more explanation than that which is contained in the objects and reasons of this Bill.

However, there is one amendment of particular significance involving an important point of principle. I refer to clause 4, which seeks to transfer the power to fix postage rates from the Governor-General to the Minister. I would remind hon. Members that under section 11 of the existing Ordinance as amended by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1954, the power to determine the rate to be charged for the transmission, registration and the insurance of postal matter by the Posts and Telegraphs Department devolved upon the Governor-General in Council. It is considered that it would be more in keeping with the present constitutional position for this power to be in the hands of the Minister.

One important advantage, apart from purely constitutional considerations which will stem from this transfer of power, is that in the case of minor adjustments in the postal rate structure, which are quite frequent, the Minister could give the necessary sanction himself, and does not need to waste a lot of time by having to consult with the Governor-General, and that consultation may entail a lot of delay.

At present, even the most trivial of changes must be reported because the power of ultimately fixing the rates is vested in the Governor-General in Council. I would, however, hasten to assure hon. Members that in all cases where important and significant changes in the postal rate structure were contemplated the Minister will be in duty bound to consult his Colleagues in the Council of Ministers.

The changes requested by this Bill contain really nothing new. Our laws in the country must keep pace with the political and constitutional evolution of the country. Ministers are charged with specific responsibility, and this responsibility will either be individual or collective, and invariably they are both and I think, in strict accordance with the new political evolution of the country and the constitutional changes made, these specific powers should be transferred from the Governor General to the Minister directly concerned.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr J. C. Obande (South West Idoma) : Mr Speaker, Sir, speaking on this Bill, I have no objection but I seize this chance to sound a note of warning to the Minister.

He has said that the Governor-General has transferred the power to him for fixing rates of stamps. Not very long ago he fixed rates of telephones which have crippled businessmen in this country. So I seize this chance to say that the Minister should be very careful in fixing rates of stamps for our letters and postage parcels. It should not be so exorbitant this time.

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North) : Mr Speaker, the observation I want to make is similar to the one just made by hon. Obande. In recent months there have been increases in the rates of postage. Well, all this time the power to increase postage was vested in the Governor-General. Now that the power has been transferred to the Minister of Communications I hope he will not use the power arbitrarily to increase the rates.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it appears to me that the last two speakers have nothing to contribute to this debate but merely want to play to the gallery.

The object of the Bill is to bring these provisions in line with our constitutional advancement. The Minister has said that, and if there had been any increases in rates of postage, they were done when the Governor-General was in charge of this affair. So that to attribute any increases that have occurred in recent times to the Minister is to speak to the gallery. We welcome this Bill. It is very progressive. In fact, if it had not come at this time we should have grumbled. It is timely and, coming so soon... (*interruption*)...

Mr Obande : On a point of order, Sir. I am appealing to the Minister to appoint the hon. Member a junior minister.

Dr Awduche : ...and coming so soon after the Resumed London Constitutional Conference when we fixed our target date of independence at 1st October, 1960, it is high time we started, right now, to make certain adjustments to our Ministries and various Departments, with the goal of integration in view, so as to have Ministries with the Ministers at the head of the Departments, with advisers and technicians in the lower ranks of the ladder.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is nothing contentious in this Bill, and I do support it wholeheartedly.

Mr E. C. W. Howard (Special Member) : Mr Speaker, the interesting, particularly interesting section in this Bill would appear to be Number 6, which, as I understand it, seems to mean that it is now the intention of Government that Government Departments should pay for the postage of their postal packets. If it is so, it is indeed very welcome. I would ask the Minister not to stop there. Many times I have asked that Government Departments should pay for telegrams and for the cost of telephones, because it is only by these means that their use will be sufficiently and economically effected, and I do hope that the Minister will bear this in mind.

M. Bello Dandago (South West Central Kano) : Mr Speaker, Sir, nobody quarrels with the Minister having the power which was originally exercised by the Governor-General. We are all very pleased about that. What we are saying, Sir, is that what the hon. Minister considers to be a minor change may be quite a different matter to me and to everybody in the country. It may be a very major change. That is what we are after. The cost of postal services, telegrams and stamps in Nigeria is as high as

any in any country, but the service rendered, for example, is not up to standard. Mr Speaker, when you buy an airmail letter you have to go somewhere else to get gum. What we are saying is that the Minister will exercise the necessary precaution and have the country in heart to give us the best.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, while the last Bill legalising the amendments and omissions was considerably unintelligible, the House should welcome this one which is so legible that everyone wants to comment on the clauses.

I am a little surprised that Members did not follow up the point made by the hon. Mr Howard about Government Departments being made to pay for their own postage. I think many of us in this House will recollect the number of papers, and some of them trifling things, that are registered. I think it costs more to register a packet than to post it, but the things go just because they need no stamps. I think it will reduce the number of postages from Government Departments and limit them to things that are really worthwhile.

Sir, I will go on to say that not only must Government pay for its letters, but Government has assumed legally a personality like any human being and like any human being they have budgets, and they have to limit their expenditures to their budgets, the same as everybody else. I think, Sir, the Minister should have gone over the field of communications and there should be no lines which are a privilege to Government, otherwise it means that there are a lot of abuses still going on.

Government Officers do not even pay for their residential telephones. I have to pay for my telephone at the double rate; why do not Government officials pay for their telephones? Commercial people have to pay for their telephones in their residencies, everybody in this legislature has to pay; why must Government officials be a class apart? I hope the Minister will think about that too.

I think if it is economy we are after; I know that some time ago in this House Members were being asked to limit the number of calls, or when they telephone their constituencies that they will pay for them. I understand something was brought in this House some time ago. Well, if it is going to be economy let it be economy all round; let the Minister see to this also.

Now, talking about aerogrammes that have no gum. The lack of gum, I understand, is due to the humidity of our climate here. I have often asked that question myself, and if I have got an answer which I think is intelligent I think I should pass it on to other people. Humidity, I think, is the cause here. The gum tends to stick and, therefore, gum is supplied to the Post Offices and I think anybody who wants to use this can do so.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Speaker, Sir, in an assembly like this I think men have to think in various ways. Mr Howard sounded a note of importance in this Bill, which is Clause 6.

I humbly differ with what is in this particular clause. There was no need, Sir, to come here and ask us in the Legislature to approve money for the Heads of Departments for their official communications, postal matters, etc. What is the use of asking the Naval Forces or the Posts and Telegraphs Department again, or Commerce and Industries to ask us in the annual budget meeting for a provision that they will require £2,000 or £300,000 for stamps?

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is the same Government. Money collected by the Posts and Telegraphs in the form of stamps, etc., from the various Departments goes to the same revenue of Nigeria, and I believe, Sir, honestly I am believing that if we provide money for departments for postages, I am sure it will not be used for the purpose.

Mr Speaker, I greatly object to this clause.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka): Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to speak straight away in opposition to the point made by the last speaker. You have the Commerce and Industries as a Department, you have the Posts and Telegraphs as a Department, and if Commerce and Industries want to budget for stamps and they make a provision for these in the Estimates, well let them budget for it and we shall approve it, but the amount will be shown there. The idea of making such departments pay for their postal letters and other things will be one to serve as a deterrent, that is, preventing them from making unnecessary expenditure on such items. Secondly, it will also reduce the volume of work in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, because if you don't they will be inclined to send

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all sorts of parcels and letters and the Posts and Telegraphs will require increased staff to handle such mail.

If they want provision for stamps let them budget for it. We will approve it, whether it is used or not, it will be there.

Another point a Member on my left hand here brought up, who was one of the people advising the Minister to be very careful in increasing postal rates and other things, and it was said that Members were speaking out of order. I personally feel it is necessary to underline such an appeal to the Minister.

Now rates for telephone calls and trunks affect only a certain class of society, but any increase in postal rates will affect almost everybody in the community and so it is very, very important to underline that the strictest care must be used in making any increases in postal rates.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South): Mr Speaker, Sir, there is just one point I want to refer to—that telegrams should be put into private bags. It is objectionable, Sir. A telegram implies urgency and the purpose of the telegram is defeated by chucking the telegram into a box and this box may not be cleared even on the next day. What happens is that the Post Office Mail Runners will not deliver a single telegram. Where there is any box they simply throw these telegrams into such box. This is no good, Sir. I pray that this clause should be removed and I appeal to the sense of propriety of the Ministry of Communications and Aviation.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): I feel that the temperature is rising greatly and I am very happy indeed that the Post Office always supplies the necessary warmth to keep the House in the right type of atmosphere.

I will start with the remark made by the last speaker, the hon. Mr Sanni. Now, when telegrams are sent from one destination to another, if the other destination at the end of the journey is a place where you can easily get the addressee that is all right.

But if a telegram is addressed to a place where there is no telegraph office and that place is, say, X miles from the nearest telegraph office, there is a rate which is always supplied by the post office which you can pay. That is the point. Now, when you are sending a

telegram you pay the necessary fee so that on receipt of your telegram at the last telegraph office, the telegram would be delivered either to a bicycle or other form of despatch rider to take it as quickly as possible to the addressee. Well, if this particular rate is not paid, I am sure Mr Sanni will not blame the P. and T. for allowing the mail from that last point to go through the ordinary channel.

If mail were to be addressed to hon. Ezonbodor, 50 miles from the nearest post office, part of the journey would have to be by water and part by land, in which case, to make it expeditious enough you would have to hire a taxi; and now part of the journey would be done by canoe or by boat, in which case you would have to hire a canoe, and the whole cost of the telegram paid to the post office is only one shilling! Are you suggesting that we should pay two pounds in order to deliver that letter? Where the necessary fee has been paid and the telegram is not delivered expeditiously, that will be a matter for enquiry by the Department. I would appeal to hon. Members that any such cases of disregard should be brought to the notice of the Ministry and it will be investigated without delay.

The hon. Bello Dandago made reference to increased rates which have not gone hand in hand with increase in efficiency. Well, with due deference, I beg to differ. I do not say that we have attained the maximum standard of efficiency yet, but I can say for myself that the standard of efficiency in the post office has been improving within the last few years. I do not say that it is ideal yet, but our people are getting more and more awake and they are developing increased sense of responsibility and these are expressing themselves in the standard of efficiency which we note from day to day. So I must say that there must be increased rates with some increase in efficiency.

Furthermore, I may mention too that hitherto, and even now, no rate can be increased in Nigeria without the authority of the Governor-General. The responsibility for increasing the rate has been that of the Governor-General under our law. So the past increases would not be laid only at the door of the Minister of Communications and Aviation. It is true that the Council advises the Governor-General. The Council does and, with your grace, I am one of those who advise. But with due deference, in my lexicon, *advise* and *command* are not synonymous.

proposed to amend that Ordinance by the addition of a new Section enabling reprints of Imperial Acts and other Instruments to be made in the same way as reprints of Local Legislation. The circumstance which has given rise to the introduction of this particular piece of legislation at this time is the need to consolidate and reprint the various United Kingdom Acts and Constitutional Instruments having effect in this country.

This reprint could not be admissible in a Court of law in Nigeria unless authorised by the type of legislation which I request you to pass to-day. Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Sir, I beg to second.

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 and 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

Adjournment

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at six minutes to twelve o'clock until 9 a.m. on Friday 21st November, 1958.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Friday, 21st November, 1958

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : The following Papers which have been published in the Supplement to the *Official Gazette* No. 78 of 13th November, 1958, copies of which have already been distributed to Members, are deemed to have been laid upon the Table :—

(1) Dock Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1958.

(2) The Factories (Woodworking Machinery) Regulations, 1958.

The next item is Reports on Committees :—

First, Mallam Maitama Sule has reported from the Business Committee in accordance with Standing Order 55A (1) (c) they have decided that the following Private Members' Motions should be placed on the Order Paper for Tuesday, the 25th of November, and the Motions are :—

(1) Merchant Shipping Industry in the name of Mr Komolafe ;

(2) Advisory Planning Committees on Telecommunications in the name of Mr Fani-Kayode ;

(3) Utilisation of V.H.F. Telephone Stations in the name of Mr Akpan-Udo ;

(4) Electricity Supply in the name of Mr D. N. Chukwu ;

(5) Improvement of Ibadan-Benin Trunk Road in the name of Mr Komolafe ;

(6) Instruction in the three main Nigerian languages in the name of Mr Lakunle ;

(7) Farmland affected by Trunk Roads in the name of Mallam Ibrahim Gusau.

Second, I have to lay upon the Table the Report from the Business Committee regarding the allocation of time for the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1958-59)
(NO. 2) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to make Supplementary Provision for the service of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ending on the Thirty-First day of March, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Nine additionally to that made by the Appropriation (1958-59) Ordinance, 1958, and the Supplementary Appropriation (1958-59) Ordinance, 1958", be read a second time.

Sir, in accordance with Section 61 (1) of the Statutory Instruments the presentation of this Bill has the consent of His Excellency the Governor-General.

Members will no doubt wonder why so soon after the last meeting of this House, when I presented a set of supplementary estimates, it should again be necessary for me to ask you to approve the spending of additional funds during the remainder of the current financial year.

Well, Sir, I can only say that I am doing so in compliance with the wishes of hon. Members in this House and in accordance with the stricter control which the Constitution lays down should be exercised by the legislature.

With the passing into law of the Finance (Control and Management) Bill, 1958, no expenditure of public monies can be incurred except under the authority of an Ordinance of this House, followed by the issue of the appropriate Warrant by the Governor-General or myself. In practice, therefore, apart from the annual Estimates, supplementary provision can only be obtained in the following ways :—

(i) by the inclusion of the required provision in an approved Supplementary Estimate ;

(ii) by the virement or reallocation of provision within an approved estimate, whether annual or supplementary ; and

(iii) by an advance from the Contingencies Fund to meet expenditure under most exceptional circumstances.

It will be recalled, therefore, that during the debate on the Finance (Control and Management) Bill, Members were most critical of the establishment of the Contingencies Fund because they feared that it was designed to sidetrack parliamentary control over the

expenditure of public funds following the abolition of the Standing Committee on Finance. I, however, assured the House then that the Fund would, as stated in the Bill, be used only to meet expenditure which was so urgent that it was imperative in the public interest that money should be made available at once. Wherever possible, therefore, my Ministry has dealt with applications for additional provision not provided for in the approved Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates which were approved by this House in August, by making funds available by Virement Warrants signed by me.

Where it has not been possible to reallocate funds because no savings can be quoted, I felt that I had no alternative but to come to this House for authority to incur such additional expenditure. I did not consider any of the requests for additional provision to be so urgent as to justify expenditure being authorised from the Contingencies Fund. The £1,000,000 which was set aside for this Fund in August remains untouched.

The proposals contained in these Supplementary Estimates require additional provision of £270,320—the principal items are £34,570 under the Police Head, £118,000 under the Posts and Telegraphs Head, £11,480 under the Ministry of Education, £28,650 under the Ministry of Research and Information, £20,010 under Agriculture and £27,200 under the Ministry of Transport. Members will agree, I am sure, that they are not controversial and are required only to meet expenditure which it is in the public interest should be met before the 31st of March, 1959. I assure the House that there will be no difficulty in meeting this additional expenditure from within the revised estimated revenue in the current Estimates.

Members will recall that I informed this House that I hope to be able to introduce legislation amending the existing Customs and Excise Ordinance at this meeting of the House. I am happy to be able to say that in the next few days I shall introduce three Bills, namely:—

- (i) Customs and Excise Management Bill,
- (ii) Customs Tariff Bill, and the
- (iii) Excise Tariff Bill.

All these Bills are designed to produce legislation which will conform with modern fiscal thought and practice and so remedy existing anomalies and simplify procedure. I shall deal with this matter in greater detail when I introduce the Bills.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (*Loud applause*).

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (M. Z. B. Dipcharima): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Speaker: Under the Standing Orders the debate stands adjourned until tomorrow.

THE MILITARY PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL
Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister (Alhadji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Military Pensions Ordinance be read a Second Time.

Sir, the Military Pensions Ordinance was designed to bring the conditions governing the Military Pensions into line with those of civil pensions. In January this year the Governor-General, after consulting the Council of Ministers, made an Order bringing about these military pensions into line with the civil pensions. The same order gave the soldier three months after retirement in which to exercise his option to commute.

This amending Bill which is before the House aims at obviating unfairness in the operation of the Order among soldiers. The principal Ordinance only provided for the grant of pensions to officers holding regular service commissions, and I think the House will agree that it is wrong for a short-service commission officer with previous service in the ranks, after being promoted to the commissioned officers rank, to lose the benefits of that service by taking a short-service commission.

At present we have eight Nigerian Officers on the short-service commission who had service in the ranks. If the House approves this Bill, these eight officers will benefit from the amendment contained in the amending Bill.

Sir, the Bill also shows that the intention is to make this retrospective from January 1956. Now these officers whom I mentioned had

been commissioned at different times. First, the first batch was in February 1956 and the other was in September of this year.

I have no doubt that the Members of the House will welcome this Bill and I would like to say that this Bill falls within the ambit of section 61 of the Constitution Order in Council. I want to take the opportunity, Sir, to confirm that the provisions of the Constitution have been complied with.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support the second reading of this Bill, I have got to congratulate the Prime Minister for bringing this Bill at this time. Members of this House are aware that short-service commission officers had been denied the right of pension. The purpose of this Bill is to bring them into line with their counterparts in the regular service.

Well, this Bill is not contentious, Sir. But I would like the Prime Minister to think further of bringing a Bill in order to include the pensions granted to other ranks in the army. Members of this House will agree with me that a comparison between the pensions given to soldiers after their service and those of their counterparts in the civil service, will show that the disparity between these two pensions is very very great. With this in mind, Sir, knowing the Prime Minister fully well and knowing that the Prime Minister has the interests of soldiers at heart, and knowing that this country is marching towards independence and that we require a very strong army to protect our sovereignty, I know the Prime Minister will do everything possible to improve the conditions of soldiers.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West) : I rise to support this Bill and also to congratulate the Prime Minister for bringing this timely Bill. But, Sir, I think what the last speaker said is very important because we should not confine this privilege to the already privileged officers. We should also extend it to all in the army career because army career in this country has been less popular than it should be because of the

condition of service of the military forces. I particularly refer to the ex-servicemen who have to suffer still after the last war due to lack of proper condition of service.

Sir, I would like the Prime Minister to extend this privilege to all in the army career.

Mr C. C. Onoh (Udi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, we in this country are privileged in that we are not forced into the army as they do in other countries. In Britain you have conscription and the Conservatives are doing all they can to lessen this. To that end, they have tried to make conditions in the army more favourable and by so doing people might enlist into the army as a life-long profession.

I am grateful to the Prime Minister for introducing this. In this stage of our development, we are aiming towards independence, and it is essential that we make the conditions in the army attractive to people outside it. The granting of pensions and gratuities to soldiers who have served us is one of the ways whereby we can achieve this.

We are grateful to the Prime Minister for introducing this at this time and with that I support.

Mr G. O. D Eneh (Udi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very welcome Bill, the only difficulty is that it relates to a very eligible few and that eligible few are the short commission Officers of Nigerian origin who are just eight in number. I want to stress the point home that the majority of Nigerians in the Army are in the other ranks from the rank of Warrant Officer, Class II to the private soldier, and I consider if the pension benefits of the soldiers are to fall in line with that of the Civil Service, it is necessary to give the other ranks pension rights which are equivalent to those enjoyed by the Civil Service.

Some of the uniformed Officers of the Government, such as the Police and the Warders, were not enjoying pension benefits but quite recently, after the conversion of salaries, these people have started to enjoy pension benefits. I consider that there should be a grade from which soldiers should be eligible for the earning of pension rights and we are appealing to the Prime Minister to see

to it that soldiers who are in certain categories, even though they are not commissioned, should be given pension benefits equivalent to those in the Civil Service.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Very often in this Legislature there are some Bills which are only intelligible to lawyers and the like. This would seem to be beginning the day with a Bill which is intelligible only to present or past soldiers and, therefore, talking as soldiers to soldiers they are brief and laconic in explanation, but some of us who have never been soldiers or airmen may not follow quite clearly the distinction that this Bill sets out to make. We should be very grateful if the Prime Minister in winding up this debate, or at some stage later on, would explain fully to us the benefits of a short commissioned Officer, who is a short commission Officer and what does it differ from the long term Officer?

We understand that there are about eight Nigerians; why are there Nigerian short commissioned Officers, why don't they come under long term? Those are the things in which I think Members will be interested—really setting the stamp of confirmation on this. We have confidence in the Prime Minister but will he take us into his confidence and let us be educated as to what this Bill sets out to do and what class of people are to benefit, what benefits they enjoy now, how does this increase their enjoyment?

You will find in the Objects and Reasons here that the calculation of these pensions and gratuities will be as in the case of regular Officers but one-half only of any previous service in the ranks to be taken into account. I understand the English grammar but the comprehension of it is new to me. These are things which we would like the Prime Minister to explain to us before we set our assent on this Bill.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not like to take up the time of the House but the hon. Member I think knows very well we have some short commissioned Officers who are people who have been serving in the ranks and because of their ability they go up, they are sent for training—not to Sandhurst but to other places in the United Kingdom—and they get their short service commission. Now this Bill

is designed to bring these people to enjoy the benefits which the principal Ordinance conferred on the other commissioned Officers. The Army titles are a bit complicated but I would be very pleased to explain to the hon. Member if he would care to see me in my office after the House.

Chief Solaru: I am grateful to the Prime Minister.

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 5 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance to provide for the payment of salaries, gratuities and allowances to Members of the Federal Public Service Commission, be read a Second Time.

This is, Sir, a short and simple Bill and I need not explain it at great length because the House is already aware of the circumstances under which we have a Public Service Commission. Members will agree, Sir, that the responsibilities of the Members of this Commission have been increasing and so it is thought that we should, Sir, try to improve their conditions and that is why it is now suggested as hon. Members will see under the Objects and Reasons, that the salary of the Chairman should be £3,000 and of a full-time Member, £2,400 and of a part-time Member—an unofficial—at £800.

We do not consider, Sir, that it is necessary to revise the pay of the non-official Member because by the present arrangements, after January, the Public Service Commission will be composed of a Chairman, two full-time Members and an unofficial part-time Member.

The quorum will be three, so it will mean the Chairman and the full-time members will be doing all the work. Also as Members will see in Clause 6 there is provision for allowances. That provision is made especially if it is necessary to have a Public Officer serving under the Public Service Commission. I do not think that such a situation will arise but it is very good if we prepare for it.

The same clause also makes provision for the Governor-General to grant allowances to members of the Public Service Commission when they are out of Nigeria. I think Members of the House are aware that the Commission has already held two meetings in London; they are thinking of holding a third one in June or July next year and possibly there may be a necessity for holding meetings in places other than England. The clause makes provision for them to get allowances which the Governor-General may consider that they should get.

I would very much like to pay tribute to the excellent services which were rendered to the Public Service Commission and to the country by public officers who served at different times on the Public Service Commission. I have no doubt that hon. Members know the constitutional arrangements about these service commissions. This Bill is not a controversial one but like the other Bill which I moved a short while ago it falls within the ambit of section 61 of the Constitutional Order in Council, and I would like to take the opportunity again to confirm that the provisions of that Order have been complied with.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill, but in doing so, Sir, I wish to observe that the Public Service Commission is a very important branch of the Government Department in this country. It is responsible for Nigerianisation of the Civil Service.

I know that if the Public Service Commission does its duty well without listening to Heads of Departments who have some grievances or harbour some prejudices against qualified Nigerians, it will be able to have the Civil Service well Nigerianised. In some cases

Heads of Departments send confidential reports to the Public Service Commission and the Public Service Commission is misled by the confidential reports to do some damage to Nigerians. I know some Nigerians who were discouraged from entering the Civil Service because of what the Heads of Departments did by their recommendations to the Public Service Commission.

I have no quarrel at all with whatever salaries that may be recommended for the Public Service Commission, but I warn that members of the Public Service Commission should not be misled by Heads of Departments because certain Heads of Departments do not want the progress of Nigerians. . . .

Mr Speaker: The last statement is outside the consideration of this Bill. This Bill is concerned with the payment of salaries to members of the Public Service Commission. The behaviour of Heads of Departments may be very interesting but it is not the subject of this Bill.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, I must throw another bouquet on the Prime Minister for proposing to give us a full-time official doing the work of Chairman of the Public Service Commission at this salary. The country is prepared to pay for services rendered and I know that the appointment of this officer is not within the portfolio of the Prime Minister. At the same time it is only fair that this House should express its views as to who should pay and what kind of person we want. I hope this appointment will not be granted to an expatriate, I am certain that every person in this House will support that view.

We hope that when the announcement is made as to who is Chairman of the Public Service Commission an African qualified and fitted to do that job will be found. It is not only to find a Nigerian for this post but a fitting Nigerian. There are many Nigerians to-day who have greatly passed as stooges of that Government. I hope that amount will be judiciously spent.

Regarding part-time officers I hope that when we receive the announcement that such and such persons have been appointed to this Commission we on all sides of this House will be able to cheer such appointments. We shall be prepared to speak at the right time if, and if only, these posts are given to persons who will not further the interests of Nigerians.

Mr M. A. Ajasin (Owo South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to ask the Prime Minister to tell us why, in view of the fact that this Bill is reciprocal, and if a Nigerian is able to enter these other countries without a passport, and in those other countries there are people who want to enter Nigeria, why there are some countries in West Africa which have not been mentioned, and which Nigerians would like to go to. For instance, Liberia. Liberia is omitted from this list. Will the Prime Minister please explain why since Liberia is a free country like the Sudan, will he please explain why that country should not be listed as one of the places that could be visited by Nigerians.

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Speaker, Sir, while welcoming this Bill, I observe the conspicuous absence of territories like Fernando Po and Gabon. I know that the majority of Nigerians in Fernando Po are from the Eastern Region, and that Nigerians continue to settle in these territories. It is hoped that in due course some Nigerians may marry the people of the indigenous tribes of Fernando Po or otherwise, and it is hoped that at some time to come, people whose parents, either father or mother who are of Fernando Po might like to come to Nigeria, and I think they should be covered by the provisions of this Bill. (*An hon. Member: French Territory*). No, I am sorry it is not, Fernando Po is Spanish.

Mr Speaker, I would like the Prime Minister to tell us exactly why this territory is omitted, because we have so many Nigerians, thousands of them, who are living in Fernando Po.

Mr O. C. Agwuna (Awka): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am deeply concerned by the provisions of this Bill. It is very embarrassing to find in this House, Bills of this type coming up at a time when we are looking forward to full nationhood.

Now, one thing that strikes my mind is, what are the criteria for deciding the countries whose people or citizens should be allowed to enter this country without the issuing of the necessary passports? It is true we have been told that such countries like Ghana, etc., on the West Coast allow Nigerians to enter their territory and *vice versa*. But I want to ask, in view of the good relations, and the intimate relations we have with the Ghanaians by geographical proximity or nearness, what can

we give as our reason for preventing indigenous Africans from East Africa and the Union of South Africa from entering this country? People in these areas are looking forward to Nigeria as their saviour country, as the only country in West Africa or in the whole continent that is concerned with the treatment of dependents, to help them in overcoming some of their problems of race prejudice. If we do not allow them the freedom to travel to this country then it would be impossible for us to be better acquainted with their sufferings and better acquainted with their problems and better placed to be of help.

Some Members have mentioned the word "native". As a matter of fact I think the Prime Minister, when somebody was talking, was nodding his head, and I think he was nodding with approval, that the word is very improper. One must either be a Nigerian or a non-Nigerian. Let us make our law very clear. The word "native" should be removed. If anybody travelling to this country is not a Nigerian, then he must be a non-Nigerian. If anybody is a native of Africa, he must be described by his country of origin, he is either a Ghanaian, Nigerian, (*An hon. Member: A South African*) No, not a South African, whatever it is we must drop this idea of describing ourselves and our brothers as natives, because the word "native" has acquired a very bad reputation.

With these few remarks, I beg to oppose this Bill.

M. Abubakar Garba (North Bauchi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to correct the wrong impression given by the last speaker. Nigeria is traditionally a hospitable country and its door is wide open to any honest visitor, be he a businessman, a missionary, a civil servant, a journalist or an ambassador. Nigeria will continue to welcome strangers who come with good intentions but they should enter the country with genuine passports.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr L. A. Lawal (Ibadan East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill but in doing so, I cannot just mortgage my conscience by failing to draw the attention of this House to the length of hypocrisy which this Bill portrays.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we are all aware that there is great outcry against the suggestion that entry into a senior member-country of the British Commonwealth should be restricted. Nigeria

no doubt condemned this idea and our Prime Minister and Regional Ministers also expressed their dissatisfaction at such a restriction, but it now appears that we are trying to do such things that we condemned in others.

In the case of Great Britain the suggestion was that immigration into the British Commonwealth by the coloured people should be regulated; but we coloured people are now trying to restrict the entry of coloured people into coloured man's country. Mr Speaker, Sir, while I support this Bill I would like to tell the Minister to take this point into consideration.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (South West Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not inhospitable in my attitude, but as the Bill now stands these people, these natives, the word objected to—and I cannot see the reason why it should be objected to—the natives of these countries, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Gambia, *et cetera*, can enter here with a travel certificate. The Bill does not provide that when you enter a house and there is no provision for you to go out, then you are there for ever.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not inhospitable but as it stands people can enter here. The Bill intends that all these natives from all these countries are at liberty to be here and live for ever and that is that. Unless they mean that another provision should be made to specify one's business or stipulate time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, about the objection from the hon. Member about the word *native* there is nothing wrong in the term. We are natives of Nigeria and for a long, long time the word has been in use. Heavens did not fall. It is not outmoded, Sir. What is different in the term *native*? There is nothing. Let us face facts. With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Bill which the Prime Minister explained to us as noncontentious, quite straightforward and just a matter of tidying up loose ends seems to be graduating into something more complex, but I think that the confusion arises from a misunderstanding of what the Bill intends to do. After all it might be large-heartedness to throw the door of your house open to all comers but you have to

choose your own guests. You sometimes put up a notice board and say: "Please knock and wait until you are asked to enter". You do not go in without waiting for a reply. In fact as we say to some of our friends: "Do come in if you are good looking." In my view the Bill says if your country feels you are a respectable person please come in. After all, talking about immigration, as members of the Commonwealth you do not enter into Britain without a passport nor do Britons come here without a passport. This does not mean that we are inhospitable. It only means that we want them to be accredited for by their own Governments first and then we accord them all the facilities at our disposal and *vice versa*.

But these people are our neighbours. We have had contact with them for centuries. They have been travelling across the border without caring for customs; but now we have to regulate their entrance and departure. These people should have their movements regulated even though most of them are connected with us either by culture or by trade for years and years in the past. To widen this into something ideological, I think, it is bordering upon the ridiculous. If we have to define our policy as to whom we should be friendly with or whom we should restrict I think we should wait until 1960, when we have our independence. As I said, these people are our neighbours and we do not want to dispute with geography.

Sir, coming to this word *native*, I think we should not allow our vision to be distorted. There are circumstances under which I would object to being referred to as a *native*. In legal parlance you can say *native* without meaning offence, and if a *native foreigner* is defined to mean those who belong to this and other countries then I cannot see any offence in that; but it is when you loosely describe a person as a *native Ghanaian*, without any sociological or legal interpretation, referring to them as *natives* or lumping the rest of the world together by classifying them as *Europeans* or otherwise that is the time when you ought to be cocking your ears. In this type of thing the word *native* can be described as even *non-native*. As somebody said in this House this legislature can turn a man into a woman and a woman into a man. I do not think we can quarrel with a legal word and it

is only when it is used in a derogatory sense that we have every reason to object. I think that objection has been withheld and we have no longer native administration, native police, native government, native rulers. We now call them local government for this district or that district. I think that should satisfy us so far. Sir, I think we should reserve our ammunition for larger game when the time comes. For example, people who object to restriction, I do not know whether they are allowed free permit into Prague, and Czechoslovakia and beyond, I don't know.

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in the first place I want to make it quite clear that I have no objection whatsoever to our extending a right hand of fellowship to our fellow Africans, but I do not know whether the Prime Minister is aware or not of this fact, that any Nigerian who goes to a French Territory without a travel certificate is liable to three months imprisonment. It is a fact, and quite recently I know of a lot of people from my own area, who were sentenced to three months imprisonment because of lack of travel certificates.

Several hon. Members : They were smugglers !

Mr Lankunle : They are not smugglers, they are not smugglers at all.

Mr Speaker : Order, order, I cannot hear what is being said. Will other hon. Members please keep quiet.

Mr Lakunle : Thank you, Mr Speaker. Well when I say people, I do not mean people from my own town, I mean people who are Nigerians, who were sentenced to three months imprisonment because of lack of travel certificates. Their only fault was they did not have a travel certificate.

Well now what I want to point out to the Prime Minister is that if we can allow these people to come in without travel certificates, or without restrictions on their travel certificates well I see no reason why the Prime Minister should not endeavour to get the French authorities to allow our own people to go there without these restrictions too.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill on Immigration. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister who introduced this Bill as a sign of good feeling towards our African brothers. This Bill, if passed, Sir, is a good means of increasing the population of Nigeria rapidly. At the same time, Sir, I say this realising that other African Tribes may like to immigrate and settle in Nigeria ; but we will not hesitate to send away or deport those unwanted persons or habitual criminals.

An hon. Member : Who are they ?

Mr Olarewaju : The Prime Minister should be given wide power to add more to the list of other African countries who can come and go freely to Nigeria. Sir, I beg to support.

The Prime Minister (Alhadi the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa) : Mr Speaker, Sir I would like only to refer to two points, Sir. The first was made by the hon. Mr Lakunle. I think he does not seem to understand what is meant. . . .

An hon. Member : I think he understands now.

The Prime Minister : Oh, very good. And the other, Sir ; I think hon. Mr Ajasin and hon. Mr Akpan-Udo referred to Liberia and Fernando Po being omitted from the countries listed here. Now I said, Sir, that the countries put down here are those countries which give us the same treatment. Fernando Po is Spanish ; Liberia is independent. I do not think they give us the same treatment. They require us to have certain special arrangements, but I understand, Sir, that the grant of a *visa* is done mainly by an executive action. Whether it would be easy or difficult, we are all right, and so I think, Sir, those two hon. Members can be assured that Liberia and Fernando Po are fully well covered.

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)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like the Prime Minister to take note of the points made by hon. Mr Awguna when he said that people in East Africa, the natives or the indigenous Africans in South Africa and East Africa should have had extended to them these facilities. Of course the Prime Minister has just spoken on this and has said that these facilities were only extended to those countries that have given us the same facilities.

What I am just saying is that the Prime Minister has just remarked now that he is only extending these facilities to those countries that have extended the same facilities to us. We must realise that our fellow Africans in East Africa cannot do it, because of the conditions there and it is our bounden duty to show them that we are united to them by extending to them the same facilities because the House is quite aware of the problems of the Africans in South Africa and the Africans in East Africa. If we extend these facilities to them it will go to show that we have their interests at heart and we are actually in touch with their day-to-day problems.

I would like to beg the Prime Minister on this point because these people in East Africa and other parts of Africa too are looking to us in Nigeria as their salvation and it is our duty to show them that we are prepared to rescue them from their present life of hardship. With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

The Prime Minister: I think I should reply to these points made by hon. Mr Awguna and taken up by my hon. Friend Mr Adeyinka. Well I thought, Sir, that my hon. Friend, Chief Solaru, had explained this, and that there was no need for me to say anything about it. Well I think if the Government accepts what the two hon. Members are suggesting nobody knows what will happen to this country in a very short time.

I must say that it would be wrong for Nigeria to open its doors to all peoples, according to them we can extend it even beyond Africa. Well I think it would be wrong, Mr Chairman.

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot-Ekpene): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am raising this point again in order to have a categorical statement from

the Prime Minister. It is in connection with Fernando Po and Gabon. I said during the Second Reading that the majority of Nigerians in these two territories are from the Eastern Region and mostly Anangs, Ibibios, Efiks, and a percentage of Ibos. For this purpose, Mr Chairman, I note that even the Federal Government took a contract to supply Nigerian labour to Fernando Po and maintains an office to cater for the interests of these Nigerians in Fernando Po. It then means that the Spanish Government has given an open door to the Government to send people into Fernando Po to work for them. The territory is so near that even the Guinea current could carry a fisherman from the Nigerian coast to Fernando Po within two or three days. So I feel that the place is near enough to be considered as one of the territories into which Nigerians could be admitted or from which Nigerians should be admitted into Nigeria with just an ordinary permit and not by passport.

In fact, we should expect in years to come our grandchildren from Fernando Po to come to Nigeria, and we see no reason why they should come by passport. We have so many relatives there. This point is so important, and Fernando Po is so near, that a year or so before independence we should make sure that our ties are so close with them that we would have no difficulties in dealing with them.

Mr Chairman, I demand, on behalf of the thousands of Nigerians in Fernando Po, a categorical statement from the Prime Minister on this, because this omission is a very serious one.

The Prime Minister: Mr Chairman, Sir, I thought that I had explained this point when I was referring to Liberia, that Fernando Po is Spanish and I said the grant of a *visa* can be done by an executive action, in which case the Nigerians going to Fernando Po by special arrangements between the Spanish Government and the U.K. Government could go quite easily.

But the other point, Sir, which the hon. Member raised, of Nigerians possibly marrying in Fernando Po, that point will be taken care of when the time comes.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

CRIMINAL CODE (POOL BETTING) (AMENDMENT)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move "That a Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Criminal Code Ordinance, Chapter 42, of the Revised Edition of the Laws, 1948," be read a Second Time.

I had hoped by this time to be in a position to introduce comprehensive legislation on football pools which would also provide for a tax on all entries from Nigeria, but extensive consultations with other Regional Governments and overseas and local pool promoters is necessary in order to evolve a fair and satisfactory method of imposing and collecting such tax. I have not yet completed all the consultations which I consider to be necessary before I place my proposals before the House.

This Bill is a temporary measure, pending the enactment of the more comprehensive legislation which has the object of controlling the operations of pool promoters and agents in Lagos.

I have sent copies to the other Governments of Southern Nigeria. These Governments have already indicated their willingness to introduce legislation on these lines. I have suggested to them that they should consider the early enactment of a bill similar to the Bill now before us, so that the law controlling pools may be the same throughout Southern Nigeria. The various Governments have decided to introduce this Bill immediately because of the very great increase which has taken place recently in pool betting.

This increase is probably due to the success of one fortunate Nigerian, whose face is now familiar to all of us through frequent newspaper advertisement, who won £75,000.

This increase in public interest has led to an excessive number of pools promoters and agents starting business in Lagos and elsewhere, and I have received many complaints that the public have been cheated. The regulations which the Federal Government will make under the ordinance will probably provide for a

reasonable licence fee to be paid for and for agents and promoters to follow certain procedures which will ensure that the public have a fair run for their money, that a reasonable amount of the stake money is distributed by way of prizes, and that the opportunities for fraud are considerably reduced.

The regulations will be framed in consultation with representatives of local promoters and agents to ensure that they will not be required to comply with any provisions which would unfairly hamper their business.

In making the regulations the Federal Government will remember its duty of protecting the interests of legitimate Nigerian enterprise. But the regulations will have the effect of putting right out of business those promoters whose only object is to make as much money as possible as quickly as possible without worrying whether the rules and conduct of their competitions are fair to their clients.

The Bill also makes it clear that it is legal to conduct a pool betting business. There has been some difference of legal opinion on this point in the past, but as it is the policy of the Federal Government to control and tax pool betting, it is only reasonable that the law should make it quite clear that such betting is legal. Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Education (hon. Aja Nwachuku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question Proposed.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir, while wholeheartedly supporting this Bill I would like to deprecate the manner in which it has been brought forward.

The purport of the Bill itself, is hidden away. Although the hon. Minister said during the course of his speech that in framing regulations, and that is the most important item, in framing such regulations he would have consultations with the agents. The point is this, Sir, that this House is being asked to abdicate its responsibility in this matter. The way this Bill is brought, as I said, is such that this House is going to give the hon. Minister the power to make laws at our back. The essence of the Bill itself is going to be made out in the form of regulations which have to take place at the back of this legislature. That is what I deprecate in this Bill. It seems to me a useless Bill as it is silent on the important factors, the sort of conditions that are going to be imposed.

Much as we are the watchdogs of the general public, we are also the watchdogs of the pools promoters, and I am quite certain that the Minister would maintain a fair balance between the public on the one side and the promoters on the other side, but this House ought not to be left out of the picture. I, in supporting a Bill of this nature want to be assured that he is not going to impose prohibitive conditions. I have no doubt that he will not do so but still I want to be assured that all those conditions are known to this House before they are imposed.

The Minister did say that this Bill will be a temporary one, but I daresay that after this Bill has been passed in this House and the whole gamut is now left to the Minister to prepare the rules and regulations and impose such conditions as he likes, the forms, the period of validity, he does everything at his absolute discretion, we have no further say in it; he is not going to remit such regulations to this House for us to look into them.

I am not overlooking the point made by the Minister that in framing the regulations he would consult other interested parties. But my objection, which I humbly submit, is that the very import of the Bill itself which is contained in paragraph 5 is going to be hidden away from this legislature.

Just asking us to give the Minister power to issue licences to Pool Promoters is not sufficient. We want to know the conditions he is going to impose, and we want to know what he is going to put into the regulations. This is the responsibility of the Federal Legislature.

As I have said, it is our duty to watch the interests of the public in connection with Pool Promoters and the use of their money. That is the only complaint I have against this Bill. If the Minister is not ready to bring forward a comprehensive bill embodying what he has in mind we can afford to wait. I mean that he should allow things to go on as they are until he is ready. Why not wait until he has consulted all the parties and then prepare the bill, and bring it out in the open for us to discuss, so that we may air our views?

With these reservations, Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr L. C. Daldry : Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill aims at some control over pool betting. In the "objects and reasons" it is stated that it is hoped that comprehensive legislation will, in the future, be introduced dealing with the whole field of pool betting and there is one aspect of this field to which I would like to draw attention, that is, the potential danger of vast sums of money leaving this country for this particular purpose.

It is said that large sums are leaving now. I am not in a position to say whether that is correct or not, but obviously in a country with 35 million inhabitants, if this pool habit gains ground to the same extent as it has in some countries, there is a risk of money leaving this country in serious quantities.

Now this matter of pool betting in my view has a bearing on a matter of vastly more importance than pool betting, namely, the economic development of Nigeria. Everybody agrees that the economic development of this country can only be achieved with money. Some of this money may be coming from outside, but it is my belief that a great deal of it has got to be found within Nigeria and, again, when we reflect that this is a country with 35 to 40 million inhabitants, it seems quite clear that however small the savings of the average man may be, there must be a huge potential reservoir of money which can be tapped for investment. Nothing in the past has been done about tapping this pool but I believe that something will be done in the future both by the Government, who are likely to offer for sale Government Federal Bonds, and also, I think perhaps, by commercial concerns, who may be likely in the future to offer shares for the public to buy. I know nothing about Pools, but I believe that among the nomenclature used is that people invest in pools. In my opinion, thinking of real investment, the place to invest is right here in Nigeria. (*Applause*).

Obviously if a great deal of the spare savings of this country go out of it, we will find the reservoir being tapped and money taken away to an extent that might be serious for the economic development of this country.

I am not against pools at all. I know nothing about them. I have never filled up a pool coupon, and I hope that my luck will lie in other directions! No-one objects to the

average man having a flutter on the pools, but I think we do not want this flutter to become a really vast storm. I therefore suggest to the Government that they may wish to give some consideration to this subject when they come to prepare the more comprehensive Bill which is mentioned.

Meanwhile, I support the Bill.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, from a purely religious point of view I hate betting. I denounce it. I would not have anything to do with it because Islam and, I think I am right in saying, Christianity, forbid the followers of both religions to have anything to do with betting. But, Sir, betting has come to stay in this country and, whether we like it or not, it has become more and more popular in certain sections of the community. In the circumstances, therefore, we should look at betting from two angles:—

(1) from the economic aspect of it insofar as it affects Nigeria, and

(2) in the interests of the Nigerians themselves who are interested in this betting, as they must be protected.

Talking about the economic aspect of it, hon. Members will agree with me, Sir, that large sums of money are leaving this country as has already been said by the hon. Mr Daldry, and very little money is being realised by Government from these monies that are leaving the country. It is time that Government did something in order to realise something from the money that is going away, otherwise we will only stand to lose. But I want to say that in my opinion more and more money invested in pools will be leaving this country, and I feel that whatever fees Government may collect will be too small to permit of this money leaving the country. So we must look at it from this angle too.

Now, the economic development of the country is something that is dear to our hearts. Every time we come to this honourable legislature we say this, and we say that Government should do everything in order to attract foreign investors into this country. We know that we have got enough natural resources to develop this country economically, but we do realise, Sir, that for quite a long time we have got to depend on foreign investment in order to exploit these natural resources. We are doing

everything possible to attract foreign investment. What are we doing in this country in order to inculcate into the minds of our own people that they should invest in their own country, so as to contribute their own quota to the economic development of their own country?

This is something that we must do. But, if we feel that we should encourage betting so that more money should leave this country and then collect some fees from the few people that are promoting betting, and we feel that is encouraging people to develop their country economically, by all means let us do it. If, on the other hand, we feel we can do something better than that, for goodness sake let us think of that.

Now talking about people that are now interested in betting, we find that the large majority of people who are interested in betting are ignorant people. Sometimes you find a large number of people going to pool promoters asking them to fill the coupons in for them as they do not know how to do it. And sometimes these people take advantage of the ignorance of these people and do anything. I hear of cases of people who have sent money and the money gets lost mysteriously. We hear of promoters from whom money has been won leaving the country and hibernating in certain parts of the country. We want Government to do something about this.

On the other hand, as has been suggested, the promoters too are Nigerians themselves, so I would like when the Government is drawing up the regulations, or when the Minister is drawing up the regulations, he shall do something so that both sides can have a fair share. I am asking before I take my seat, Mr Speaker, whether it is more economical to allow money to leave the country, or to utilize this money by encouraging the people to invest same in their own country?

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a pity that the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs has chosen to bring this Bill in such a way because it is a good thing. But it is a thing that strikes at roots which go much deeper than he would have us think.

Sir, the fact that the Minister thinks it is about time to do something to control betting or football pools or the pool system, whatever it is, shows the danger is going to such proportions that the Government has to take notice. But the point I would like to bring before the Legislature and the hon. Minister is that the Government should re-examine the whole position in the light of what has been said on the economic front. But I would also ask the Legislature and the Government to face the problem of the danger that the pool system constitutes to our character as a country. (*Hear, hear*). After all, the Minister says it is not Lent, but I do not think it is wrong to call upon a nation to repent at any time of day or year.

I think if we are going down to the lane, the time is not to wait until we have gone too far, but to turn about right now. The greatest asset to the person of a human being is his character, and the greatest asset of our nation should be the moral stamina. This encouragement of people to seek to gain something for nothing or for very little hoping that everybody would lose so that you may gain, well, they call it a flutter, but I think that it can go to such proportions that it will be heart palpitation. When a person suffers from heart palpitation he is incapable of doing hard work. And so people who are always waiting for something to fall mysteriously into their lap will never do serious work. They go about hunting for money in order that something bigger might return without any stroke of their own labour. I think that is morally wrong.

It is impossible, of course, for Government to legislate on people's morals, but at any rate, we can stop the wrong, and not only this matter of getting some money out of it, which I call a living out of the vice of the people. But if it must be done, it must be done thoroughly. I say this is a good thing.

I wonder if the Minister would consider that it is proper to defer this Bill until you have got the replies on these points and bring something rather comprehensive, considering the moral, the economic and all the other things that go with it. (*Applause.*) I feel that the people of this country would thank you for such a thing. It is all right for the man who won £75,000 and for his neighbours who are hoping to share part of his winnings, but what people do not

yet realise is what the Government has not yet realised: they say the Government says money is scarce, not knowing they are killing the goose that lays the golden egg. If everybody were to make money, money would be valueless. They do not realise how many thousands of pounds are leaving and are not coming back.

It seems very difficult to advise the Government in the way my Friend, Mallam Maitama Sule has done, and other Members of the Legislature, that Government should not only regulate but also promote its own pools. I think that is merely contradicting oneself. But on the economic point of view, if people must gamble, let them gamble in their own land so that all the money that falls from their own lap may be collected by a careful Government for the development of their own land.

Well, I am not holding up the Western Government for your adoration, but I know that when the people in the West indulge in all this betting and pooling, at least they devote much of it to the hospital services. Maybe the Government will have to think about such a thing. But they are so complicated. I am, in principle, against all pools and betting, but this is an imperfect world and we are called upon to govern an imperfect world. So all you must do is to try to make it as perfect as you can, if that is possible.

I think this is a serious business and a serious business is never done in a haphazard way. I would implore the hon. Minister to kindly consider deferring this Bill until a more comprehensive measure could be brought in. (*Applause.*)

Sitting suspended : 10.45 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 10.58 a.m.

Question again proposed.

Mr J. A. O. Akande (Egba North): Mr Speaker, I thank you for calling me to speak on this subject. At one of the sessions of this House I brought a motion to ban football pools. This Legislature at that time defeated that motion and I agree with the Government that local football pools should be protected. I think it is right and proper for this Legislature to thank the Minister of Internal Affairs for bringing this Bill so soon after that motion.

If we want football pools in this country we should have them but if the Minister had decided to bring this measure at this particular time there should have been no need for anybody to come here and accuse him.

Many people have suffered in the hands of these unscrupulous persons and with the passing of this Bill it will bring to the minds of those who participate in this business the satisfaction that Government is looking after their affairs. One of the speakers has just said that the Minister is giving us a blank Bill and is asking us to give him all the necessary power to deal with this legislation. The matter of details in this sort of Bill can be handled by a Minister in the person of the man introducing the Bill. I do not think there is any need for anybody to quarrel with those details when our Ministers hold collective responsibility.

When I brought the Motion to ban football pools I also warned against the danger of the large amount of money leaving Nigeria, but at that particular time the Minister made us to understand that certain percentage of the money will be retained in Nigeria. Pools in Nigeria are a necessary evil. The Legislature did not decide against it and I do not think it is reasonable for anybody to come here and criticise the way it is being done. All we have to do is to thank the Minister in charge of this subject and to ask him to speed up the comprehensive legislation that will put the minds of those who participate in pools at rest.

In conclusion, somebody has said that the majority of the uneducated people take part in pools, but I can say that many of the educated people also take part. The Minister should be praised for bringing this Bill. Once more we ask him that he should speed up the comprehensive legislation in order to allay the fears of those who participate in pools. I beg to support.

Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass): Mr Speaker, Sir, pool betting and gambling are evils in society though righteous evils in the sense that clients voluntarily try their investment. Pool betting in whatever form is an evil in the sense that it benefits a few but discourages and ruins many. It is also an art which the ignorant many cannot understand. It is only the few with commonsense that can understand pool betting and can possibly win. The Bill on the floor of the House is welcome.

The Bill furnishes regulating rules for men living together in society and that is the quality of this Ordinance. Many of the gambling organisations are avaricious. Lotteries, horse racing, crossword puzzles, cross figure puzzles, football pools, cricket pools and card betting all look attractive to the ignorant stakers.

In Nigeria, Mr Speaker, many winning publications bear fictitious names. Some pool managers disappear in the face of big or heavy dividend winners. It was only right that legislation of this type was necessary. Pools organisations can in this way declare their financial standings and pay their dues to the State by way of tax.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Explain righteous evil.

Rev. Bens: Why do I say pool betting is a righteous evil? It is a righteous evil because it is all tied up with sports. There is no one in this House who can tell us that he is not interested in sports. Football is being played and organised in our schools, and football is the source of betting. Cricket is being played by most of our eminent men in society and it is another source of betting. Why can't we then rightly call it a righteous evil?

The only criticism of the Bill is that it fails to provide any penalties against the participants in an illegal pool betting organisation. I should be very grateful if the Minister will take note of that point.

Lastly, whatever is said about pool betting, it has come to stay. No amount of condemnation of the practice will wipe it away from our society. I strongly support the suggestion that we should set up our own pools and lotteries although we have not enough matches to warrant football pools and cricket pools. I beg to support wholeheartedly.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the House that the matter of football pools in Lagos is of great public concern and must be dealt with urgently and expeditiously. Many hon. Members no doubt are not resident in this great metropolis, but if they would care to take a walk round the town they will find not less than two hundred

pool betting shops and offices opened all over the town. And what is happening? I receive complaints nearly every day in my office of pool organisations closing down on Saturday night only to open in another section of the town on another Monday. We are trying to protect the public even in spite of themselves, and I feel that rather than helping these poor people you will be doing them a lot of harm if you postpone the evil day for these bad promoters. If you allow us to get this Bill through, I assure you that your Council of Ministers will be put in the picture whenever we are going to have the regulations made.

I have assured you before that representatives of the pool promoters will be consulted. We are very anxious to protect the public, but there is one argument against postponement. The evil that postponement will do to the pool bettors will be more than the evil that any regulation you may not agree with will do to them in the interim. I have assured you that we are going to have a comprehensive legislation, and on this Bill we have been working hard with other Regional Governments of the South and I have their blessing to go right ahead with this one so that we could stop these people for the time being.

We have all agreed that in coming to the Budget Session we should not try to bring all other available Bills so that we can devote our whole time to budgetary matters. So that it is not possible for this Bill to come in the next Budget Session, and then these men knowing that their days are limited will do very great harm that members of the public will not thank you for this postponement.

So I am appealing to you that you can trust the good sense of your Council of Ministers that they are going to make these regulations to the best interest of the public, the pool promoters and the Ministry concerned. I can assure you, further, that you are going to make things very difficult for my Ministry if you say that the matter of regulation in things like this should always come before the House. These things should be viewed in the light of new matters that crop up every day, and if we find in the light of experience that we have got to change a particular section there you will feel that it will be wrong for us to wait until the House meets before we do this.

I can assure you, on the other hand, that the other Governments are equally concerned. What is the use of banning pool promoters who are not fair to their clients in Lagos and then you find that at Apapa and Mushin they are opening their offices? They will be embarrassing the Western Regional Government, also the East. So we are asking you to help the teeming thousands of pool enthusiasts in order at least to make sure that they have fun and fair play for the money they invest.

I think you have all agreed now and I am very very happy at the way our religionist has treated this matter. It shows very well that here in Nigeria we are having people who do not go by the old dogma and just condemn it because it is not fair. England to-day, as you all know very well, is a Christian country. It has not succeeded in banning pools or other forms of gambling. Many of you who have been to England will agree with me that the evening newspapers sell more than the morning newspapers and it is all because people want to know about dog racing and horse racing. And I can assure you that you are legislating for people who are above the age of twenty-one. They are not minors and it will be wrong for us to treat these people like irresponsible boys and girls to tell them how to spend their money. They will not forgive you for it. They will feel that if they have the chance they can come here to legislate for you too.

So if the pulpit, the press and the mosque in their combined efforts could not eradicate what you call evil, please what we have got to do is to save them in spite of themselves. So I am appealing to you not to put a clog in our wheel of progress and to allow the Bill to go through.

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)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, Clause 2 contains the most operative part of this Bill. Following up what has been said here this morning, one would like to commend this to the Minister to do his best in his

regulations and otherwise to discourage as much as possible the export of capital from this country. Any student of British economics and economic history will know and appreciate that betting as well as the numerous forms of insurance policies and practices have their root in one economic principle and that is discouraging people from hiding away money they are not yet prepared to spend and making whatever fragments of money they have available through such avenues to the money markets of the country.

Now, Sir, when we are behaving in the way we are doing now, it is all right if the various sums of pennies, shillings and pounds find their way into the economic set-up of the country, but we must realise that when we are doing this thing and sending out money from this country we are in effect carrying out an external financial and economic policy of making available money to a different community which we intended to preserve for ourselves and for the general advantage of our country. So I very seriously commend it to the Minister to appreciate this fact that when we are betting in the way we are doing to-day, not only are we taking the chance of gaining thousands of pounds where we put in a shilling, but we are also carrying out the economic policy, the capital policy of a different society intended to prevent their own community from hoarding money and making them available to make possible fuller and better employment, better conditions of life for people of that community. Therefore, it is most necessary that we should warn ourselves of this fact and see that we remind ourselves that when we send out all these savings we send them out with the idea of making available for the development of another country money which we ourselves may not yet be prepared to spend but which we would have liked the community to take advantage of until we want it. Such export of money should be forbidden or at least restricted.

Mr O. Bademosi (Ondo South): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to call attention to one point about this Bill and that is the enforcement of the law. It is common practice in this country to see good Ordinances and laws ruined in practical application by those people whose duty it is to make sure that such laws are kept up with.

Well, I am asking the Minister to make sure that we have the machinery for enforcing this, because proper care is not always taken, and everything should be taken into account.

The man who is in charge should be going round to make sure that people come for licences. I hope the Minister will make sure that we have responsible people who will go round to see that people who are dealing with Pools do come forward and take licences because as we know bedrooms, cupboards and so on can be used and . . . (*An hon. Member: You want Factory Inspectors*). Well, perhaps so, there are some very good Inspectors, and perhaps it would be better.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Labour and Welfare (Hon. J. M. Johnson): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled the Factories (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, now be read for the Second Time.

This Bill raises no controversial issues. It is simple and straightforward. Its intention is to extend the definition of the word "Factory" so as to include premises in which, experience has shown, workers need the benefit and protection of the health and safety measures incorporated in the parent Ordinance.

I always feel a concrete illustration, in homely terms, is the best form of explanation. Hon. Members will be interested, as an example, in a curious anomaly which this Bill will remove: Messrs Ojukwu Transport Mechanical Workshops constitute a Factory and, as such, are subject to the close attention of the Factory Inspectorate; similar workshops belonging to the Daily Times, on the other hand, because the repairs carried on therein are merely incidental to the main business of publishing newspapers, are not by law open to the Inspectorate. Though the mechanics therein do the same work as their colleagues in

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Mr Ojukwu's workshops they cannot lay claim, as a statutory right, to the protection of the Ordinance.

Hon. Members will be relieved at the removal of this anomaly, as they also will by the fact that the Railway running sheds where repairs to locomotives are carried on will, from now on, come within the scope of the Ordinance. Whilst in consultation with my colleagues in the Regions on this Amending Ordinance opportunity was taken to discuss certain ambiguities in the text of the principal Ordinance which the remaining sections are designed to clarify. I am also indebted to the Federal Labour Advisory Council whose valuable advice I sought and received. These sections are explained clearly in the note on Objects and Reasons which is attached to the Bill.

I do not intend to deal, in technical detail, with the mechanical contrivances in which it is intended to shroud machinery so that it is safe for our workers to operate. Nor must I debate the merits of different stopping and starting devices on power-driven machinery or transmission machinery, even should some of the more erudite of the hon. Members present invite me to do so.

May I confine myself to an assurance that the fourfold purposes of the amending Bill are precisely as follows: Firstly to remove anomalies and ambiguities in the law as it stands; Secondly to ensure that every dangerous part of machinery in a factory is as securely guarded as the ingenuity of the mind of man makes possible; Thirdly that should, in spite of all our efforts, an accident occur there is to hand proper first-aid equipment in sufficient quantities for the immediate relief of the sufferer; and lastly, that our Inspectors may be empowered, in carefully defined circumstances, to divulge information of which they became aware in the course of their duties, for the furtherance of the general good of the community.

My legal friends in the House will welcome this last amendment. Factory Inspectors whose lips to date have been sealed by law (except in the single instance of the disclosure of evidence in the matter of prosecutions under the Ordinance) are to be permitted, in future, to disclose facts, if required, at Coroner's Inquests and Commissions appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance.

It will give satisfaction to every hon. Member present, I am certain, to be afforded the opportunity of associating himself with the passage through this House of a Bill the intention of which is to extend the humane provisions of the factories Ordinance.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Sir, I beg to second.

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 to 7 agreed to.

Bill to be reported

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed, That this House do now adjourn.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.30 a.m. until 9 a.m. on Saturday the 22nd of November.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Saturday, 22nd November, 1958

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : I have to announce that the following papers already distributed to Members are deemed to have been laid on the Table :

- (1) Annual Report of the Nigeria Naval Force for the year, 1957-58.
- (2) Annual Report on the Medical Services of the Federal Territory of Lagos for the year 1957.
- (3) Department of Forest Research Officers' Conference, Ibadan, 1957.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (M. Shehu Shagari) : Sir, I have the following business statement to make for the week ending Saturday, 29th November.

Monday, 24th of November will be the second allotted day for the debate on the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, and the House will go into the Second Reading of the following Bills : Industrial Loans (Lagos and Federation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology (Amendment), and the Queen's Counsel Ordinance ; and a Motion on the amendment to Standing Order 67 by the Minister of Communications and Aviation.

Tuesday, the 25th November will be Private Member's Day, on which Private Members' Motion will be debated.

Wednesday, the 26th of November will be the first day in which the House will go into the Committee of Supply.

Thursday, the 27th of November will be the second day for the Committee of Supply. On the same day the following Bills will be considered upon Second Reading : The Customs (Excise and Management) Ordinance, the Customs Tariff Ordinance, the Excise Tariff Ordinance, the Gold Trading Ordinance, the Lagos Local Government Ordinance, the Lagos Town Planning Ordinance, and the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance.

On Friday, the 28th of November there will be a Government Motion and we shall take the Second Reading and Third Readings of Bills not completed on Thursday, the 27th of November.

On Saturday, the 29th of November there will be also Government Motions and we shall take the Second and Third Readings of Bills not completed on Friday, the 28th of November.

REPORT OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Victor Mukete) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House doth agree with the Committee on the said Report.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Hon. D. C. Ugwu) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved—That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report.

Ordered,

(i) That two days be allotted for the Second Reading of the Bill entitled "The Supplementary Appropriation (1958-59) No. 2 Ordinance, 1958"

(ii) That two days be allotted for the Committee of Supply ;

(iii) That the days allotted for the Committee of Supply be sub-divided among the Heads of the Estimates as shown below ;

(iv) That at the hour appointed for the interruption of business at the end of each day's sitting, the Chairman shall put successively all Questions necessary to dispose of the business allotted for that day, including the Questions on any Amendments, of which notice has been given by a member of the Council of Ministers (but no other Amendments).

Day

End of 1st day . .	Heads 22 to 46
End of 2nd day . .	Heads 50 to 77 (and Third Reading of the Bill).

Provided that nothing shall prevent the Committee of Supply from proceeding beyond the Heads allotted for any day, if time is available.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1958-59)
(No. 2) BILL

(1st allotted day): *Adjourned Debate on Question (21st November), That the Bill be now read a Second Time.*

Question again proposed.

M. Muhtari Sarkin Bai (South West Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I have a few observations to make, but before I do that I should like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the excellent way and manner in which he carried out his duties as Minister of Finance. The financial responsibility with which the Minister is entrusted is not an easy task. It needs an intelligent, capable, honest and courageous person to carry out that responsibility, and the present Minister of Finance is the most eminent Minister this country can get for the job. (*Applause*).

Sir, we are now convinced that the Minister is determined more than ever before to see that the revenue of this country is considerably increased. For that reason, during the last sitting of the House the Minister promised to put to the House legislation which, if passed by the House, would bring considerable increase in the revenue of the country. Now, the Minister has come to fulfil that promise by laying on the Table of the House that legislation and his performances at the Commonwealth Conference in Montreal, Quebec, Canada have shown that Nigeria is capable of carrying out its affairs and is ready to work together with other Commonwealth countries.

Sir, I have to pay special tribute to the Minister, again, for the very keen interest he took in the Nigerian Parliamentary Delegation to the United Kingdom and North America, of which I am a member. The Minister took the trouble of meeting us at the Charing Cross Hotel in London and wished us a happy and successful tour of North America. We are indeed grateful for that.

Now, Sir, turning to the Bill itself. The Minister is asking the House to provide for the further sum of £270,320 for the services of the Government of the Federation during the current financial year. I am absolutely certain, Sir, that the House will not hesitate to provide this amount especially now that the approved estimated revenue has already exceeded the

original figure anticipated, and it is necessitated by the unforeseen circumstances due mainly to the Constitutional attendances. We sincerely hope that this money will be spent in the best way possible.

Mr Speaker, as much as the Government in the United Kingdom has now consented to grant to this country independence on October 1st, 1960 (that is almost two years to go), I feel it is a bounden duty as a Member of the Federal House of Representatives to express my views on the implications of self-government, and I will try as much as possible to speak within the scope of the Bill.

Now I will begin with the Civil Service. Here, unless we have a strong and efficient Civil Service, completely free from political influence, independence in this country will be a sham, and the whole progress of the country is bound to collapse. This is an extremely important matter and should not be treated with levity. It is, therefore, the duty of every hon. Member in this House to see that our Civil Service is as strong as ever and maintains a high standard of efficiency no matter what parties come into power. It is also the duty of everyone of us to educate the people of this country to realise and make them know the difference between Civil Servants and Politicians: to educate them to know what is right and wrong and what action the Civil Servants take, and that Civil Servants have absolutely nothing to do with policy-making. Civil Servants should also be told to perform their duties efficiently and strictly impartially, putting the interests of the country above everything else and strike threats should be stopped forthwith because that will only hamper out progress.

The next point, Sir, is about Nigerian Military Forces. With independence at our door, we have to have very strong Military Forces capable of defending the country against possible attacks by neighbouring and other countries. For instance, Ghana may be fed up that she can no longer tolerate the Action Group menace and may attack us tomorrow.

Mr Speaker, young Nigerians should be encouraged to join the Military Forces because in this world of sputniks, unless we are strongly armed Nigeria is likely to find herself in a very serious situation, but I hope and pray

If I may go on with examples, I think there are many of these examples. There has been at least an occasion in this country somewhere and some time when in broad day light, as a result of a political clash, somebody was murdered; the case was reported to the Police and the Police seemed to take no action until the public began to agitate, and what did the Police do? (*An hon. Member: Action Group Police!*) I have not mentioned Action Group, but the man knows what I am saying.

The Police must know that the civil service of this country represents the political relation between the people and the political partyman. A civil servant does not go away and come in as a Minister goes and comes in.

The Civil Service of any country is a family, it becomes necessary that every Civil Servant will learn his work, do it honestly, not minding what the political party will do or say. He is responsible to the whole people; the political party man may be responsible to his party men and policy but at the same time he has got to look at what concerns the whole people of the country. As the hon. Member has retorted to my statement, if because of political party in power in the Regions, reports are brought to the Police and the Police neglect them, then it is necessary for the Minister to investigate. Is that the kind of Civil Service we expect when this country becomes Independent in 1960? (*Some hon. Members: No, no*). I stop examples there because examples do not speak very well when the guillotine is there.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have another point about some Departments. Let me take a very useful Department and its Ministry. I cannot help praising the Minister of Communications and Aviation; the Minister indeed is an effective person, he has been doing his work, I quite agree, but I think it is necessary to remind him of certain things in that Department which must not be forgotten before 1960. During the session of this House Members have been crying about making it possible for the rural man to know what we are doing in the centre. At this time when Independence is about a year or so ahead, if you go into the rural areas of this country many of the people have not known what the Department is doing.

We have always said that in this country we need more mobile post offices to make it possible that the letters will reach the rural

men. In the Appropriation Bill now before us I have seen nothing about these mobile post offices in order to make it possible for the letters and the communications to reach the rural areas. I think it will be necessary for the Ministry to increase the vote and buy more mobile post offices for the rural areas.

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, we mentioned a point when we were talking about an Amendment Bill a few days ago. In the Bill it is stated that a telegram is considered to have reached the addressee if the telegram is put in the box, that is, if the number of the box is on the telegram, and once it is put there it is considered that the owner has received it. Mr Speaker, Sir, take an example in Lagos now; it is believed that any telegram coming to any member of the community here will reach the addressee in time. Supposing the man who is sending that telegram puts the number of the box of that man on the telegram, is it just for the telegram bearer merely to dump this telegram in the box when he knows the place the man lives?

I understand that it is the order of the Ministry and I am saying that that is not fair. If the telegram bearer knows the residence of the addressee, it is proper and just that he takes that telegram to him. You see the number perhaps might have been put by somebody who was afraid that the post office man would not know the correct address. I give an example—if somebody is living at Yaba and you know him very well, you know his place, and you get a telegram bearing his box number, what is the use of dumping it there? Why not take it up to him? (*An hon. Member: That is the address*). That may be good for you, but I am saying that it is not good for many people of this country. I, for one, if I get a telegram in Owerri, whether it bears my box number or not, I expect the telegram bearer to bring that telegram down to my own place, he is being paid for that.

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is another observation I have to make about these telecommunications. I do not know whether there is a special work for efficiency within Lagos, so that if you have a telephone call to Owerri or Port Harcourt you will not get that service. So I humbly ask the Minister to examine if they have a special work for the people living in Lagos so that they can receive their calls easily, and even in the provinces they will receive their calls. Please

will they check up and make a change. I remember since two or three days we arrived here we have tried to get to Owerri and we could not get through. I do not see the reason for that.

Let me start by giving the same Owerri as an example. If you put up an application for a telephone installation in Owerri, do you know that it will take you about three to four or five or six months before you get the thing through? They say that the materials are not there; I would like to know from the Minister whether you order the materials after a man has applied for installation? It is necessary that you order materials, keep the materials ready; when applications come to you, you order for the installation. If you have any feeling for the rural people please make a change. The country is now independent—yes, we are certainly independent people, we are no longer dependent on anybody, we are free, it has been given out, in 1960 we shall celebrate it, so we are not waiting for it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in concluding may I ask the Minister in charge of Mines and Power that all his good work to many of us in the different districts which are being included for installation of electricity will not be happy and will not continue congratulating him if we do not get this electricity installed by the middle of 1959. It is understood that the Electricity Corporation is planning to instal most of these places with electricity only in 1960. Mr Speaker, Sir, what is the reason? The money has been voted out, why is that Corporation so lazy, why don't they carry on and give the light to the people so that they will experience the great change that is now taking place in this country? I humbly ask the Minister to check up and make sure that these places for which vote has been given to get installation of electricity, will get the amenity by the middle of 1959.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few points I support wholeheartedly the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, Sir, a Supplementary Appropriation of just over £270,000 hardly provides ample scope for a comprehensive review of the economic and fiscal policy of the Federal Government. Nevertheless in view of the very rapid and

spectacular progress which this Government has made both in the economic and political spheres I would crave your indulgence, Mr Speaker, to make a few general remarks.

Two days ago we were living witnesses of a historic occasion—the laying of the foundation stone of the new Central Bank of Nigeria. It marks a point in the history of this country. From sucklings we are advancing to the stage of adults ready to shoulder our fiscal and political responsibilities. During his speech the Minister of Finance said, to the pleasure of every one of us, that in due course, alongside the opening of this Central Bank will come the issue of a Nigerian currency and Nigerian token coins. We are happy to have as Governor of the Central Bank a man in the person of Mr Fenton, of wide experience in the field in which he is given responsibility. We hope that he will maintain the high office with which he has been entrusted, and that he will live up to the expectation of the whole country. The Central Bank will be the medium through which the future economic prosperity of this country will be formulated. It will decide whether our currency will maintain a strong backing in sterling. It will also decide whether there will be inflationary or deflationary trend in the economy of this country. I hope that the new Central Bank will grow from strength to strength and that this great country will proudly take its place amongst the free nations of the world when it attains independence on 1st October, 1960.

Nigeria is an agricultural country and the government must never lose sight of this fact. Our economy is closely connected with agriculture. The Ministry of Research and Information which carries out agricultural research should endeavour to make the result of these researches known to the public.

In this Supplementary Estimate we find that both the Ministry and the Departments of Agricultural and Veterinary Research take up nearly £50,000 which is about 20 per cent of the total supplementary provision. This is quite a sizeable sum compared with the total and we hope that the results of these researches will not be limited to the laboratories. Field inspectors and field advisers should be appointed to go to the rural areas and advise farmers on modern methods, on variations of crops, on economic prosperity of this country.

We should not be conservative in agriculture, sticking only to those products we have been accustomed to through the ages. There are new crops which will fetch us good prices in world markets. These should be introduced into this country.

Furthermore I hope the Government will make greater efforts to improve on the marketing system of our produce. Other civilised countries of the world are making efforts to join trade pacts. You have such organisations as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the European Common Market, and the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation. We hope that in the same spirit in which we have granted facilities to our neighbouring countries to immigrate into this country without passport, we should approach these countries for the purpose of making trade pacts. We have produce and raw materials which we can exchange with the French Cameroons, French Equatorial Africa, the new State of Guinea, Ghana, Togoland, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Gambia. I hope the Government will make efforts to explore these fields to establish some kind of trade agreement with our neighbouring countries.

When I heard that a supplementary budget was going to be introduced at this sitting of the House I thought that the main purpose was to put into effect some of the decisions that had been arrived at at the Resumed London Constitutional Conference. You might say that time was rather short and one would not expect decisions arrived at only two weeks ago to be implemented at this moment. But we will not lose sight of the fact that the pace at which the country is moving is phenomenal and we must keep pace with the rate at which we have decided to move. I hope that as early as possible the Minister of Finance will take steps to implement the undertakings he gave at the London Constitutional Conference. I refer to Page 16, paragraph 37 of the Report which deals with the question of writing off the interest on capital advances to the Cameroons. There is also the question of granting £½ million annually to the Northern Region to compensate for the defects in revenue allocation during the past. I hope these measures will be brought into effect as early as possible.

Mr friend Mr Abii when he spoke of the Posts and Telegraphs referred not only to the delay in the delivery of mail but also to the

delay in the installation of telephones. I have a personal experience in this respect. I applied for a telephone and got a letter to the effect that the matter was receiving attention and that the telephone would be installed in due course. A week later I got another letter regretting that it was not possible to instal the telephone because there were no wires to link my house with the Exchange. It is very surprising therefore to see that after this House had voted the sum of £1 million as contingency fund the Minister has not seen it fit to issue part of this contingency fund to meet some of these pressing demands. I hope that the Minister will not, like the unwise servant amongst the three servants who were given treasures by their master to trade on, bury his own treasure in the hope that he would come back some day and present it to us in the form it was presented to him.

Regarding the Inland Waterways Department, I regret to say that the Inland Waterways Officer at the Onitsha ferry, while he is a very able servant, is not being given adequate support and encouragement by the Government. The Minister of Transport promised sometime ago to supply one more bigger and better craft and in fact the Minister assured the House last year that by the middle of this year this craft should have arrived in Nigeria. Up till now there is no news of this craft. The two craft now operating between Onitsha and Asaba have defective engines and the whole place is under-staffed.

I hope that efforts will be made to start off a twenty-four-hour service between Onitsha and Asaba across the Niger. Every time you get there you find long queues of cars. As a matter of fact when I was coming to the House here—I always give concrete examples—I got there at a quarter past five o'clock, in the evening and it was only by the mercy of the Inland Waterways Officer that some of us had to arrange for special transit across and had to pay five times the normal fare to get ourselves through. There is no reason why that service should not run round the clock. The Government has promised that investigations were being made about the building of a bridge across the Niger. It appears that that was only done to throw a wet blanket over our desire to get the bridge built, because since that time nothing has been done. It is a very pressing need. There is a lot of commercial

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traffic between the West and the East and the Government should make every endeavour to ensure that the bridge is built, or in the absence of that to see that a tunnel is cut under the Niger between Asaba and Onitsha. It is not an impossible feat. There is a tunnel down the Thames from Waterloo to Charing Cross. There is another one down Liverpool to Birkenhead. There is no reason why we should not have one such in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I observe that there is a vote of £34,570 additional to the provisions previously made for the Police. I watched the work of the Police in London and I was very much impressed with the efficient manner in which the Police carried out their duties there. The Police are out to ensure the maintenance of law and order as well as to ensure that crime was both prevented and detected. But the Police should not aid and abet in the fabrication of charges against citizens. The Police should avoid, Sir, suborning evidence and suborning witnesses against law-abiding citizens. I will stop there. I will make no further comments. But I will hope that our Police will live up to the best traditions of the Force and that in carrying out their functions as keepers of the law they should be above-board and should work in such a way as to bring honour and prestige to our great country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the question of Nigerianisation has been a burning one in this country. The issue has been raised a number of times in this House and we await the comprehensive report by the Committee appointed by this House so that the matter will be fully discussed. I will say that my idea of Nigerianisation is not that all expatriates should pack and go. My interpretation of Nigerianisation is that Nigerians with experience and of the right calibre should be at the heads of departments and advised by experts. The policy-making should be done by Nigerian officers. The execution should be done by expatriates or Nigerians. If there are Nigerians available they should be put there. If there are no Nigerians available, officers should be recruited from any part of the world. We want the best for this country, and while this country has immense resources very little of it has been tapped.

This is a country with tremendous potentialities. The future of this country is great and it is up to us Legislators and Nigerians in one

to make sure that at every stage we work assiduously and faithfully for the future greatness of Nigeria.

M. Sanni Okin (North Ilorin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill for the year 1958-59. In doing so, I have two important observations to make which affect nearly all the departments of Government.

Mr Speaker, it is universally admitted that one can make others better by being good himself. Our present Minister of Finance is good and it is not impossible for him to make others better.

Firstly, Mr Speaker, at the last meeting of this House we were asked to approve Supplementary Estimates for the year 1958-59 and now the House is presented with another Supplementary Estimates for the same year. I hope the Minister of Finance with the co-operation of Heads of Departments should by all means try his best to avoid the system now being adopted in presenting Supplementary Estimates by instalments if the economic progress of Nigeria is to be constantly maintained.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, the present standard of work in all the offices of Government is deteriorating as a result of the introduction to Nigeria of pool betting. If one pays a visit to some of our Government offices or private enterprises one will find many of the workers filling in coupons during their official hours, just to get rich quickly. I appeal to the Federal Government, in consultation with the Regional Governments, to see that this evil and deplorable state of affairs in our civil service is completely eliminated possibly before 1960, the year of Nigerian independence.

Mr Speaker, as you know, the Nigerian taxpayers are entitled to the maximum return for their money. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to speak on the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I wish to seize this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the members of the delegation who went to attend the Constitutional Conference in London, for the signal victory which they have won in getting Her Majesty's Government to fix a date for Nigeria's independence. (*Hear, hear*). But, in our rejoicing over this victory

Sir, I think we should remind ourselves constantly that the attainment of independence means the assumption on our part of more and more responsibility, and that that responsibility is both political and financial.

On the financial side, Sir, independence will mean that we have got to find the money to pay for increases in administration costs, increases brought about by the formation of new departments such as the Foreign Service, the Army, the Navy and many other departments.

Sir, in supporting this view I know that we can only succeed if we readjust ourselves to the way we spend our money. Mr Speaker, at present there are many schemes and plans on hand by this Government with which we hope to increase our economic prosperity, but until these schemes and plans begin to bear fruit it is correct to say that the volume of the national income of this country remains the same as it was in the days when we had less responsibility. If that is the case, Sir, the only way we can make use of that which we have is by practising strict economy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a time in which not only the Government of this country, but also the people should practise thrift. It is a time when we should endeavour to make every pound in our Exchequer do twice as much work as it has done hitherto. It is a time, Sir, when we should be on our guard against any attempt at overspending.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to tender this humble advice to the Council of Ministers. I feel that they should be on their guard against any suggestion that this is a time or the near future is a time for any increase in salaries. I say, Sir, that they should also guard against the facile notion that experts and qualified men can be attracted by the offer of salaries which are out of all relation to the economic resources of this country. I feel, Sir, we would be very happy to have our expatriate staff with us when independence is gained. We are very happy with them now, and I hope that when independence comes we shall be happier, because we shall feel that it is those who love the service, those who really love the country who will wish to remain.

I am not one of those who believe that monetary offer alone will attract people to come out to the colonies or to a country like this. It is the love of adventure, the feeling to go out and

help that attracts men to places like our country, and any man who believes that by an offer of monetary gain we shall get those we want, is leading this country in the wrong direction. I am happy, Sir, that the Government has realised this position and I hope that they will put their foot down and resist any belief, any suggestion, any temptation, to make them spend more by way of increases in salary. I say, Sir, that if the Government does that, independence will bring us something really concrete.

Independence is one thing, but the whole world is looking on at the type of independence we shall achieve in 1960, and it is the foundation which will be laid by the Government, the way in which we meet the problems that come to us, the way that we shall be judged, and there is not a Government that can stay if it is insolvent. Insolvency is the death knell of both private business and public business, and in order to keep solvent, we should keep a sharp eye on our expenses and see that we are not going to spend more than we can afford.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I recommend the doctrine of thrift to the Government and to the peoples of Nigeria, and I beg to support.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola-Afolu II (Ijebu Remo): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to speak on the Bill to spend a little over a £½m pounds at this time of the year, I consider it only affords an opportunity for a Member to air his views as regards certain items in this Appropriation Bill.

At this time, Sir, as I always try to be, I would like to be very brief, and I would also like to speak in general terms.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my friend from Ife, the hon. Fani-Kayode, spoke on the Public Service Commission and the Nigerianisation Office. He hoped that the Chairman of the Public Service Commission would be a Nigerian, and that the Nigerianisation Office would work hand in hand with the Public Service Commission so that the right type of civil servants would be appointed to our civil service. I cannot, Mr Speaker, agree more, but may I be allowed to say that as far as possible our Public Service Commission should be an independent one, free from any political influence and free from ministerial control.

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I know, Sir, that the Prime Minister of this Federation is appointed not because he is from the Northern Region, but because he is a Nigerian. Whoever is appointed to the Public Service Commission should be independent in his views, and who ever is appointed Nigerianisation Officer is appointed to serve the wide interests of Nigeria, and not to serve his own sectional interests.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to events in Ghana to-day, and to ask everybody to think seriously about the implications of independence. I am one of those who, when the Colonial Secretary said that independence would be granted by Her Majesty's Government in 1960, rejoiced. Everyone was very glad; everyone when they heard the news from London was happy, but how many of us think about the implications of self-Government. (*Several hon. Members : Do you ?*) One has to be very careful of the type of Government we set up in 1960. Not long ago, Sir, the Premier of a Region was banned from holding a political meeting in a place in Nigeria (*Several hon. Members : Oh ! Not so. Prove it.*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I must remind the House of the terms of the Standing Order. It is the Government's Financial Bill we are debating. The hon. Gentleman was getting a little wild.

Oba Adetunji : Yes, Mr Speaker, I do realise that, but I am speaking about the Police and about law and order. When people are allowed to be massacred; when people who are natives of a town cannot be given protection in their own homes, that is what I am speaking about. To-day, Sir, we are looking forward to a Government which will find peace and happiness for everybody and that is sufficient for the Police.

My hon. friend, Sanni Okin, referred to laziness amongst our civil servants. I do agree that we are giving too much indulgence these days to our civil servants. I remember, Sir, a friend speaking to me about the Chambers of our Law Courts being used as offices for filling in football pools. I remember, Sir, in some other offices where it is the order of the day for newspaper reading. Now, Sir, what we know as the senior service is now fading away. But do not hon. Members know that houses which are provided for in Ikoyi are mainly provided for expatriate officers because they cannot live

amongst our people in the town; because they have to have fresh air, golf courses, tennis courts and all those amenities which they would not otherwise have got if they were living in the houses of Lagos? To-day, Sir, we provide houses for our Ministers, but I can tell you that in ten years' time the custom will fade away when Ministers will have to live amongst the people who elect them into the Legislatures. By all means, let us curtail our expenses in getting services. There are buses around the town. There are taxis and everybody can find his own means of transport. What do we do to one who earns £624 per annum? We give him a car, a car that costs £800; we give a basic allowance of £12-10s. If he does not do field work he does not get mileage allowance. From £52 he has to spend at least £30 on his car and the rest goes to his family. What it means in effect is that a civil servant lives on an empty pocket from time to time, and the sooner we make our civil servants to realise that this country is their own, and if this country collapses they have no where to go, the better it will be for the economy of this country.

Mr Speaker, I have always spoken about Co-operatives within the territory of Lagos. I do not think, Sir, that the Government is doing enough. I praise the work that is being done by the Co-operative Supply Association in Lagos. But I understand that this gigantic work is being carried out by the Co-operative Department that is being managed from the Western Region in Ibadan. I therefore think, Sir, that the Government of the Federation should do something to encourage the peasant farmers around the Federal territory of Lagos, the fishermen and all those who do manual labour to collect themselves together in Co-operative Societies so that they can get loans from Government in order to run their business.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Science Emergency Training Scheme is becoming a very popular one in Lagos. I am wondering whether the Minister of Education will not consider extending such facilities to the Regions in Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a friend has spoken on Electricity. Much as we are grateful to the Federal Government for providing Electricity to various towns, might I say that in Ijebu Remo the facilities do not go round enough. Once our people begin to have some amenities

they want these amenities to go round every nook and corner of the town. It is not sufficient to plant a few electric poles in one street or the other to the exclusion of some other streets within the same town or within the same area. Bearing in mind, Sir, that whether you get electric light in your own house or not, since electricity will be provided in the streets, everybody, whether he lives in the village or in the hamlet, and since he is a member of that local council area, he is called upon whether he likes it or not to pay for street lighting. It is therefore necessary, Sir, that electric light should be provided once and for all for the towns in which provisions have been made.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to touch upon trade in Nigeria before I resume my seat. These days a lot of expatriate traders who before the war were engaged in correspondence with our people do now come into this country with or without capital and engage in retail trade with our people. What they do is to hire a room, put up a telephone, and go to our women and solicit a few pounds from them and order goods for them. This, Sir, is a great menace to the trade in this country. I have friends who have complained to me, Sir, that they have suffered reverses in trade owing to this malicious way in which foreign traders do come into this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Federal territory of Lagos is growing by leaps and bounds and the municipality of Lagos is congested. (*Applause*)

Those people, Mr Speaker, who clamour for the extension of the Federal Territory of Lagos to as far as twenty miles, or forty miles, do not know they will not take the land from the people who own it. They do not stop to think for half a minute that by extending the administrative boundary of Lagos they are not taking the land from people who own it, but then, Sir, that is not the point I want to make. The point, Mr Speaker, is that I view with very grave suspicion the refusal of the Federal Government to negotiate with the Western Government in having a joint planning committee for the development of Mushin and Idi-Oro and those areas which are in the Western Region and which are very close to Lagos. I am anxious to know whether the Federal Government is thinking in terms of developing those areas which are so close to

Lagos. I hope, Sir, that the Prime Minister—although he is not here, his Parliamentary Secretary is there and he will, I hope, convey my wish... (*An hon. Member : For the extension of Lagos.*)... to him that such a joint planning committee be set up because it is very very desirable. (*An hon. Member : Resign from the Action Group*).

A Member has spoken about the natural resources of this country. The Veterinary system to-day in Nigeria leaves much to be desired. These days when a lot is being done to improve the protein in the food that we eat, it is necessary also that the Ministry in charge of these items should do something to improve cattle and animal breeding in this country. These researches should not, as a Member said, be restricted only to the laboratory, but should be extended to the fields.

With these few remarks I support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Mr F. S. Nwika (Ogoni) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance on his excellent performance since he assumed office. It is fitting also, Sir, to congratulate the Prime Minister under whose inspiring leadership our Ministers have, collectively and individually, contributed to the impressive developments that have taken place in all parts of the country, particularly around Lagos. Assuredly, Sir, the National Government has created a record of which they may all be proud. Under normal circumstances one would have felt rather reluctant to support an additional expenditure of £270,320, so soon after this House had in August, approved an expenditure of over £1,000,000, but, because we all regard the period between now and Independence as a time of emergency, every Member here should support every reasonable measure adopted by the Government for the increased activities of the various Government Departments.

At a comparable period in other countries, especially countries that have adopted the Ministerial system of Government, the success of the Government did not depend so much on the efficiency of the Ministers as on the efficiency of the Civil Service, and so I want to appeal to our Civil Servants to be loyal, honest and sincere, for upon their own efficiency

and loyalty will the progress of our own Government depend. I want to appeal to all sections of the Civil Service, to the Police, and all others, to give devoted service to this country so that Independence may have a meaning for us.

Some time ago, Sir, I appealed to the Government to see that the development projects that they have provided in this country were extended to the rural areas, because, as I have mentioned earlier, these impressive developments have so far been centred around Lagos and the important townships. The rural areas do not seem to have their own share of developments. It is unfortunate that many Members seem to regard our constant appeal for developments in the rural areas as a trite expression. We are very much concerned indeed. We are all from the rural areas and we feel disturbed at the attitude of Government towards our own people. Such an attitude of neglect savours of discrimination and spite.

Particularly do I refer to my own Constituency, Ogoni Division. From time to time I have, in this House appealed to the Minister of Communications and Aviation to extend to us telecommunication facilities. A Member who spoke earlier this morning has mentioned the fact that it would be very important before Independence for all sections of the country to be connected by communications so that we all may enjoy the fruits of liberty... Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister of Communications and Aviation to take serious note of my points and provide us with telecommunication facilities without further delay.

Now speaking of my own Constituency as being a neglected area, I would also remind the House that the entire Niger Delta area is considered to be a neglected area. The Minorities Commission that came out to investigate the fears of Minorities confirmed that. It made it specifically clear in its recommendations. I am happy that the London Constitutional Conference adopted that recommendation and recommended the creation of a special area in the Niger Delta. I therefore hope that the Federal Government will implement that recommendation as soon as possible by appointing a Federal Board for the development of our area.

I have said, Sir, that under normal circumstances one would hesitate to support this Appropriation Bill, but since we are in a period of emergency, and we want money for needed developments, I wholeheartedly support it, and would appeal to the Minister of Finance to exercise economy in the distribution of the finances of the Federation. I beg to support.

M. Abdulkadiri Koguna (Kano East): Mr Speaker, in supporting the Second Reading of the second Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I would like to make some few remarks.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I first congratulate our capable and suitable Minister of Finance and, after that, Sir, I have some comments to make on certain things. Mr Speaker, we are here to approve money to be spent for the Federation, not money to be spent on certain portions of the Federation. Still yet, we are not only here to approve money to be spent, I think we are also here to approve how that money should be spent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have got my own reasons why I said this. Before I go further, Sir, I would like to mention one point about the Ministry of Research and Information, the N.B.C. Section of that Ministry. Please, Sir, the job they are doing there is not as it ought to be done. They seem to be working for one Region or one political party in that Section. And, Sir, I believe if that Section of that particular Ministry becomes impartial, I am afraid the future will bring some disagreements in this country. Why I say so is because there are some screws in that particular section, and without taking those screws out that place will not be all right. I can quote so many examples, but I will just leave it there. Everybody knows it.

Then, Sir, the Ministry of Works. I believe the Ministry of Works is now very much improved. It has become more serious in taking the criticisms of the Members of this hon. House in good faith. Why I say this, Sir, is because many parts of the Trunk A road, Lagos to Kano, are now in good condition. The tarring is being carried out reasonably. For example, between Ilorin and Jebba, towards Mokwa, and also between Zaria and Funtua, the tarring has been carried out reasonably efficiently.

I would also like to point something to the Ministry of Transport. I congratulate the Minister of Transport specially for the job that is being carried out on that railway crossing which has been mentioned in this House several times, from Korfar Nassarawa Gate to Kano City; there is a big sign now that the job is under way, and I thank the Minister also for the letter he wrote me about this same job.

Then, Sir, the Minister of Communications and Aviation. Although one hon. Member on the other side praised him quite all right, I am sorry my own is quite contrary. We raised many points here last year about telephones and so forth for Kano City. As everybody knows, Kano City is quite a big City, having so many inhabitants, wealthy people are there, business people are there, and they have applied for telephones several times, hundreds of people applied for telephones, even some Departments also applied, but the answer is, "No cable". For example, the Education Department, which is supposed to be a most important Department, has no telephone. There are so many places, like hotels, where people meet socially, and there are no telephones there, even though the owners applied for them. I believe telephones in such places are quite essential for certain reasons, may be emergency or fire, and so forth. If the Minister is not there, I hope the Parliamentary Secretary is there and he should take notes accordingly.

Yesterday, Sir, one point was mentioned by my hon. Friend Chief Onyia about confidential report. That thing is quite important. The people concerned doing that particular job are not like the previous people, or if they are, they are now changing their mind. Their reports are quite damaging to a great number of people. A member of a Department could have been doing his job quite efficiently for, say, seven or ten years. If he once gets something like a personal clash between himself and the officer, when the time comes the officer will forget all those seven years that he produced a good job and will condemn that man only on the strength of that particular personal misunderstanding. We want the Federal Government to do something, or the Public Service Commission, or Nigerianisation Officer, or whoever may be responsible for this subject, something must be done to stop that type of injustice. Mr Speaker, with these few remarks, I support the Bill.

Sitting suspended : 10.40 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 10.55 a.m.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to support the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I would like to support those who have showered encomiums on the Minister of Finance for the way he has carried out the financial responsibilities entrusted to his care. Members of this House will agree with me that since this present Minister was appointed, he has been actually working arduously and honestly in dealing with the finances of this country.

Sir, I would also go on to criticise the efficiency in the civil service. People who have spoken before me have emphasised the need for efficiency in the day-to-day activities of our civil servants. Well, I have one choice, Sir, that if one is trying to change people, the change must begin with oneself. This brings me back to the question of efficiency not only of the civil servants but also of Members of this House.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Members of this House are paid £800 to be here, and you will agree with me that some Members are actually not living up to what is expected of them. They are supposed to be present in this House in order to justify the financial benefits that accrue to them for being Members of this House. This is very important. As the rulers of the people we must show a very good example; the example of honesty and efficiency must begin with Members of this House. It is our duty to impress upon the people to improve efficiency.

On the question of efficiency, Sir, you will agree with me that there are Civil Servants, as someone has rightly said, who work for the sake of doing it, they do not realise that the jobs they do is for the welfare of their people. This country is going to be independent on the 1st October, 1960, by the grace of God. Independence without efficiency will be a mockery. What is the benefit of a Civil Servant who goes to an office, especially the Senior Servants, at 10 o'clock and stays there only for two hours and goes away for the rest of the day. Some of those things are happening; you see them going about in the town with their wives and girl friends.

One other point, Sir, which I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister of Finance is the hours of duty. It is high time that the hours of duty were changed altogether. I suggest that the hours of duty of Civil Servants are changed to half past nine to five o'clock and they should have Saturday off altogether, that is work from Monday to Friday. There must be close supervision of the civil servants.

This brings me to the question of the Police Force. The Police Force in this country has not been up to its best tradition as compared with the Police Force in other parts of the world. I am going to attack them. Let us take Great Britain for that matter. If you are a visitor in Great Britain the first impression you have of that country is the Police Force. The Police Force in Great Britain is prepared at any moment to give you efficient service. Not only that; on the question of crime the Police Force in Great Britain has the best detectives you have in the world to-day. Whenever crimes are committed they will chase it to its logical end.

But what do you find in Nigeria in the detection of crime? Some of them do not know what they are doing at all, and some of them do it with political favour. At the last meeting of the House in the August session I raised an important matter here on the adjournment, it was a question of murder in Ibadan in the broad daylight. The Prime Minister gave me a promise that this case was being investigated by the Police and would be put up for further action. What do you find? When I came back from my tour to the United Kingdom and other parts of Europe, I found out that this particular case had been passed for inquest. It is a case of inefficiency on the part of the Police Force because they were unable to track down the murderer, they were unable to tell exactly who should be prosecuted. Those are the things which show the inefficiency of the Police Department.

Not only that, Sir. If the Head of the Police Department is afraid to discharge his duties, it is no good for the country because without an efficient Police Force the much talked-of independence will be meaningless. The Police Force must be the watch-dogs of the Government, also watch-dogs of the taxpayers and of all the people of this country. When you have a Police Force that is afraid to

arrest a criminal because that criminal is a big man or is a member of a political party, you know that this country will surely face a grave situation in the very near future. So I am saying, Sir, that our Police Force must surely be efficient. The Police Department is asking this House to provide an additional grant of £34,570, for what? For doing inefficient job, for trying to hide criminals, for failing to prosecute murderers, is that what we are asked to provide money for? I hope that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, in considering the Estimates of Expenditure will see that the Police Department expenditure is properly scrutinised and that they deserve what they ask for because the service they render at the moment is not sufficient.

I will come again to the question of strikes. Members of the House will agree with me that for the past three months we have had a number of strikes in this country. Take the question of the Railway Corporation. There are a lot of strikes which have caused tribunals to be set up, tribunals upon tribunals. Why? The Civil Servants want more money for doing nothing. If the Government gives them more money then it is a good case for us to expect maximum efficiency from them. The Government should see to it that those who go on strike will not be paid.

I now come to the Broadcasting Service. Members of this House will agree with me that the Broadcasting Service has not come up to the required standard expected of it. Take the Broadcasting Service here in Lagos. There are a lot of people there who owe allegiance to a certain political party. This is not the type of thing that we want in this country; we expect our Civil Servants to be above politics even though they have a right to vote, but they have no right at all to interest themselves in political activities; they must be impartial. So I expect the Director of the Broadcasting Service to take a very serious step against a Civil Servant who does not devote his whole time to the Broadcasting Service. What do they do in the news branch of the Broadcasting Service? They scrutinise the news and put on the air that which suits their political party. That is the type of thing which happens in that department, Sir. When we come to this House to scrutinise the expenditure we want to see that these expenditures are necessary and are in the best interests of the country.

Members have spoken on the question of the Ibadan aerodrome. The Minister of Communications and Aviation seems to me, Sir, to be fighting shy about the situation in Ibadan. I have raised this matter time and time again and I think the Minister of Communications and Aviation should take a very serious view on this point as I think it is high time the aerodrome in Ibadan is improved. The excuse last time was that they were unable to find a site. If the Minister approaches me as Member for Ibadan Central, I will find him a site.

I will give my praise to the Medical Department. The Medical Department did its possible best to improve medical facilities in Lagos. There has been an alarming spread of tuberculosis in the country and the Medical Department is trying very much to arrest the situation. I hope the Minister will make it a duty to see that the tuberculosis service is improved to cope with this spread.

As I said earlier, there is no need trying to do what cannot be done. When increases are asked for they must be approved on the condition that they are necessary, not when the people concerned cannot show maximum efficiency. The country will soon be self-governing and it is now the duty of politicians and civil servants to co-operate and make this a reality. The rulers of to-day will share the responsibility of laying the foundation of a new Nigeria which will emerge soon. With these few remarks I beg to support.

Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema): Mr Speaker, Sir, the financial system of Nigeria is so complex that sometimes one finds it difficult to know where to go, where to begin, where to end. I am not a vast speaker in that I always listen to young boys who want to talk, but we are coming to a stage in Nigeria where we who really know what Nigeria is, should talk. When we talk about one independent Nigeria some of us even in the Council of Ministers do not take this very seriously, because I come to this House and find legislation passed for Lagos area leaving the West, the East, the North out of the question. For instance, there is the matter of pools. I was going to say something about it but I was constrained to keep quiet. Before the legislation was passed the Minister said it affected the territory of Lagos.

To come to my specific point, Sir. I am in duty bound to say that in the creeks of Degema Division in Rivers Province trouble is brewing up again. We know what disaster took place in that area a few months ago—I do not want to say years because the trouble recurs every time. Before I came to this House I had a report that the trouble was brewing again. I consulted my people and we reached the conclusion that I should report to this House seriously and with all the emphasis at my command that the police detachment in Degema Division must be reinforced. In other words, additional barracks must be built in Degema Division to cope with the menace which rears its head every year.

(Several hon. Members: *What is the menace?*)

If you wait a minute I will tell you. We have heard stories of massacre over and over again in the Creeks. The Government of the Eastern Region, and indeed the Government of the Federation, had been unable to deal with the situation. Nobody has been brought to book because nobody could go to the Creeks to know exactly what happened. We have come to the conclusion that additional police barracks must be built in the centre where these things occur, additional police barracks equipped with creek craft good enough to handle the situation. I am praying the Prime Minister that he should take immediate steps to see that additional police barracks are built in the Creek area before December or January. You have towns like Bonny, Okrika and then the township of Port Harcourt; you have Buguma. Degema is about 40 miles from the Centre where trouble brews every year.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): For the purpose of clarification, I think the hon. Member will help the Government if he lets us know what the trouble is all about.

Mr Speaker: Chief Yellowe, I am sure, will develop that.

Chief Yellowe: I think, Mr Speaker, that the Minister of Finance knows the trouble. (Hon. Members: *COR State*). It has nothing to do with any COR State. It has been recurring from 1912 onwards. We are fishermen: on account of areas of fishing operations the people butcher one another. They belong to the same tribe, they come from the same origin, but because of fishing they butcher

themselves. We know there have been prosecutions. Only a few months ago 150 of them were arrested in Port Harcourt but the Judge could not make anything out of it because he had no evidence.

People came to me and reported that they had been chased in the Creeks. I invited certain people and we concluded that I should ask the Prime Minister to build additional police barracks. Degema is about 40 miles from Port Harcourt. My people asked me to demand from the Prime Minister additional police barracks at once. (*An hon. Member : At Bakana ?*) Yes, at Bakana if you like. But I am asking very seriously, Mr Speaker, that the police barracks should be built somewhere in the Creeks between Bakana and Okrika where these troubles always occur. I do not want to talk about Region. The Region has nothing to do with this.

The police in that area cannot work without a very strong craft to deal with the Creek situation. No big launch can get to the Creeks but the Government can provide craft with engines that can run into all the Creeks. That is one of the points I want to raise in this House. It is a Federal matter.

The next thing I want to talk about is this. One of the troubles that really afflict the people of the creek areas is postal communication. The whole of the area we call Degema Division has not one good system of communication. In this House, Sir, we have said it over and over again—please build post offices, sub-post offices and postal agencies. But, Sir, up to this moment that I am talking a post office approved by this House for Buguma has not been built these five years and we are getting away next year. There will be an election next year and perhaps another Government will sit here.

I am very sorry, Mr Speaker, that the Minister of Communications and Aviation is not here. He should have explained why that post office has not been built. I always reiterate this point. When the Government wants something from us, the Government does not look to us for what we like or how we like it. The Government enforces tax upon us and we pay. Why should the Government depend upon certain squabbles whenever there is a small amenity to be supplied to town that really deserves it? There is the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance which the Government

can use to get land at Buguma and build the post office. At one time I argued the matter with the Minister of Communications and he sent his Parliamentary Secretary to Buguma to talk to the people. But nothing has been done. The year is finishing. Next year there will be an election and the present Minister may not be there any more and that matter will go on to the shelf and remain forever silent. . (*Interruption*) . .

Mr Speaker : I should perhaps just remind the House that in this debate we are supposed to be discussing the Government's financial policy in broad lines and Chief Yellowe should not devote too much time to particular instances of the points he wishes to talk about. I am sure he will appreciate that.

Chief Yellowe : Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, but if I do not go into these things I shall not know the Government's financial policy as reflected in the area which I represent, Sir. When we talk of Government financial policy, what we have come here to see, Sir, is a Supplementary Budget which has nothing whatever in it that will commend itself to the people in my area. There is nothing at all. So, Sir, we have a right to air our grievances. Whenever they make out this thing, they should put us there.

For instance, the other day I was reading a list of places where electricity should be supplied a few months from now. They put Ogbomosho, Ondo, everywhere. But where are we? I can see nothing at all there for us. Abonnema with its teeming industrial population is left out. I shall be failing in my duty, Sir, to my constituency if I do not point out this thing.

Now, Sir, there is another thing that has been worrying my mind which I ask your permission to air in this hon. House. Port Harcourt was founded in 1913. In fact, it should have been long before now in the Government's financial policy to have taken that road from Port Harcourt to Owerri to Onitsha from the Regional Government, which road the people call Trunk B road, and make it Trunk A road. I do not know how long that road will remain a Trunk B road. Mr Speaker, Sir, if that road is not taken over by the Federal Government it will have done a great disservice to Nigeria. I want the Council of Ministers to take note of that very seriously. That road should be made Trunk A.

So, the first thing is to build a Police barracks to stop the creek disturbances in Degema Division. It must be made priority, the first thing. If anything happens, I will tell my people that I have come here and told you. I want the Council of Ministers to take note also that our postal communications system is bogus. There is nothing there. I am sorry that Chief Akintola is not here. The next thing is the Port Harcourt-Owerri-Onitsha road which must be a Trunk A road. We do not want Trunk B road there. I do not know why they made the second road Trunk A and left the first one Trunk B. Please take note.

The next thing, Sir, is about electricity to Abcnema which I have spoken about. I would like the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power to be here to hear me because he made out a list showing Ogbomosho and other places where electricity is to be supplied. I want to say this, that unless you give a criterion of population when you want to extend—I will not call it an amenity because the people pay for it—but something that they should enjoy out of the tax they pay, I do not think you are doing any good work.

Now, Sir, I come to this very vexed question of river route business. I do not like the Minister of Transport to be absent; I do not know whether I should not wait for him to come. Last year when I argued this matter on the floor of this House, the Minister said I should see the Director of Inland Waterways and the matter will be solved. Well, I saw him and took up the matter with him and we made arrangements. To my surprise, they put two buoys, one here and one there, to mark the channel through which craft could go. But, Sir, I want to say this, that anybody who has gone over that side with me will agree that not a single river craft takes that route at all. In fact the buoys were placed in such a way that nobody can understand them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter and there are casualties in that place, year after year, and this Federal Government is aware of that. Something must be done about it. As hon. Sanni knows, we have had a series of events in that place, and many of us have lost our relatives there. What I am saying here is that the rocks should be removed, we do not want a mere buoy there showing the boats which way to go. The craft do not know where to go and the result is that the people do

not use that place at all. They say, if we go there when the water is flowing then we will founder on the rocks, if we go there when the water is ebbing then we will founder on the rocks.

Mr Speaker, this matter should have priority in the Council of Ministers. The rocks must be removed. I have told you before. Remove these rocks, the people say they do not want buoys, so take them away.

Mr Speaker : Chief Yellowe has not really followed my attempted guidance to him. He is pursuing each particular detail at too great a length. He does not build up from details taken as examples which deal with the Government's policy, he must deal with a broad line of policy. He can mention details, but must not go into too great a length of detail.

Chief Yellowe : Mr Speaker, I follow your explanation all right. The thing is this, that the matter is burning in the minds of the people. The rocks must not be there. The policy of the Government in broad outline as I see it is that if they are spending money somewhere, they should spend that money in our area, that is my point of argument. If they have a supplementary expenditure then we as the people, being part of the Government must have a share and I want to bring to the attention of the Government the seriousness that we attach to this supplementary budget when we come here.

Sir, that is my argument. We do not want to have buoys at this place, saying you must go there and not here, we want the rocks removed. I repeat, we want the rocks removed, we will not have buoys.....

The Minister of Finance : Do you not want girls there ?

Mr Speaker : Chief Yellowe must abide by my ruling. He must discuss matters of broad policy and not go into details. I thought we had finished with this point a long time ago.

Chief Yellowe : I am winding up now, Sir. I think the Federation has enough scope in the Rivers area. There is plenty of oil there and the Government's Economic policy can be effectively pursued if when they get that money they just spend a little of it on that area to safeguard the lives of the people.

That is my point of argument, Sir. I thank you very much Sir, and I am sitting down with the hope that Government will take what I have said into consideration and when we come next time we will know that the Government is a good Government.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

M. Bello Dandago, Sarkin Dawaki (South West Central Kano): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Appropriation Bill before the House, I want to correct one or two bad impressions created in this House about the N.B.C.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation has the fortune, or misfortune of trying to satisfy everybody. It is much unlike the Railway Corporation where, after paying for a ticket it just takes you to your destination and that is that. It is much unlike the Electricity Corporation where all you want is light in that Department. Once you get light, that is that. But with the Broadcasting Corporation taste differs from one man to another. The listening time does not suit one man, it suits 'A' it does not suit 'B'. At one o'clock somebody is having his lunch, he does not want news items at that time and that sort of thing.

Mr Speaker, we should know where we are in this House, the whole condemnation of a Corporation that it is wholly bad is something dangerous and disparaging. I agree, Sir, that in the Corporation there may be one or two cases of genuine complaint but for an hon. Member to stand up on the Floor of this House and condemn the whole Corporation is something I do not like.

There is one thing. I think a Regional staff of the Corporation was either insubordinate or did something bad, but the Corporation did not allow that to pass. I think I will call his case, departmental and *sub judice*; he will be disciplined.

Sir, the Corporation has in the past tried to live up to its expectations, and I know it will live up to its expectations in the future, and that is to attempt to satisfy public taste, which is not easy when one considers the different political parties we have in Nigeria.

For instance a certain thing happens in a certain locality on election day. A reporter reports it, and the report may be absolutely

correct. On the air, 'B' will say it is not true. 'A' will say it is solely against 'B', but to the best of the ability of the Corporation they have a Programme Committee and a responsible committee it is, to see to all these things, and they have done their best to report truthfully.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Corporation is doing its best (*Hear, hear*).

About the Police, Sir. The Police Department, I think, have their principal categories of work, the detection of crime, the prevention of it, the frustration of it. The first priority I think is the detecting of it. I think there are complaints that members of the public are not co-operating, to which I would say, co-operation begets co-operation. If the Police can take us as their friends, the public are quite willing to help. But the way the rate of crime is increasing and not coming to the notice of the police is very alarming.

Mr Speaker, Sir, about the traffic police, it has been the policy or seems to be the policy of some authorities when anybody wants to have a driving licence to say "Look, it is your life, and your car, go, take it". The result is, we are having a lot of inexperienced drivers on the roads and the result is we are losing lives. I think stricter care should be taken before a driving licence is given and with the help of the force a heavier penalty than now should be imposed with a view to decreasing the number of accidents ending in loss of life.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the supplementary Appropriation Bill. I say that in supporting it I have no doubt whatsoever that the funds are there, because the Minister of Finance is one who will not allow so much to get out if he is not sure that there are adequate funds. But I want to make these two points.

When the Minister of Finance returned from Europe recently he made an announcement about the building of a bridge over the Niger. It will do this country a world of good to hear from him and the Minister of Works before this House adjourns what is the present position. It will be a lasting and monumental credit to the Government of the day if we shall close the year 1959 with an announcement about that bridge

which this House has so much talked about—that the foundation is laid—and I think with the extension of the Bornu Railway, with the building of a bridge across the Niger, I can say without any fear of contradiction that the Government in office would have left a monument for itself. I do hope that the two Ministers concerned will know that they have the fullest backing of this House. If it means going to America or to the United Kingdom to negotiate loans the Ministers have the fullest mandate of this House to go ahead. That bridge across the Niger must be seen to.

The other point, Mr Speaker, I wish to make is that no law or regulation which is made for the purpose of the people can be static and inflexible. The object of law is to test them out, and if they do not fit in adequately to review them from time to time and adjust them to human needs.

I now come to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation. Much money has been spent in the Posts and Telegraphs Department to improve facilities and it is only fair that those who are getting its services should pay for those services. Hence the increase of postal and telephone rates. I still believe that the increase is justified because of the money which has been spent. But we have to ascertain whether the increase is not so excessive as we gather from the people that use the services. I think it is the Minister of Communications and Aviation who will know himself that there is so much grumble and so much dissatisfaction that at times people say: "Come and remove our telephones; we are no longer going to pay." I say that there should be an increase but let that increase not stifle the economic incentive for which it is made. If it is excessive we can curb it in such a way that—once the service is there—we can get many more people to use it and cut the rate and still make as much revenue. But when

it is out of proportion to the economic productivity of the people then you have stifled the goose that lays the golden egg and it is no longer economical; rather you have reached the marginal utility of whatever you are producing. I trust that the Minister will take care of that in reviewing the rates.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the estimates are very modest. The finances according to the Minister of Finance of the Federation are very healthy. We are not shaken in any way and it is with pleasure that I support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Mr Speaker : I must point out that the House has only one minute left for debate. Hon. Obaje will be entitled to continue his speech on Monday morning.

Mr B. A. Obaje (South Igala) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In my talk this morning I referred to the Minister of Communications and Aviation (I am sorry he is not here now). During my last visit to Oshun Division if I travelled for ten miles I saw a post office, when I walked twenty miles there was a post office.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. It is now a quarter to twelve and it is my duty to adjourn the debate. Debate to resume?

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Monday, Sir.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn (The Minister of Works and Surveys).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at fourteen minutes to twelve noon until 10 a.m. on Monday, the 24th of November.

House of Representatives Debates

2463

[Supplementary (1958-59)

24 NOVEMBER 1958

Appropriation Bill]

2464

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Monday, 24th November, 1958

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1958-59)
(No. 2) BILL

(2nd Allotted Day) : *Adjourned Debate on Question (21st November), That the Bill be now read a Second Time.*

Question again proposed.

Mr B. A. Obaje (South Igala) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful that I am allowed to use the Floor of this Honourable House. Last Saturday I was on my feet but the time was so limited that I could not complete my speech.

Now, Sir, I am not afraid of any contradiction provided I am called upon here to speak on behalf of my people.

A lot of money has been voted for postal facilities to extend to the rural areas but it seems to me that the Minister has totally forgotten his instructions over these proposals, because last year in 1957, during the Budget Session, a Motion was brought here by my learned Friend, Mr Olarewaju, and this Motion was here unanimously agreed upon. However, nothing further has been done in my own constituency of Igala. It seems to me, Sir, that the present Minister has forgotten his instructions, because when I last visited Oshun Division, I travelled about 20 miles and saw a post office ; I travelled another 15 miles and saw another post office. The Minister has not extended postal facilities or mobile post offices to other areas, as was decided last year.

Sir, I have a doubt about the Minister. I think he is treating his office with a political bias. The Postal Agency at Ayangba in Igala Division is insufficient to serve the needs of the people at Ayangba because the area is so vast that it is worth while to build a post office in this area. In this area many business people of high integrity suffer a great deal of inconvenience in trying to post their letters. Sir, I am advising the Minister very seriously that he should not

leave the Igala Division so backward and so forgotten when there are all these amenities in his own constituency.

Referring to the Minister of Works, I am appealing to hon. Members to join with me and congratulate the Council of Ministers and the Minister of Works in particular, for he is very ably and efficiently carrying out the work in his Ministry. I am advising the Minister that he should extend his work to include the tarring of the Trunk 'A' road to the Benue boundary, because, Sir, the produce season is now coming, and the traders using that road should not suffer any difficulty while conveying their produce along that road, so that the foreign inhabitants of this country could enjoy the produce when it is in season.

Now, Sir, I am coming back again to the Minister of Communications and Aviation. The Minister is entirely looking down on the rural areas in Igala Division. It seems to me that these people, Sir, do not benefit from the taxes they pay to this Government . . . (*Interruption*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order. I must repeat my complaint about the noise that hon. Members make around the House. The result is this. People who make a noise here, or there, or anywhere else, the noise is all reproduced through the various microphones in the House and goes into one jumble which is not funny to the Verbatim Reporters. It is quite impossible listening in head-phones to catch what a speaker is saying if there is a burr of noise or interruptions through the other microphones. In the House of Commons the only microphone which is switched on is the one nearest to the person who is speaking. That is all right but here all the microphones reproduce just as much noise and the result is that I get complaints next day that the official reporters have got the speeches wrong. It is not the official reporters' fault ; it is the fault of other Members of the House, and I would ask them to keep quiet while any Member is speaking.

Mr Obaje : Now, Sir, I want the Minister to see to it that postal facilities and mobile post offices are extended to the rural areas, particularly in my division, because the poor inhabitants of this area are badly suffering from lack of postal facilities.

Coming to the Minister of Mines and Power, he said on the Floor of this House during the last session that he would extend electricity to the rural areas where he thought it justified. Now the self-government of this country is at hand, and we should not be here in Lagos, Ibadan, Abeokuta and Port Harcourt, all the big towns, and forget the rural areas by not giving them sufficient light. I am advising the Minister to have this in mind in the implementation of the Economic Programme to see to it that all the rural areas in this country are given electricity. With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr L. C. Daldry : Mr Speaker, on this occasion the Minister has come to the House to request our approval to spend a small sum of money. The economic and financial policy of the Government does not appear to have changed since we were last here and therefore I feel that there are very few comments which one needs to make. I would, however, be grateful if the Minister would explain to me two points in connection with the Supplementary Estimates themselves.

Page 28 shows supplementary provision now required under the Head "Judicial" of £1,700. But I cannot find that £1,700 shown in the Schedule to the actual Bill. This has, no doubt, something to do with Government accounting, with which I am not conversant, but as the Estimates are not self-explanatory in that respect I would be grateful if he could explain this.

On the next page, 29, there also appears to be an amount required of £9,409, and there again it does not appear in the Schedule to the Bill. I expect this can be explained by some reference to government accounting, but I would like to know why these two amounts do not appear in the Schedule.

It is noticeable, Sir, that this time there is no reference in these Supplementary Estimates to capital expenditure. I hope very much that this does not mean that capital expenditure is not proceeding at the rate which we all hope it will proceed in order to accelerate the economic development of the country.

Usually, also, with supplementary estimates we are given a revised financial statement, but one is not included this time. It would have been interesting to have had some information about the progress of the revenue. The only

reference to that in the Minister's speech is his assurance that there will be no difficulty in meeting the additional expenditure from within the revised estimated revenue in the current estimates.

The revised estimated surplus given to us in August was a little more than £735,000. If we deduct the amount shown in this Schedule, we are left with a figure of a little less than half a million. I hope very much, therefore, that revenue is keeping up with expectations, and is still buoyant.

On the face of it, Sir, it is satisfactory to hear that the contingencies fund remained untouched at £1 million. This fund is meant entirely for very urgent expenditure, but the fund is there, and I dare say that these estimates could have been declared as urgent and some people in the Minister's position might have been tempted to use the contingencies fund, rather than take the trouble of bringing these estimates to the House. The fact that the Minister has not touched the fund, but has taken the orthodox procedure of coming to the House for authority, and that, for the sake of this comparatively small sum, the Government is quite willing to subject its financial policy to two days' debate shows, I think, that as far as public finance is concerned the Government is proceeding on really democratic lines. This, I suggest, is not something which the House should take for granted. It really deserves a tribute.

However, while expressing appreciation that the contingencies fund has not been used, I do hope that the Minister will not hesitate to use it when it is necessary on the grounds of urgency, and this brings me to the main reason I have for speaking this morning, which is to draw attention to what I regard as a very serious matter affecting the Ministry of Communications and Aviation.

On the 25th of September a Dove Aircraft was lost in tragic circumstances. A few days ago hon. Members were given a Report by the Board which investigated this tragedy, and at the top of page 11 appears the very serious matter to which I wish to draw attention.

Writing of the Air Traffic Control, the Investigating Board states that the strength of the staff available for duties at Lagos Airport is "completely inadequate" to deal efficiently with the control of air traffic at peak periods.

This is a matter of the utmost seriousness and urgency. Especially having regard to the words "completely inadequate" which are used in this Report. The Board does not say that the Control staff are "short-staffed" or that they are "overworked". It says they are "completely inadequate."

It is not very pleasant to be approaching Lagos Airport in an aircraft and have the feeling that down below the people who are going to guide this aircraft in are "totally inadequate" to cope with the traffic. This is a very severe criticism for the Board to make.

Now I have read very carefully the foreword in this Report, which is written by the Temporary Minister of Communications and Aviation, but it does not really re-assure me in regard to this matter. On page 2 he says that unless fully qualified Air Traffic Control Officers can be recruited in the very near future, the possibility of transferring the Flight Information Centre to Kano "will be actively considered." I wonder whether it has been "actively considered" already, or not. I believe the Minister himself was away when this tragedy occurred, and I know him well enough to be sure that he will not regard my remarks as in any way an attack on him or the Civil Aviation Department, but I know him well enough also to be sure that he will understand that the public does require some re-assurance about this matter, and we should be very, very grateful indeed if the Minister could make a statement at the earliest possible opportunity. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, I have raised this matter in relation to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill because this may be an instance, perhaps, where the Contingencies Fund should be used rapidly. If more staff is required, and if, therefore, more money is required, there is no time to come to the House in such an urgent matter as this and it seems to me that here is a clear example of where the Contingencies Fund should be used, and that is why I have related this particular matter to the Appropriation Bill.

Mr Speaker, in supporting the Second Reading of the Bill, I cannot conclude my brief remarks without reference to the growing reputation of the Minister of Finance abroad.

(*Hear, hear*). His presence at Washington, New York and, more recently, at Montreal, has won for him considerable publicity and he seems to be well on the way to becoming an international figure. (*Hear, hear*). This, Sir, serves, in my view, only to emphasize the ever-growing importance of Nigeria in the world of to-day.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would re-echo every word of praise that the hon. Mr Daldry has showered upon the Minister of Finance for bringing a Bill for the appropriation of such a small sum before the Legislature, for we remember the hue and cry when the Finance Committee of the House was abolished. I will not go into the reasons for its abolition. I will not charge it with incompetence, but the very fact that the policy of the House was brought to bear upon the appropriation of a comparatively small sum, I say, does accord with the wishes expressed in this House that the Council of Ministers, and especially the Ministry of Finance, should take us into their confidence in the expenditure of the tax-payers money. And I think whatever may be said in any other respects, it is, I think, deserving that we should accord praise to the Minister of Finance.

Mr Daldry said that our Finance Minister is fast attaining international repute. Well he just couldn't help being internationally reputed as a "borrower". Even as a borrower I think our Finance Minister has been signally successful, and I do hope that we shall not merely be borrowers but in the near future, I hope, Sir, that we shall be lenders. I think the Minister will agree with that, because I cannot help recalling his speech on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of our Central Bank, when he reminded us that he has got a Chief from Scotland and that he has got a keeper from New Zealand. So, I think that the finances of the nation are safe in the hands of (*An hon. Member: Keeper of the Key*). I was going to say, of the hon. Roy Festus Okotie-Eboh (*Interruption*) and in the hands of Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh, we know that we shall soon reach the status when we shall be lenders to other nations.

But having said that, Sir, I would like to start where I really ought to have begun, and that is, since this House began we referred many times to the coming of independence on October 1st,

1960, but none of us Members have warmed up to it that the contribution of the delegates from this Federal Legislature need be commended. After all, it is true that we belong to the Regions—most of us—but here in this Federal Legislature we, I think, have tried and will continue to try to hold the balance. (*Hear, hear*). We will not forget our homes but, at the same time, we will not forget that our homes do not exist in vacuum and, therefore, I feel that whether it is by sitting on the fence or holding the balance one way or another, I feel that this Federal Legislature by means of its delegates has contributed quite a lot to the element of independence and the agreement to it at the London Conference. Of course, if we are to thank our delegates, we will put first and foremost our Prime Minister. (*Hear, hear*).

For you will realise that it is not a small thing to be captain of a team; but it is even a bigger thing to be captain of what I would call a scratch team and be able to lead a scratch team to victory. Well, I will not try to explain what I mean by a scratch team: that will give you something to scratch your heads about. But it is really a scratch team that was led to London and he came back strengthened and determined to go forward to win even greater victories by being welded together in one unit, pursuing the same goal which is the prosperity of the whole Federation of Nigeria.

And that is why I will go on from there to draw the attention of the House to a matter which has already been spotlighted by so many Members in this House in speeches last week. If we are to be prosperous, if we are to continue to be creditworthy, surely we must call upon the Minister of Labour and Welfare to investigate the labourers in the vineyard of Nigeria about the many days that are lost through strikes and threats of strikes. Threats of strikes still hang over our heads as the sword of Damocles. For every little dispute they will call our men out on strike.

It is time, Sir, not merely to go abroad to attend international conferences of the world, but to call conferences at home and see if we can put the finances of this nation before our people. It has not yet been realised that we are not merely chewing the muscles of our own arms, but we are draining our own lifeblood by all these strikes and agitations. (*Hear, hear.*) By all these strikes and agitations we will be killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

I say, Sir, that it is time we held a seminar here and invited people from abroad to come and show our people the folly of subjugating every dispute to the threat of strikes. After all, trade unionism can only flourish in an atmosphere of democracy. There are countries to-day where trade unionism is a crime. Well, how does it begin? Everybody likes to be free, but when freedom is abused, when it goes to excess, when the people will not abide by the decision of the majority, when the minority must rule the majority, when the minority must subjugate the rest of the nation to discomfort over a trifle, it is then that democracy is threatened and the very existence of the trade unions themselves is being invalidated. For it is in the attempt to restore law and order, to restore stability in the country, that the Government uses more and more power that eventually stifles the very basis of democracy. And so, Sir, I feel that the trade unions will be doing a credit to this country if they will only use the weapon of strike in the last extremity even the very public would help them to shout that they are right, that their rights have been trampled upon. There have been cases in this country where the public have followed the unions wholeheartedly. But with the threats of strike, I am afraid they have antagonised a great many people, I would not say everybody.

Sir, a word to the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation. He deserves our sympathy over the loss of the aircraft. I know that not a lot of noise has been made in this country except in official circles and through the N.B.C. Popular indignation has not been aroused over the loss of a Dove Aircraft because only three lives were lost. It might have been more; it might have been a liner carrying many more people, even scientists, ambassadors and businessmen to other parts of the world, and for the same cause it might have plunged into the Atlantic. A life is a life for all that, and any cause that leads to loss of life through inefficiency or inadequacy anywhere, I think, is something which the nation ought to look seriously upon especially in these days when we are attaining international repute as a coming on nation.

We are talking of increasing our international airports—Kano, Lagos—and now somebody is talking about Ibadan. By all means we want

to increase them. But if we cannot even maintain two international airports efficiently, it will be tragic. And I want to suggest one of the ways in which we can have adequacy. The policy of recruitment has been mentioned, but I want to know about the policy of training? How long are we going to rely upon technicians from other parts of the world? What is our own training scheme? I think it is just tragic that we can be held to ransom any time. What is the need of going to London to sign on a Nigerian Airline if we have not got any Nigerians to run it, if we must always depend upon people from other parts of the world who must call the tune and call the dance as well? I think, Sir, that a training scheme is a first claim upon that Contingency Fund which Mr Keeper has to keep. Put the key in the hands of the Minister of Communications and Aviation so that he can use his discretion in the matter of training.

Mr Speaker, Sir, having said that about the aircraft, it is not everybody in this country who flies; it is an infinitesimal proportion of our people who fly, although they are increasing. We must think of the way in which this Ministry affects the lives of millions of people in this country. The lifeblood of any nation, I think, is its communications system; but it is just in that that we are very defective.

Sometime, about two years ago, this House debated a Motion calling upon the Government to see to it that every Divisional Headquarters or even headquarters of Local Governments have telephone and telegraph facilities. After all, this independence, when we have got it, are we going to keep it here in Lagos or in Kaduna or in Enugu? This independence does not mean anything to the ordinary person unless the ordinary person can take part in it adequately. I say that even with the existing telephone facilities in this country, there is nothing wrong in extending one or two lines to every headquarter. After all—I will give an example—for a long time there was only one telephone line through Ijebu Ode to Ijebu Igbo; one is not sufficient but it did keep Ijebu Igbo in touch with the rest of the country. Instead of wasting money and risking lives on rodas, that one line was installed, yet it was something. I therefore say, Sir, that some of us here would welcome even a single telephone line to our local headquarters (*Hear, hear*) so that our Local Government Councils can get in

touch with the Regional headquarters. Why cannot that be done? I want an answer.

Sir, I will remind the present Minister of Communications and Aviation that sometime ago some of his officials—whether it was before he came, he inherited it anyhow—some of his officials gave us to understand that they would extend telephone communications to Ago Iwoye and this and that and the other one: I am taking Ago Iwoye as an example because that is a case in point. It was recorded at the Regional Headquarters at Ibadan that when the telephone exchange at Ijebu Igbo was complete a through line would be extended to Ago Iwoye. Now there are two Ago Iwoye District Council Headquarters all in that area. Now the Ijebu Igbo exchange is ready and applications are being invited and the ordinary people are getting their telephone lines. But have those District Headquarters, got telephones? No. Why should they not get telephones? Have they not any right to the communications facilities of this country? (*Applause.*) So with all the other District Council Headquarters.

Sir, we talk about post offices and they remind one about units. Are they doing something about these units? How can one increase units when one goes to these post offices and finds that they have no stamps for sale and when they are asked why there are no stamps they say that they are not allowed to sell without units. They should be given as many stamps as they can sell. If we give them a thousand stamps and they only sell 900 then at least we know their chances, but if they can sell 5,000 and we only give them 1,000, how can we go back and charge the village for not having sold enough units? No postal orders—and this is a country where we say that independence is around the corner. I am afraid our independence is walking on crutches.

After speaking about Posts and Telegraphs and Communications, I will go on to a more humane material of the Federation. The continuation of this Federation depends upon the young people who are leaving our schools. There was a time in this country when if anybody spoke about juvenile delinquency, nobody would know what he was talking about because every juvenile had some kind of care or other. There may have been extreme cases of cruelty which were brought to the notice of the public when there was a hue and cry mainly because there was no machinery to bring these matters

in the open. Now we have a Ministry of Social Welfare to look after young people and to see that they go right and to correct those who are going wrong. I do not think this Ministry intends to expend all its power and energy in prisons. I know that our Minister for welfare has gone abroad and visited all the prisons but I do not think that all he intends to do is to push our juveniles into them. I think the great part of his job would be to see that these people do not graduate into prisoners. Sir, that is why I would ask the Ministry to strengthen its arm of social welfare. Our people have now come to realise what precious work that Department is doing and, therefore, pressure for its services has increased and I have known people who have been disappointed, who have come back home and said the Social Welfare could not help, all they now do is talk to the wife and the husband and tell them to go home and settle their quarrel.

What about the little children? If we have not got enough funds I would say that the service of the Social Welfare has the second call upon that contingency fund which has been securely locked up. Sir, I would say that unless this matter receives adequate attention we shall be requiring not merely prisons but we shall be requiring homes for neurotics, we shall be requiring psychotherapists and all that group of people who have seen things that are filthy even in the behaviour of ordinary little babies. We shall be needing their services if we do not take immediate measures to see that our juveniles are kept along the straight path. Sir, I would call upon the Government to foresee the policy of immediate measures.

If I sat down and did not speak about the Nigerianisation Office, I should not be true to my colleagues and to the job that is allotted to some of us here on behalf of this Legislature. If the will to Nigerianise is there I would ask: "Is our heart right? Is our heart in this thing? Do we really mean to Nigerianise?" That is the question I would ask. How can a Nigerian graduate for this post we are talking about? First by qualification, secondly by experience, the experience he cannot get in any school or college but while doing the actual job. That is why some of us are puzzled when an African civil servant, a junior one, is supposed to be fit enough to act for a senior officer, not once, not twice, but several times but each time the offer is dangled in front of him, or if I may say the

carrot, they are treating him like an ass, the carrot is dangled in front of him and, when he thinks he is going to reach it, it is taken away, he will think that the next time he will fill that post and you would think when he acts for the senior official adequately that he would be considered. Oh no, what will happen is Mr Somebody who will come from somewhere else will jump over this other man. That is how we are forsaking our Nigerianisation policy, it is not that we have not got the men, they are there, but they are jumped over with complete demoralisation of the service. This is not the time yet to mention names, there will be ample time for that when the time comes, but I will say, Sir, that in the Department of Communications and Aviation the examples are plenty. So in the Department of the Federal Ministry of Works, so in all the other Ministries, they have supreme examples. I dare say, Sir, that it is not the policy of this House which is wrong—that a Nigerian must have not only qualifications but the experience—but when they have successfully climbed up the ladder of experience that, like the waters of Tantalus, they should be so near quenching their thirst only for ever and eternally to have it taken away from them. It is that kind of thing which breaks down the morale of the Nigerian and we give up the hope that we shall ever Nigerianise our Civil Service.

Sir, I would take another example from the Ministry of Education. An African would be considered good enough to start a job from scratch, he would dig the holes and put in the foundation, he would put in all the hedges and water the flowers, but as soon as the garden began to bloom, he would be told he had not got sufficient experience and then a Senior Expatriate would be put on the job. How can one expect a person to keep up his morale under those conditions? If he is good enough to start a job, if he is good enough to bring it up from scratch, why is he not good enough to hold the post? I would ask the Minister when he graduated into the post of Minister of Education, whether anybody thought he could do the job and if because he makes a simple mistake we take the portfolio away from him, will he think he has had a fair deal? Well now put yourself in the shoes of that man and you will know who I am talking about. We all know that in the past Lagos has had no training college, right from 1914 no training college, then as soon as we have a proper one this man was left in charge, let

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him carry on and he did carry on to the pride of everyone he made a good job of it. Now they say it is not his job and that he is not experienced enough, that is the kind of thing we are arguing against. That is why I say that the policy might be all right, but the execution of it.....

(An hon. Member : It is all wrong.) In the words of our venerable Prime Minister, it is all wrong, very wrong.

I would go on, Sir, to the Ministry of Health. We are all very pleased to see that the hospitals and the maternity buildings are going up and I think second only to the building of the Central Bank, the speed with which these buildings are going up is worthy of mention and deserving of praise. But, Sir, it is not enough that buildings go up. Buildings will go up, but if the deceptive manners, the dishonest ways, the nonchalance of our medical men in the hospitals continue, they will go up also with the statue of the hospitals and it will be confusion confounded. I think that the Ministry should put its own home in order and continue lecturing its own men on what they ought to have learnt long ago. I think the medical profession is one of the most humane professions, it is missionary work, it is saving lives but those people who are in these services, I do not say all of them, but a good many of them in the profession are in very bad order. I think the Ministry could do a lot by asking them, now that Nigeria is attaining independence, that they should have a change of outlook, a change of heart, and treat their patients with real humanity and with real compassion. A person in pain might be very irrational, but he will become worse still if you treat him irrationally.

While congratulating the Minister of Health for Lagos and the Federation I would say that he should see to the human elements. While the building grows the virtue of compassion and purity in handling patients should also grow, not asking for bribe before you treat a sick man.

We have one of the best hospitals in the world at Ibadan under this Ministry and I say that that hospital ought to be and I think it is the pride of the whole nation. All the more reason why no breath of scandal should be breathed against that hospital. I will not

want to expand much on that. I think the Minister knows that that hospital is attracting attention and I hope the attention it is attracting is wholesome. There is a lot of waste in that hospital being brought to our notice. I hope the Minister will see that this is stopped.

Finally, the Minister for Lagos Affairs Mines and Power is to be congratulated because of the scheme that is rumoured about damming the River Niger and the production of electricity. I was delighted the day I heard the fact that exploration is being carried on and that brought hope even to the people of Uyo. That river has been rolling along with no real benefit to the country. It has been encroaching upon our boundary. We could not do anything about it, but with the hydro-electric scheme we know that it will not only provide navigable waterways but also provide water for irrigation purposes. We ought to congratulate the Minister of Mines and Power so that he can double his efforts. All the five-year plans of India and Pakistan are based on the hydro-electric scheme and if any country in the world urgently desires such a scheme I think Pakistan is No. 1, for if she can do that she will be increasing her source of wealth and providing power for her industry.

So I will end up with the Ministry in charge of co-operatives, I think it is the Ministry of Welfare. Is there a co-operative movement in Lagos? I do not think there is any at all. If there is any I think it is completely starved. When it is now decided it should exist as a Federal Department why is it not given all the treatment deserving of a Federal department? Why should co-operatives rise to that stature in the Regions and be dwarfed in the Federation. Naturally if I am seeking examples I should go to the Federal territory and not to the Regions. Why should I go to the Regions for that? Are we abandoning co-operatives to leave the people at the mercy of all the big combines? I think here is the hope and mainstay of the ordinary common man where he can buy and feel he has a share in all those large businesses. The Minister should see that this department is not starved.

Mr Speaker : One minute more.

Chief Solaru : Yes, Sir. May I remind people who have spoken about expanding Lagos that nothing will gladden my heart more than that Lagos should expand and

expand. After all you are not importing people from the North, East or the Cameroons and outside Nigeria: you are merely increasing the stature and prosperity of the local people themselves. It is not so much what you want to do that stands in your way but it is the other elements that you bring into the thing. If you can get the people to agree, what is holding you up? If your schemes are good the people will agree. If it is a negative thing it will be negated. If you adopt a positive attitude everything will be all right.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to speak in support of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1958-59 I wish to line up myself with the hon. Members who in the course of their speeches congratulated the Minister of Finance on the creditable way in which he is rendering his services to our great country in connection with its economic development. In the past political matters received very great attention at the expense of matters which concerned the economic development of Nigeria, but to-day we are all living witnesses of spectacular events indicating our onward march to ensure that economic growth goes side by side with the political growth of Nigeria. This happy change in the right direction can be attributed to a sense of duty and team work on the part of all our Federal Ministers.

I also wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the Federal delegates and all Nigerian leaders to the last Resumed Conference in London for the wonderful performances as a result of which 1st October, 1960 has been fixed as the date for Nigerian Independence. This naturally gladdens the heart of every freedom loving Nigerian at home and abroad. Hon. Members should be more pleased because in August this year this House unanimously passed a motion for a date of Nigerian independence. It is hoped that after independence the creation of a Mid-West State will be given priority of attention. The people of the Mid-West will not rest on their oars until a state is created.

The presentation of a Supplementary Appropriation Bill which is a new feature of this Legislature often creates an opportunity for Members to repeat themselves within the same financial year on matters concerning the

economic development of their various constituencies and perhaps for the purpose of emphasis one cannot resist the temptation of doing so. I therefore wish to touch briefly on one or two important matters which fall within the competence of the Federal Government.

There is a very great demand by my people for the extension of electricity service to Ughelli, the district headquarters of Urhobo Division. It is only 27 miles from Warri. Businessmen who desire to open industries in that area cannot do so due to lack of electric power. The Government College at Ughelli owns an electric plant which supplies electricity to the College. If the Government is not yet ready to make an extension from Warri the E.C.N. can come into arrangement with the College and take over the plant and make electricity available to the community. The District Council is very keen about this. I hope the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power will look into the matter whenever representations are made to him by this Council.

I turn now to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation. It is most amazing, Sir, that in spite of increases in postal and telephone rates the services at present rendered by the Posts and Telegraphs Department leave much to be desired. One is tempted to ask: "To what use are the new equipments put?" What is the purpose of the increase of rates if you book a telephone call from Agbor to Ibadan and you have to wait almost a whole day to get it through? Your pay higher charges for the call in addition to the sheer waste of time for waiting to get the call through! Again, Sir, the Department appears to tell us that changes are being effected with V.H.F. facility extensions scattered here and there, and yet applicants for telephone installations have had to wait for years and years without getting anything done for them. Applications for telephone installations from some hon. Members are thrust aside without reason. At Warri, the hon. P. K. Tabiowo put up an application in 1954. Up to the present he has not been supplied with one at all. The Minister of Communications and Aviation will do well to investigate this complaint. If an application submitted by a V.I.P. for that matter, followed by constant reminders cannot receive any attention, what explanation has the Minister to give? This is shocking inefficiency.

I agree with Chief Yellowe that the remote parts of the Federation do not come into consideration when economic development is being considered by the Federal Government, even in projects which fall within the competence of the Federal Government. One comes to Lagos and other cities to see vast changes everyday; mighty commercial and Government buildings going up swiftly overnight like magic. Go to the remote areas and you will feel very sorry for people living in those areas. There you have the population going under sun and rain to make food supply available for the people living in the big cities. To them the Federal Government is Federal Government by name and not by action. It seems to me that the Federal Government is perpetuating the policy of making progressive areas more progressive and backward areas more backward.

We are living in the atomic age, the age of rapidity in which things move with lightning speed in the towns leaving behind the neglected areas. How can they catch up if they are not encouraged to move with the times? We want a comprehensive programme of development of the neglected areas to enable the people in these areas to establish industries and take up a full share in the commercial activities of this country to enhance the economic development of the country. It is then that the note of the doctrine of saving struck by the Federal Minister of Finance can be well taken by all parts of the country, unless he tells us that his message was only intended for the working class in Lagos and other big cities of Nigeria. Otherwise, how can a man save when he does not make any money?

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr J. Mboyam (Nkambe): Mr Speaker, in supporting the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I would like to make a few remarks. My main concern is the mail service along the Bamenda ring road which is linking two administrative headquarters of Nkambe and Wum Divisions. The Federal Government has provided a Prison mail *Land Rover* for the carrying of prisoners and mails. This is killing two birds with one stone. The *Land Rover* is often breaking down and remains under repair for two to three months. This cannot promote efficient mail service. The Bamenda, Nkambe and Wum Native Authorities are willing to contribute to the cost of efficient and regular mail services along the

ring road. I am appealing to the Minister of Communications and Aviation to make effective arrangements with these Native Authorities.

My other point is to appeal to the Minister of Works and Surveys to reopen the construction of the Takun-Bissaula-Tamene road which was stopped early this year. This stoppage has taken the Southern Cameroons some steps backward in the field of trade and economic development. We are looking forward to seeing the reopening of the construction of that road. Lastly, Sir, I have to thank the Nigerian leaders and other delegates to the Nigeria Constitutional Conference who accepted the Fiscal Report which tends to better the financial position of the Southern Cameroons. We want a better financial position to enable the Southern Cameroons Government to develop that small territory within the Federation of Nigeria now and after independence. We also noted with great pleasure the statement that Nigeria will welcome the Southern Cameroons into the Federation of Nigeria with equality to other Regions, and we have to thank the Federal Government for the writing off of the interest on the capital loan which was converted into a grant.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Supplementary Appropriation Budget is opportune, opportune in the sense that it provides us a chance to make specific suggestions as to what financial or economic policies we would like to see pursued in an independent Nigeria faced with not only her own burdens but perhaps, Sir, with the burdens of her sister African countries that might look up to her for guidance and for which countries she must cater in the long run because of her position, population, size and status. Sir, I say *in the long run* for it would be extremely foolish for Nigeria, faced with her own problems now, to devote her attention to other countries but, in the future, this will certainly be inevitable since most if not all, the African countries are looking up to Nigeria for leadership in what might develop in future to be a free and independent United States of Africa.

There will not, Sir, after this budget meeting, be another budget meeting except that in March, before the dissolution of this Federal House of Representatives. Hence the importance and

urgency of making our suggestions during this meeting so that they can be embodied in our economic and financial policy for the next year, the year of consolidation preparatory for 1960, the year of our destiny. We must be grateful to God, Sir, that the year 1958; the year just preceding that year of consolidation, is not, from a financial point of view, a very bad one, thanks to the foresight, ability and dependability of the Minister of Finance. But, Sir, the aim behind any public expenditure by a Government is to provide services for the public that has elected it into power mainly to raise their standard of living. It can be seen therefore that any responsible Government must aim at developing a country socially, educationally and economically so that there may be life more abundant not for the few but for the very many. Whatever plans therefore we have to effect, these must be diverted into a proper channel and directed also to the best interest of the people of the country.

Accordingly, Sir, I am indeed grateful, and in a way relieved, to see that the Government has taken into consideration the very good suggestion of having a planning committee and has in fact set up one. What ever proposals Government may have, no matter how many, would be of less benefit if they are not executed in the right way—and there is, after all, a right and a wrong way of doing everything. To this end, I must emphasise that the development of a country cannot and should not be in watertight compartments; hence the importance of a Planning Committee which will not only plan but also co-ordinate the various development projects. I wish to take this opportunity, Mr Speaker, Sir, to thank the Government for this excellent thing that it has done. But, Sir, the task of the Government will not be complete by merely setting up a Planning Committee. All parts of the country must be able to benefit by the plan, and they can only benefit if they are accessible.

Sir, the Government must embark upon making all parts of the country accessible by road or by air, by rail or by water, for unless there is ease of access and communications to the nooks and corners of the country, the development of such parts of the country would be greatly hampered. No doubt the first essential, and may I call it a priority, Sir, is the building of roads. Good roads too, that will stand the test of time, and these *must* be

to all parts of the country. The purpose of any development will be defeated if those places to be developed are impossible to get at.

Mr Speaker, I am saying that our roads must be well built, for beside the common saying that what is worth doing is worth doing well, it is important economically to construct permanently good roads on which cars and lorries can travel safely and easily and which will not necessitate recurrent expenditure for unnecessary maintenance. This Government, Sir, I know, is very alert to its responsibilities and as can be seen road development is rapidly progressing, and the country is certainly being opened up. But I think I am right in saying that some of the so called 'Trunk 'A' roads in certain parts of the country are appalling. Bridges and culverts of such roads should be re-constructed so that they can carry the ever increasing number of vehicles going over them.

Sir, we hear that certain roads are closed because of the rains and because they are impassable during the rains. We often hear, Sir, that certain vehicles are not allowed to ply certain roads because they are too heavy to go over certain bridges and culverts. It is not uncommon to see and hear that certain roads are closed during the rains because they are impassable.

It is the rule rather than the exception to hear lorry owners crying because their lorries have not travelled for some time on the roads and they are out of use. It is not surprising Sir, to hear that certain development projects in certain areas have been postponed because those areas are impossible to get at. How on earth Sir, may I ask, can our economic development be expedited when our roads and the condition of our roads are deplorable?

The rural areas, Sir, on which much of our economy depends, must be linked and properly linked too, not only with the urban areas, but also with one another. Thus, and only thus, will progress be brought about, progress, social, educational, economic and political, to our brothers and sisters now isolated in the rural areas.

Road development, Sir, is also necessary in order to encourage healthy competition between road and rail transport, without such competition the railway will be given an unrivalled chance of taking a much more preponderant share in the transport business of this country and thereby monopolising it.

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Mr Speaker, Sir, it is an indisputable fact that agriculture is an important factor in the economy of this country. We depend on it a great deal. The revenue we get from the Customs duties levied on exports and imports, most of which exports are agricultural products is more than seventy per cent of the total revenue collected in the country. More people in Nigeria are engaged in agriculture than in any other industry and the Nigerian soil itself is suitable for it. Yes, we are mainly an agricultural country, and we must look on ourselves as such. But we must take care that we do not neglect our farming industry.

To my mind, mechanised farming, often suggested by some people is not, at least now, or at least on a large scale, the answer to this problem. Sir, what we need is more and better fertilisers suitable to our soil, mixed farming, and over and above all this, research. We want the Minister of Research and Information to research and research, and to inform the country of the results of that research. We want research into our various cash crops to see how they can be improved and what new crops can be produced.

We would like to see our groundnuts, our palm kernels, our cotton and so on produce more and better.

Our food crops, too, must be researched into. Our soil must be examined to test the fertility which for some reason or other is yearly being lost. This research, Sir, should not be limited to food and cash crops. It should extend to include animal husbandry. Mr Speaker, Sir, whatever results we get must be passed on to the people concerned and must not be left to lie in the office like records meant for the archives.

If mechanical farming at this stage of our development is not sound economy, I would suggest therefore that Government should try to discourage people who are coming from overseas to engage in this mechanical farming. I have often heard some people abroad remark that Nigeria is a big enough country to allow mechanical farming. But my fear is that too much mechanical farming at this stage of our development would put out of work too many farmers, and there are not enough industries in the country, to absorb those farmers that might have been put out of work. So it is

much better therefore that we encourage this industry by getting more and better fertilisers and by finding out more and better methods of farming.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the industrialisation of the country on the other hand, must now, more than ever before, engage the mind of the Government. The best way to me, to industrialise this country is to get a team of experts, not like the International Bank Mission, but a team who will sit and make concrete suggestions about specific industries that can best be economically started now or in the near future. In fact, overseas investors are now very interested in what specific industries Nigeria wishes to start now or in the future.

Although I am not an expert in this field, yet I believe that something like the steel industry would be an ideal thing, particularly now that the International Tin Council, by restricting our tin quota, has not only put many Nigerians out of work, but also made the country lose a lot of money. In a situation like this I think it is absolutely necessary that we begin to explore the possibility of utilising our own tin here at home in Nigeria. We have need for it, for we have the Railway Corporation for example that could certainly utilise such an industry to a very large extent.

Mr Speaker, Sir, those of us that are genuinely interested in the industrialisation of this country must welcome the recent announcement about the Jebba Dam, a project that will supply cheap electricity essential to most, if not all industries. Here I would like to associate myself with those hon. Members that have advocated the bridging of the Niger. With the railway extension to Maiduguri and this proposed Jebba Dam, a bridge across the Niger would certainly make Nigeria a more prosperous and dignified country (*Hear, hear*). And what is more, the economic development of the country would be so much expedited that the standard of living in the country would be raised much higher within a much shorter period of time.

Talking about industrialisation Mr Speaker reminds me of the Government loans for industrial projects. To me this is not enough. I know that Government has not got more money than it can afford to give now. If it

had I know it would give. Some other avenues must be explored. Government therefore should not hesitate to encourage morally and financially any independent investment Company that aims at financing our own industries in this country. Here may I be allowed to say, Sir, that Government by granting loans for industrial projects, quite apart from neglecting commerce which Government, I hope, is now trying to rectify, is making the loans detrimental both to the industries and industrialists themselves, in that the new industries lack the advice of experts and their services to put these new industries on their feet. Sir, often the projects fail, the people lose money, but all the same they have got to pay back the loans. If Government wishes to remedy the situation they must help such people who get these loans with advice on the technical know-how, and whenever and wherever possible, with experts to help them.

I am praying, Sir, that Government will change its policy of loans to industrialists only and extend the same facilities to commercial enterprises in all deserving cases.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in concluding I would like to say this, that when people talk about an efficient and incorruptible Civil Service which makes for a stable Government, and when they advocate for a responsible and reliable and dependable Foreign Service, full of men of integrity which will make Nigeria respected in the eyes of the world, and when we appeal that there should be peace and tranquility prevailing in the country, I believe, Sir, we do so, so that Nigeria may be prosperous, peaceful and united for the common good of all. We do so, Sir, also so that we may gain the respect and confidence of the peoples of the world which confidence is essential for attracting the foreign investor necessary to our economic development. Whatever we do, therefore, we must aim at making our country united, peaceful and therefore prosperous and economically sound at home, and respected and loved by all peoples.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr F. T. Odum (Ahoada) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In doing so, Sir, I must first thank the Minister of Finance for the able way he has presented this

Bill. It proves, Sir, that he is the right man in the right place, and so I praise the Prime Minister for making the correct choice. Many hon. Members have spoken about the position of the civil servants in the way of advice, but should I say, Sir, that when civil servants sit on the tables each day to fill coupons instead of doing their jobs then I cannot understand why we have senior civil servants to check them. If so what benefit do we have from our Nigeriaisation? Our revenue should not be meant for an idle man.

Mr Speaker, Sir, another point I wish to call attention to is the Ahoada Post Office which I have been crying over in this honourable House. How many years does it take to build a storey house. Does it have to take two years to build this Ahoada Post Office, since 1957? The people in that Division have been crying and crying for telephone services. The building started in 1957 and up till now it has not been finished. I wish the Minister of Communications and Aviation to make a statement about the delay of this particular Post Office in Ahoada Division. If I may refer to Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957, it is the policy of the Government of the Federation to establish Post Offices within Nigeria. Paragraph 6 of the Sessional Paper reads thus, permit me, Mr Speaker: "Where at a Postal Agency the annual amount of business transacted in any year reach 18,000 units in rural areas and 25,000 units in urban areas, it has been the policy to consider the conversion of the Agency into a Departmental Post Office". So that now, Sir, the Abua Postal Agency in Ahoada Division has reached above 18,000 units. (*An hon. Member*—"How do you know"?) I know that from the answer of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to my last question put to him. The Elele Postal Agency has now got up to 28,000 units. I wish the Federal Government to convert these two Agencies into Departmental Post Offices according to the White Paper. These Postal Agencies are in the rural areas. The distance from Ahoada to Abua is above 18 miles and it makes it difficult for every person to go down to Ahoada, travelling a distance of 18 miles to send telegrams. I hope the Minister of Communications and Aviation will please take note and include this in the next year's estimates.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr F. N. H. Ayeni (Badagry) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill for 1958-59. Under the *Objects and Reasons* the Minister stated that this Bill seeks to make further supplementary provision for the services of the Federation of Nigeria for the year 1958-59. This is a very good thing. But if I may say so, I would like to associate myself with the views of the previous speakers who have praised the activities of the Minister. But that does not end there. I hope he will be worthy of this encomium by the very way or judicious way by which he expends this money. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind the Minister that by the word *judiciousness* I mean equal service for equal pay. This can be achieved by the close supervision of the men who are in key positions, and who are responsible in different Departments to the Minister.

Again, I say *judiciousness* means spreading over the country the amenities and privileges that this money will give to everyone of us. If this is not done it means the provision is useless to the country, until it is spread evenly to every corner of the country. In reference to this I would like to make a few remarks under the schedule to drive my point home. I said these privileges and amenities should be spread all over the country. I will take the Ministry of Communications and Aviation or the Posts and Telegraphs ; these Departments are one in two or two in one. We now have telephone installation almost everywhere in the country. But there is one big snag there which I feel must be observed. Rental, local calls, trunk calls were not paid for in some places some years ago. But as from 1958 rentals, local calls, trunk calls are paid for by every telephone owner. But the question is this : if these fees are generalised why is it that the period of the service is not generalised ? In some places you have services from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ; and on Saturday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Sundays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. In other places in the country you have the services for 24 hours. I say if the fees are generalised I think the period must be generalised.

I come now to Antiquities. It is very interesting to see the provision made for this Department. This Department is a Department that preserves the manners, customs, arts

or styles or relics of the ancient. This Department with what it caters for will help to educate the people of this country. But there is one important monument which I think this Department has not taken notice of and that is the first storey house in Nigeria. This house was built by the early missionaries and is maintained by the C.M.S. authorities. I think it will be of better use to this country if this house comes under this Department.

I understand that a few months ago, a token sum of money was earmarked for that place, but I feel this money is very small for the importance of this monument and for the place where it is erected as the cradle of Christianity in Nigeria and Western civilisation. I feel very much that now that there is an augmentation of votes, the Minister who is responsible for this Department should give more money to see that this place is well repaired and furnished as it is necessary.

An hon. Member : Where is it ?

Mr Ayeni : In Badagri. It is the first storey house in Nigeria.

Coming again, I would refer the Minister of Transport to some points. Many people have spoken about creek areas and what they need. This refers me to one of the important markets known as Ojo where people in Nigeria go week by week to trade. At this place you will see that traders who come to that market by launch or canoe cannot come to the shore because the place is shallow. The distance between their canoe and the launch is almost half a mile. I hope the Minister will see to it that the place is dredged to give sufficient convenience to the traders of that area.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in general, before I sit, I would like to appeal to the Council of Ministers that Badagri Division should not be forgotten entirely. It is a very important place. It is an important place because that place has a Customs Post where revenue is derived for this Government of the Federation. For that and other reasons, like the materials that can be found there for industries, I feel the Minister should make it a point of duty to visit this place and know what the people want, know what they look like and know what they can do for their welfare.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker : We will now have a short break, after which it is my intention to call upon a member of the N.P.C.

Sitting suspended : 11.33 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.50 a.m.

Alhaji Aliyu Bissalla Ma'ajin (Abuja): Mr Speaker, Sir, just to speak in support of the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill of about £270,000 for the current year 1958-59, and at the same time all under recurrent expenditure. I am bound to say that we from the Abuja area, Sir, find it a bit difficult to make necessary and effective comments, but even so, I have some observations and suggestions to make.

To begin with the Minister of Research and Information, Sir, we ask for the raising of the standard of living of people within the Federation of Nigeria, which is still one of the most important problems to be faced by this Government.

We should like the Minister to tackle the problem of soil so as to make it more fertile and then to encourage more modernised ways of farming in the country, so as to replace the present ancient ways of manual farming.

From the Minister of Communications and Aviation we should like to see that contracts in connection with (a) the building of a new Post Office, (b) wiring telephone lines and (c) purchases of equipments are all given to a fit and up-to-date firm or firms, which would cater for our needs without delay. In connection with this, Sir, I find it necessary again to mention to the Minister the common public appeal against the inefficiency of most of the telephone operators who do not, up till now, make up their minds to give good attention to their work and be kind to the public, and especially to the customers who are now facing problems of payment of high telephone rental rates.

Sir, I personally congratulate the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power in connection with the broadcast announcement of some means for big towns within the Federation to be given priority of getting electric light.

In conjunction with this I hope when the investigation of hydro-electrical power now being undertaken in Shiroro Falls is substantially matured, the Minister would be kind

enough to supply the following towns, which are not very far from the falls, with electric power:—Kontagora, Zuru, Zungeru, Abuja, Lapai and Agaie.

At the same time, may I remind the Minister, Sir, about harnessing the natural Falls of Gurara, Tapa and Mayarika, all within the Abuja Division, with a simple electricity power engine, so as to develop the country for modern industries.

With these few comments, I beg to support the Second Reading of this Appropriation Bill on the floor of this House.

Mr N. N. Onugu (Nsukka): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Bill, I wish to refer to two things, namely, the destruction of crops by Federal contractors in my constituency, and the telephone rates.

Sir, the Federal Legislature took a decision to cut down all shade trees on Trunk 'A' roads in order to avoid accidents. That was a very good measure, but unfortunately, during the process of cutting down the trees, cash crops and economic trees were destroyed in my Division along the Trunk roads to a value of about £4,000 or more. I have been directed, therefore, by my people to ask the Government to pay reasonable compensation to the owners of the crops destroyed. In very many cases, cash crops, economic trees like palms, were destroyed wholesale.

Again, Sir, we of the Nsukka Division are very grateful to the Minister of Communications and Aviation for the opening of the Nsukka telephone installation. We have about 47 subscribers but the cost of installation, which is £16 a year, has made many people who would otherwise have taken 'phones run away.

It would be a nice thing to have a difference in the rates paid in major townships where people have business and the rural areas where people have no business. A general reduction of the rates from £16 to £8 in rural areas will attract more money to the Government. I also noticed that the telephone calls at Nsukka are limited and I should like the Minister to see to it that the time for telephone calls in Nsukka Division is extended for twenty-four hours. We should be grateful also if the extension goes to all District Councils and Rural Health Centres,

Finally, I wish to ask the Minister of Works to alter his tarring programme on 9 mile Nsukka road. I want him to send a team of contractors to start from Nsukka to Udi, so that by 1959 my people can feel the effect of the Ministry's good work.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity given me to say something in support of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Mr Speaker, it has now become very obvious to us that the abolition of the former Standing Committee on Finance has brought a very sound and welcome method of managing the finances of this Federation. Last Saturday a Member suggested that it was not very wise of the Government to introduce Bills of this nature by instalments and that this sort of policy would tend to show the Government in a very bad light. I disagree very much. Indeed the Minister of Finance is doing his work very well and he deserves my congratulations, but I believe that he can do much better by working a little bit harder.

Mr Speaker, I should like to say one thing about the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. The additional provision is a reasonable one in view of the very excellent work done by this Corporation since Dr Eni Njoku started to chairman the Corporation. (*Hear, hear*). Of course, I have never had any doubt about the suitability of this former *sit-tighter*, of the contributions and substance of that team of yesterday. If the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria is rid of the interference of and control from certain Regional Governments, it will steadily bring light to where darkness has been the law.

The E.C.N. is a Statutory Corporation and must be allowed a free hand in the electrification of rural areas. I say this Sir, with particular reference to the answer the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power gave to my question the other day. Uyo township is a very big town. It is growing daily and we refuse to be treated in this shabby way by the Minister of Mines and Power.

In 1960 we are going to be independent and we refuse stoutly to celebrate that independence in darkness. Uyo Division is entitled to electricity supply. After all, let us look round the whole of the Calabar Province; according

to the answer given by the Minister, only one town in the Calabar Province—that leading Province in the East—has got electricity supply, and that is in 1939, not by this Government. Yet we talk of fair distribution of amenities, but when it comes to Calabar Province, oh, no, no, no, nothing of the sort. (*An hon. Member: "One Nigeria"*). You talk of *one Nigeria*, yes, and that is what I want the Minister to understand so that amenities should be distributed fairly.

Mr Speaker, our foreign service requires a good deal of shaking up. I have always said that we must exercise the greatest care in the choice of personnel for our foreign service. It is a known fact now, Sir, that the Nigeria Office in London is infested with mediocres. Even people that would almost certainly have been refused here because of want of reasonable educational qualification, get employed as soon as they arrive in London. They get in there after managing to get their passports. They are not good enough to be accepted even in schools there, but as soon as they get to London the next thing is to say, "Oh, please come in, the door is open." Something is wrong somewhere and that is why I say that it requires a good deal of shaking up before the situation gets out of control, and I hope the Prime Minister will be prepared to look into the matter. It is very serious and I have several complaints.

Mr Speaker, I am very happy to see the promotion policy of the Nigerian Police Force. Very many Africans are being pushed now into responsible posts, but the unfortunate thing about it is that some of them are sent overseas for further training only to return to Nigeria to do no work for which they received the training: they are put back in their former positions; no promotion is accorded, with the result that the training they received and the expenses incurred to give them this training come to nothing. It is a matter that requires a further investigation. I think the Police Force has got to be put on the proper line or we must stop sending people overseas because, after all, the country is not benefiting from most of them if they are going to be put back in their former positions. The same thing applies to the Medical Department: girls are sent to be trained only to come back to sit as nursing sisters and nothing more until they forget all they had learnt during their training.

Mr Speaker, this is a Supplementary Estimate and our remarks are supposed to fit in as supplementary. I will once again ask the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power to please understand that when we talk of the Federation of Nigeria we do not mean Lagos alone. The Federation of Nigeria embodies all within Nigeria and whatever electricity supply that is available, all other places must be considered. We do not want to celebrate our independence in darkness.

I say, Mr Speaker, that I hope the Minister of Finance will please release some money for the supply of electricity in Uyo township. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

M. Mahmudu Koro (Lafiagi): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the second reading of the second Supplementary Appropriation Bill. As a new Member, deserving the benefit of the experience of hon. Members of older standing and unused to the Standing Orders of the House, I am obliged to have to make only a few comments.

I am appealing to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation to say that the people of my constituency, that is Lafiagi Division in Ilorin Province, now understand the use and the value of the post office. People now want communication with all parts of Nigeria and the world as a whole, but there is no post office in the area only a postal agency at Pankshin. Mr Speaker, Sir, according to the services rendered there now the place warrants a post office and a telegraph office. I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister to include Lafiagi in the places where the Government has the intention of building post offices.

Sir, in concluding, I brought the opening of a post office at Lafiagi to the notice of the Minister because the people are now well prepared to make good use of it. Mr Speaker, Sir, as a new Member who has to say very little at present, with these few remarks I beg to support.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill. The expenditure is for provision of services to our people but it is most discouraging to some Federal Legislators to note that in rendering these services the Federal Government plays into the hands of Regional Legislators and local politicians as a means of boosting up their *ego* and of receiving honour from the masses. These people get the

credit for these services which are done by their Regional Government as agents and audaciously interfere with the work of the Federal Government. In fact the influence and the functions of the Federal Government, and the role played in this House by Members, are obscured to the detriment of the popularity of the Federal Legislators and the prestige of the Federal Government. Co-operation with the Regional Governments should not be a one-way traffic. Monkey must not work for the baboon to eat!

In incurring expenditure for the Police, the Government should not bar the Police Constables with the requisite qualifications from entering the Cadet Training scheme along with the new recruits from outside in order not to discourage those already in the rank and file or thwart their legitimate aspirations. In view of the prayer in this House for the unfortunate Police Constables who are suffering as a result of the legislation which existed in their days barring them from pensions, unlike others before and after them, one would have expected a provision for their compassionate allowance. In the United Kingdom National Assistance is given to those who cannot make both ends meet. How much more are we to do for those who, by their loyal services have given the best of their lives to the country. I appeal to the Prime Minister to sympathise with these people and accord them charitable treatment.

The provision under the Nigerianisation Office for a canteen at the Emergency Training Centre, is reasonable, considering the fact that some students travel long distances to attend the school. Transport facilities should be provided for them if they are treated as Civil Servants on study leave and should be provided with bicycles according to the General Orders. We must take the Nigerianisation of the Civil Service seriously if we are to succeed. I am taking a relentless attitude on this issue. However, I wish to say that if we are going to advance as a great nation we must wage war against two evils. One, against indolence, two, against set intention or tendency to grow rich overnight, by hook and crook.

Under Posts and Telegraphs a substantial sum of £45,000 is required for V.H.F. One would not have questioned this provision if the whole service of transmission of messages by telegram had not been dashed to the ground.

People have to still wait for several hours to be put through to their call. Subscribers indeed have no value for their money. Let there be a reduction in rate. Asaba should have a direct telephone link with the Western Region and Lagos and not through the Eastern Region as at present, which is responsible for a lot of delay.

Ibusa, Onitsha-Olona and Umunede should be considered for post offices. Ibusa is a large town and the other two places have many surrounding postal agencies to be served.

Under the Ministry of Research and Information £9,400 is required for the Broadcasting Corporation. The accusation against the Broadcasting Corporation on the question of discriminatory treatment of news is not without foundation. The role of the N.B.C. during the release of the Minorities Commission Report was most unfair to Asaba and Abor Divisions. I have lodged a complaint to the Director, giving specific cases. So far there has been no denial of the accusations. We need fair play and justice in our dealings. There is no smoke without fire.

There are some black legs in the N.B.C. In fact there should be no wholesale condemnation of the N.B.C. because we know there are well-meaning honest workers among them. But at the same time there are black legs who pollute the air and raise a nauseating odour. These people are responsible for the criticisms in this House.

The Government of this country should examine the possibility of establishing coal carbonisation industry for the production of iron, steel, explosives, plastics, medical products, special adhesives, road making materials and a host of other compounds used in daily life.

I will give reasons why I have chosen to advocate along with other hon. Members in this House the Nigerianisation of the Civil Service. I have noticed that what transpired in the civil service in my days is still going on to-day. I have noticed that even up to the last three months there is still discrimination against qualified men in the service of the Federation. In my days in 1941 when there was shortage of European Education Officers during the war I was appointed Education Officer in charge of Benin and Ondo Provinces and I worked for three years with favourable reports. I received neither acting allowance

nor the substantive appointment. I then asked the Department to define my position in the office. The reply: "You are doing a special duty: your services in that post are no longer required and you will now revert either to the post of a school headmaster or a travelling teacher!"

Subsequently I was appointed travelling teacher and sent to the North where I worked in the Plateau, residing in Jos. I wrote to the government saying that since I took over from an Education Officer and since an Education Officer took over from me I was due for acting allowance. The reply was: "What? You think yourself to be....."

Mr Speaker: Order, order. The hon. gentleman is going rather far back into history. The hon. Chief will confine his remaining remarks to the Supplementary Appropriation.

Chief Onyia: I am relating what happened in the past to what is happening to-day because certain people seem to be peeved at my attitude on Nigerianisation of the civil service and of attacking Heads of Departments, and confidential reports. To acquiesce to your advice I shall go no further into history but I should warn against victimisation because I was hurried back to the South to serve in the schools after being accused of trying to corrupt the North. I am here as a watchdog of the civil service and I am stressing that these practices should not be allowed to continue.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Victor Mukete): Mr Speaker, I am sorry that I was not in the House on Saturday morning and I am grateful to my hon. Friend, the Deputy Speaker, for having replied on my behalf to certain references which were made to the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. To-day similar references have been made. I should like to reinforce the remarks made by the hon. Deputy Speaker by emphasising that the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is an autonomous Corporation set up by statute passed in this House with the specific object of ensuring that broadcasting should be kept free of direct control by the Government of the day.

Great pains were taken to ensure that the Corporation was fully representative of Nigeria as a whole and of all sections of the community; and I should like to suggest that if any Members feel that they have well-substantiated grounds

for complaint, they should in the first place direct their complaints to the Corporation itself, or if appropriate, to one of the three Regional Boards of the Corporation.

As the hon. Deputy Speaker said, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation has a very difficult task and cannot hope to please everybody all the time, but I heartily endorse his statement that the Corporation is doing its best and, so far as the news is concerned, tries to report the facts objectively although I realise that the facts are not always palatable to everyone. However, I shall bring the views of hon. Members to the notice of the Corporation and have no doubt that any substantiated complaints forwarded to it will be investigated.

Turning to Agricultural Research to which the hon. Member for Onitsha (Dr Awduche) made some reference on Saturday and the hon. Aliyu Bisala this morning, I should like to assure the hon. Members that the Federal Government is very conscious of the importance of Agricultural Research. The rapidly growing population of this country which may well be doubled within little more than a generation, presents a tremendous problem of food production. Good farming land is by no means unlimited, and we must do everything possible to improve methods of cultivation, control pests and disease, and introduce improved and heavier yielding planting material; and it is to these objects that the Department of Veterinary Research is dedicated, while the Department of Veterinary Research has the equally important task of building up our livestock and protecting it from disease.

I am well aware that the work done by these Departments will be of little use unless the results are conveyed to the individual farmers; and in this matter the Federal Research Departments work in close co-operation with the Regional Departments, since agricultural extension work is of course, under the Constitution, a residual and, therefore, Regional responsibility. The Regional Governments have been assured of the Federal Government's sincere desire to co-operate and assist them in putting over the results of research, and I am confident that we can together meet the challenge of this problem, which is vital to the economy of Nigeria.

M. Jalo Waziri (Gombe): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is pleasing to us Members of this House to have the opportunity of making comments on

the finances of the Federation each time there is a meeting of the House. I wish, to start with, to congratulate the Government for its economic move of founding the National Bank of Nigeria. It is no doubt by so doing, and with the co-operation of the public, that this country hopes to accumulate large sums of money that could be used for some various industrial and commercial undertakings so badly needed in Nigeria. In this respect, I join the Minister of Finance in hoping that Nigerians, individually and collectively, will make use of this opportunity offered and find most useful their dealings with this Bank. We shall rely on foreign capital for economic development, but that is not enough. It would be even more economic if we raised our own capital as well.

Mr Speaker, we want this country to be united, peaceful and prosperous. We realise we cannot attain prosperity without peace, security and stability. In this country at the moment, external security matters not so much as internal security. Nigeria is approaching independence and we must prepare it to be everlasting in peace and prosperity. One of the immediate tasks that have to be faced, therefore, is internal security. On acceptance of independence we expect no disturbances, at least we hope there will be none. But, nevertheless, we must prepare for it should it arise. For this purpose I urge upon the Government not only to increase the strength of the Police Force but also to provide it with the most modern equipment to enable it carry out its duties more efficiently and quickly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Prince R. N. Takon (Ikom): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. But in doing so, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister responsible for the disbursement of Federal Government funds. This is the second time within the current financial year that such a Bill has been presented to this honourable House for approval. The Minister concerned should see that amenities are fairly distributed to all parts of the Federation.

In particular, I would like to remind the Prime Minister that I have on several occasions advocated the increase of the Police strength in Ikom. I have pleaded in vain with the Minister of Works and Surveys for the tarring of the portion of the Trunk A road between

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Abakaliki, Ikom and Mamfe. I have also on several occasions asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation to re-route the telegraph line from Ikom to Obubra through Bansara and Abakaliki as the present line to Obubra passes through thick jungles and is liable to constant faults and break-downs. Many a time the telegraph lines are cut by fallen trees and for days and even weeks, Ikom and the outside world are cut off from telegraph link.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it would be greatly appreciated if the various Ministers concerned would take steps to remedy the situations I have just described. I hope with this additional huge sum of £270,320 now required the farmers of this country will be encouraged by way of granting loans for more and better production of foodstuffs.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks I beg to support the second reading of this Bill.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Speaker, you have afforded me the opportunity to rise and support the second reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill which is seeking to provide for the services of the Federation of Nigeria an additional sum of money to cover the remaining part of the current year.

I have always liked the elopment and clear way our able Minister of Finance usually presents his Bills before this House. Indeed, it shows a very high sense of efficiency and it also shows that Nigeria is now fully ripe with her man-power, brain and skilled men to man her own administration when we come into our own independent rule. The whole good show and credit, without the least contradiction from any side of this House, can safely be laid at the door of the Prime Minister who has justly used his office as the first Prime Minister of the Federation in appointing such a fitting one into this important Ministry irrespective of party leanings. We pray fervently that the Almighty who has given him such wisdom should continue to guide him to pilot the affairs of Nigeria safely to her goal in 1960, which is independence, in spite of the many difficulties and obstacles facing us financially, economically, politically and ethnographically as a young country. We should realise that such difficulties and impediments have always caused the sad experience of all colonial countries emerging from their political bondage.

Sir, before any Appropriation Bill of this nature passes through this House it is our duty to examine it critically. We realise it is presented to us by the Government in the light of what developments are taking place in the Federation as a whole. I have always pointed out that the attainment of the highest culmination of our hope, that is independence, would be meaningless and baseless if this wide plan of improvement is not carried to the rural areas. It is good to come to Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, Kaduna and other favoured areas to see the magnificent buildings and beautiful things that have been progressively supplied. But I have to say that that is not all that is required of us to come and do in this House. This country is not complete without the rural areas. I therefore advise, as other hon. Members have done, that the Government should recall their steps and make a move to provide sufficient grants allocated to the various Divisions to carry out their own improvement.

It is disgraceful for people of one country to see that some parts of the country are awfully backward. This could give a very bad impression to an outside visitor to conclude that our fitness to govern ourselves is still far remote. I earnestly hope that this my humble advice will be given the best of consideration within the next few months with the production of a bold plan of development touching all the parts of the country.

Sir, the economic stability of any country depends on the productivity of its national income, so that this large yearly expenditure without comparative flow of income to meet up the demand could lead this country to irreparable bankruptcy. It is very easy and sweet to spend money but it is hard to earn money as one would wish. As far as we are interested in the development of this country to the best standard required with the little finance at our disposal, we should try as much as possible to economise our scarce means to attain our given ends. There are many things we should embark upon to preserve or increase our national income. If one goes through the Civil Service list it is evident that there are many redundant posts in the senior segment of the Service which have drunk much of our money unnecessarily. Some of these posts should be scrapped immediately, whether they are held by expatriates or by indigenous citizens

of this country. Find something for them to do somewhere else in the country. Nigeria should not be made a dumping ground for all sorts of people to make wealth and go away.

In this House, many people have preached that the old hands in the Civil Service, who are out of date educationally and could not cope with the times, should be asked to leave. I do not think the intention is to sack them, neither is it to ask them to leave the service without the necessary retiring benefits. They normally have them, but their future must be safeguarded in a way that when they leave, they have sufficient money, and that is, these old hands should be given higher promotions preparatory to their retirement so that their pensions and gratuities could be sufficient as a capital saving to enable them to embark on any private trade, or whatever field of work they would like to undertake without fear of financial embarrassment.

We should also bear in mind that some of the old hands in the Civil Service are men whose belief in marriage is to have many wives, with the result that they have more children than necessary. One could imagine the awkward position such a man would be placed in with his family. This is the reason why many pensioners die quickly when they retire, and people allege that they were given injections to die so as not to draw their pensions for long.

We are seeing that many Departments have already started to recruit into the Civil Service young educated and qualified men, and they are taken into the Senior Service segment. I do not quarrel with this step, but so much I will say is that this automatic promotion without labour is not a fair deal to the old ones, who have worked in the Department for many years and have understood the work to their fingertips.

We have been assured that the recruitment of these young men to these high posts does not in any way solve inefficiency and unproductivity in the various Departments. The old ones are still doing the work and they are just there as figure heads. It is the old ones that are putting them through and oftentimes they cannot master the work for a long time but they receive fabulous salaries, while the old ones receive the meagre salaries with bitterness. Many who could not withstand the insult of being jumped by such nincompoops are leaving the Service.

I would point out that educational qualification should not be the only criterion to make the young men to jump the old hands, but promotions must be backed with efficiency and other necessary assessments.

When we are spending our money in paying the workers of this country, we expect in return equal work. It is becoming remarkable that since Africans are taking over the administration as heads of Departments, workers are not keen in the discharge of their duties as before. It is because they have no fear of being given the sack. Some of them are working under their relatives and friends as is the case with the Western Region Government. If you call at their offices, you see them filling up football coupons, discussing plans to win elections for the Action Group, and some only sit down to watch when the time shall strike for them to go home.

Sir, I have to warn that our workers should realise that they are paid with the taxpayers' money. Much incivility to the public is a common and sad experience everywhere you go, shouting at them, abusing them, turning a deaf ear and refusing to attend them in time. I would suggest that an intelligence bureau be set up as the C.I.D. of the Nigeria Police Force, to go round the Departments to check on some of these unscrupulous and irresponsible workers. People who are found to be playing with their work should be given their due place. That is the only way to check this.

I remember a Civil Servant of the Department of Produce Inspection at Patani in the Western Ijaw Division. This young man does nothing (being the sole officer in the town) other than riding on his motor bike round the whole town, chasing girls, and playing politics. Bribery is the order of the day to him, with the produce sellers. He belongs to the political party in power and does not care what you may tell him. I have often hinted to the head of his Department at Warri, but no heed was taken because they themselves are getting the lion's share of the bribes he receives.

Sir, I would like to make mention of certain happenings in the Nigeria Police Force. I have been sponsoring the cause of this Department as an ex-member, but now many things are making me lose confidence in them.

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The investigation section, which we are spending money on, is becoming too weak and corrupt. You have all heard of the theft of £18,000 in the Western Ijaw Divisional Council treasury recently. It is understood investigation has exposed many people to have been connected in this matter, and these people who are so connected are rich and big men. The police are not courageous enough to make an arrest up till now. They have only arrested two people whom they are prepared to make scapegoats, and apart from that they did not bring them to be charged with the theft of £18,000, but £160. It is suspected that the police are afraid to make the arrest or they are sufficiently muzzled with money to cover things. The Ijaws are loyal taxpayers with the hope that these taxes would be used for their betterment. They are serious that this money of theirs should not go for nothing, and therefore appeal that the Police Force should be more serious in handling this case.

Mr Speaker, I have been able to make out that some heads of Departments are taking Legislators as irresponsible and troublesome people. They strongly object to any of their workers associating with us. The moment they are seen with us, they are put on the black list and victimised. Some of us thought that they are reasonable people and we call in to discuss the service condition of some of their workers. Once we do this, the worker is more endangered and his prospects gone. If they had intended to give him promotion, he would not get it. They will also transfer him away. I have experienced this in the Prisons and Police Force. I would not mention names, but I wish them a change of heart and that we should not be impediments to people's careers.

You could see that many junior ones have jumped Mr J. M. Egbuson in promotion. It is alleged that this is so because we have discussed him here, and for that reason they would no longer promote him but would treat him in a way that he retires from the work himself. I do not know what the Public Service Commission is thinking about him. I am inclined to believe people who say that Heads of Departments are influencing them.

Sir, I would like to touch a Department for which we have allocated a huge sum of money. What is this money voted for? If you travel to the creek areas, there are lots of obstructions in

the rivers by fallen trees. It is through these rivers that much money is coming into the country. That is the Inland Waterways Department. They are not clearing the rivers again. The reason they give is that no available expatriates are coming from overseas to man the team of waterway officers. Sir, they have indigenous citizens trained and certificated as head men. Why cannot these head men take charge of the work? This work does not need educational qualifications; there are clerks to do that clerical part of it. One thing again is that the clearing of these rivers is seasonal because of the flood. The Departments fail to note that in some rivers, there is no flood. In the event of clearing a river and the flood comes, the workers could be shifted to rivers where flood is not felt.

I have to pay a very warm tribute to the Colonial Secretary, the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe and other delegates for accepting the recommendation of the Minorities Commission Report by accepting to create the special area Federal Board for the Niger Delta people (The Ijaws). The Board well organised shall save my people from their present pitiable condition.

Sir, the delegates to the London Constitutional Conference have indeed placed us on the world map as a country now ripe for full independence. We do not regret the large sum of money spent on the delegation. But I would like to make mention that it is the public who sent them to London, and therefore the deliberations in the Constitutional Conference are matters of public interest. I do not know what law of the nation says that deliberations should be kept confidential, barring the public to know what individuals said in the Conference.

You have heard of counter-claims upon claims by the various political leaders and delegates. It is because these debates are kept secret, hence we of the public are deceived by false claims. If not, the Action Group could have been dead entirely, for they could have been known as enemies of this country.

M. Iro Mashi, Iyan Katsina (East Katsina): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Appropriation Bill now before the House. I would like first to congratulate the Minister of Finance for his able speech in presenting the Bill. The explanation given leaves no room for criticism. However, I have a few points to raise.

The first one concerns Posts and Telegraphs Department head. I see that a fair amount of money is allocated to that head. Well, Sir, the Minister of Communications and Aviation told us some time ago that the telegraph lines will be extended from Katsina to Daura. But up to now, Sir, there is no sign of any work of that kind being carried out. I hope this supplementary provision asked for will make it possible for the Minister to start the work soon after the passing of this Bill.

The second point, Sir, I wish to raise is about the research on agriculture. The introduction of fertilizer manure is good but the farmers complain of the difficulty of the method of applying it to the crops. They think it is a waste of time to follow the method shown to them, and so they are reluctant to buy it. If the research officers can carry on their research and find a better and easier way of using it, I am sure the farmers will be willing to buy it and use it to increase the yield of their crops.

My last point, Sir, is that the research on veterinary work is showing a good result, but there is still much to be done on the research, because there are some medicines for inoculation of cattle that are easily spoilt by the heat of the sun and should be kept in a refrigerator, or else they go bad and become useless. Sir, if the research officers can try and make a further research on the medicine in order to find another one that can endure the hot climate it would be a great help and more economical.

Sir, I beg to support the Second Reading of the Bill.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar, Tiv Division) : In this debate, Sir, I would like to put on record my appreciation to the Minister of Works and Surveys for making it possible for the tarring of the road from 9th mile corner to Aliade. I see also that the same road is being tarred from Makurdi to Lafia. I do earnestly hope that the Minister in conjunction with our able Minister of Finance will make possible the tarring of this road up to Jos, so that when independence comes in 1960 visitors from abroad will be able to visit our tin mines and the beautiful scenery of the Plateau Province. I know the cost could be enormous but I would like to assure the Minister that this House is fully prepared to approve requests made for money for reasonable purposes of this nature.

It would be unfair to go away from here without saying a word of praise to the Minister of Communications and Aviation for the radio telephone at Gboko. I hope that the Minister in consultation with his colleagues will enlarge the Gboko Post Office as the present one was planned way back in 1947 and since then the population of Gboko has increased considerably. I consider the post office incompatible with the population of the Tiv Division, as this is the only Post Office in the Division—a Division of about 750,000 people—which also has not got a single Postal Agency.

Coming to the Federal Information Service, Sir, I feel that the Federal Information Service, the Information Department, is not as active as might be expected. I would suggest that this Department should train more staff in order to extend its activities to the Regions, especially the Southern Cameroons, which has yet to have its own bureau of information.

Mr Speaker : It is one o'clock. Sitting suspended under the Standing Orders until three o'clock when the hon. Member may resume his speech if he so desires.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.05 p.m.

Mr J. S. Tarka : Mr Speaker, Sir, I was talking of the Federal Information Service just before we adjourned, and I ended up by saying that the Department should extend its activities to the Regions. I said this even though I am aware of the fact that there are Regional Information Services in all the Regions. I stressed emphasis on the Southern Cameroons. People in the outside world, Sir, would like to know more about this great African nation, Nigeria, and it is essential that those who advertise this country to the outside world must be fully trained and qualified people.

Higher Education : I would like to say this. I know that the country is in dire need of money. Despite this obstacle, I would like to suggest that it is time the Federal Government started putting aside some money in order to turn all the Nigerian Colleges into Universities in the Regions, especially the Northern Region.

I would like now to say a few words on the Ministry of Mines and Power. I would like to appeal to the Minister of Mines and Power that we in Benue Province would also like to

feel his own power. I see that in the near future Oturkpo, Makurdi, and Wukari will have electricity for commercial and domestic use. Will it not be possible to extend the same amenities to Gboko, which is bigger and more populous and even better developed than Oturkpo, or is it that the Minister feels that his own party has little or no support at all in that Division?

I would like to say a few words, Sir, again on Pensions. I would also like to remind the Minister of Finance that a lot of pensioners have up till now not benefited from the Revision of Finance which was passed here in this House. I appeal to the Minister to look into this matter, especially in respect of a former Member of this House, Mr E. G. Gundu, who has not benefited from the revised pensions.

On our foreign policy, I appeal to the Prime Minister to see to it that a good number of our good and experienced civil servants are recruited for training for our future foreign service. I know that we are not going to exchange diplomatic relations with all countries the world over, but such as we do exchange with should have Nigerian Embassies, fully staffed with a number of well-trained men. I know that we may exchange diplomatic relations with countries like Canada, United States of America, Ghana, India, the Sudan, and other countries who have men of repute in their diplomatic corps. If we are to portray Nigeria in its truest colours, we must exchange Dick for Harry or Peter for Paul. I believe we have a large range to choose from. We have well educated retired civil servants, ex-politicians and ex-parliamentarians. We must make hay while the sun shines.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say thanks to our Federal Government. Within the few years that the Government has become All-African the record of good work done by this Government exceeds that done by the British in Nigeria for the past fifty years. Especially now that it has become a tripartite government. All sides of the House, Sir, have showered words of praise on our Ministers. This does not mean that every Ministry works up to expectation, but we do not want to expose our own men, or to wash our dirty linen in public, because if we do it will portray Nigeria as a country which is not fit for self-government. I therefore humbly appeal to our Ministers to see to it that all the appeals that we have made

to them, and all the things that we have asked for in this House are taken into careful consideration, as this would encourage Members of this House to co-operate with them in the achievement of the desirous goal, that is to say, independence in 1960.

I would also like to say a few words of appreciation to our leaders, our leaders who have seen to it that the affairs of this country have been conducted in the best of ways. And I would like to ask them again to put aside inter-party rivalry and bitterness, because I think it is by that, and only that, that we shall work together towards the common goal which is the achievement of independence in 1960. With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

Mr C. C. Mojekwu (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the views already expressed by a number of hon. Members in showering praises on our Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and various other Ministers. I think that where there is praise we ought to praise, but when we find something to criticise we should also criticise. I would like to say, Sir, that looking through these Estimates I notice that there are a few supernumerary posts created in which money is to be spent in various Ministries which, in effect, reflects what we were talking about last August. But I must confess that I am sadly disappointed at the number of such training posts for Nigerians. The Police is only one; Meteorology, three; Statistics, three; Social Welfare, three; Agriculture, one; Coastal Agency, one. Last August we were very critical of the Administration and the chances offered to Nigerians to gain training facilities in the Administration. We were very critical as to the number of Africans, Nigerians, who are likely to become Permanent Secretaries in the various Ministries, and with that, with all the criticisms last August, there ought to have been more of such training posts, and more facilities offered to Nigerians in order that they may be trained to take more responsibility in the Administration.

Be that as it may, one is fairly thankful for these few posts here and there that are created, particularly in the field of Social Welfare, but I must say again I am badly disappointed that in Agriculture, in Coastal Agency and in Police they are not enough, let alone other departments that have not been thought of.

I must also express disappointment that even though we have a report on the Nigerian Naval Force, there is no indication as to the type of training facilities or training posts which are to be offered to Nigerians in order to train as Naval Officers. It may be that the Government has got all that up their sleeves, but we have not been told, and how can we know unless we are told?

Now, Sir, I would like to add a few words on the Civil Service. We know that a contented Civil Service would produce good men of quality and good work. No doubt the indication that self-government might be offered to this country in 1960, naturally, would have a psychological effect both on the expatriate senior officials and on Nigerians who are likely to become very senior in their various posts. This psychological impact on our own people, Nigerians must be taken into serious consideration. Here you have a young and virile country, ready to take its place in the world and here you have civil servants, indigenous natives who have worked and who expect to get into responsible posts, side by side you find expatriate officials who have laboured day and night in the many years past in order to help us to grow.

Naturally they may be feeling that this is the time that we want to push them out. We do not want to push them out, but I consider that the effect of their teaching us, the natural result of the services they have offered to us, the essence of it, is that in 1960 if we are able to find all our Permanent Secretaries or at any rate most of them and all the key positions are held by Nigerians, then we can shake them by the hand and say, "You have done your duties very well, you have helped us to grow". But not that they will continue to teach us, and in 1960 we find that they are still there and we have not succeeded in getting Nigerians to take their places. Sir, I think that our budget in the future must reflect that sort of progress, and show what the Ministries are doing in order to achieve that end.

Now, Sir, I would like to deal very briefly with some of the Ministries that may not have been touched by other Members, and I would like to deal with the Minister of Transport. In this Budget he has made provision for the installation of light at the Makurdi Bridge, to enable the bridge to be opened day and night. That is a very good thing, and I congratulate him.

But during the last Supplementary Budget Session the Minister of Transport promised that he was going to look into, in fact he did say that arrangements have been made for lighting to be provided for the ferry service between Onitsha and Asaba. The Minister said that on the Floor of this House, and here we have come and I would like to say that up till now there is no lighting in the ferry between Onitsha and Asaba, with the result that the services have not been 24 hours as we were told and I would like an explanation from the Minister and an undertaking that it comes before Christmas. I do hope that our people in Makurdi have their light and their bridge and have their services for 24 hours, but people travelling between the East and the West of Nigeria ought to have 24 hours services, and have lighting provided for the ferry, so that the ferry can run day and night.

Now, dealing again with the Minister of Transport, I would also like to say something in connection with both the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Works. Last Session we were promised here that when a report was available in connection with the investigations about the Niger Bridge, the report would be made available to Members and, in fact, published. There is not even a statement coming from these Ministries concerned that there is a possibility of this Niger Bridge, and up till the moment no report has been issued. I have read two other reports, but I was disappointed that there was nothing to be said about this Niger Bridge, and I do hope that in a very short time there will be a report issued by the appropriate Minister on the investigations which have been carried out in respect of this Niger Bridge and the possibilities of having a bridge within the shortest possible time.

I think that all sides of the House have agreed that it would be a very good thing, possibly by next year, that there ought to be at least the laying of the foundation stone of this Niger Bridge. I do not want to over-emphasise it, but I do want to say that the thing is so important that now that we are talking about independence in 1960 we want certain things, certain concrete facts to show that we are growing and that we are getting there.

I consider that the connection between the East and the West on the Niger at Onitsha is so important that it ought to be a mark that we show clearly in 1960 that we are getting on.

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Now, Sir, I would also like in talking about bridges to know about the link between Ijebu and Benin. The road has not been fully constructed. What is stopping the Minister from putting money there and getting tar and bridges to complete it. We have one million pounds in the kitty which can be used in an urgent case. I consider that the question of making this road passable, making it useful and serviceable now is an urgency, and is of such an important nature that money ought to be found by the Minister of Finance in order to complete this project. The money is there and I think that this Government demands it, and we demand it, and I do not see why it should not be cemented.

Sir, I would like to say a few things about the Minister of Communications and Aviation. He, no doubt, requires our praises. We are very thankful for what he has been able to do. He made some promises last Session and I should like to say, again, that he did fulfil some of them. I can see that the automatic exchange both at Onitsha and Nnewi are getting on well, but I would like to say that that is not all—what about the Rural Areas? What about the Post Office in the Anambra area, what about the Post Office in the Ogburu Area, and what about the Enugu Airport. All these things were discussed during the last Supplementary Budget Session and what I want to ask is why in these rural areas nothing has been done. Sir, we point out these things not that they will be provided for now, but we hope that when we come here next year for another Budget Session, that these criticisms should be taken into account and that provision will be made for them.

Talking again about the Enugu Airport, I think it is scandalous, Sir, to report that not very long ago the Obi of Onitsha, who was coming back from England, could not land at Enugu Airport, which is only sixty-seven miles from his home. He had to be diverted to Port Harcourt, where all arrangements to meet him failed and he had to go all the way from Port Harcourt to Onitsha. The point is that the same sort of thing happens to quite a number of people who visit this country. They will never get to Enugu, the headquarters of the Eastern Region because they will get there and find, "Oh, you cannot land", and nobody wants to have a repetition of the sort of incident that has taken place in another part of the

country which has already been mentioned. We do not want accidents to happen at Enugu but we think that with a little sum of money the runway there could be tarmac'd.

Now Sir, I want to deal with Antiquities. No doubt in Jos and in the Western Region of this country there has been something done in the Antiquities. (An hon. Member : Preservation of old men). I am not saying that old men should be preserved. (An hon. Member : Preserve hon. Onyia). I do not ask either that hon. Onyia should be preserved but I do hope that he shall be given a longer lease of life to see independence come and to reap the fruits of his labours.

What I am saying, Sir, is that enough has not been done in the East to preserve our historic buildings. I have in mind, Sir, the Niger Delta where you have historic buildings, where the Portugese traders had contact with our people, places and homes of people like Chief Jaja of Opobo and various other chiefs in the Rivers Division. There are quite a number of historic places and houses that ought to be preserved and I would also like to say that even in the Calabar Province just a little is being done. Enough is not being done to preserve the various local head carvings of the people from that area.

The museum at Oron is a mere apology, and we feel that within the estimates money should be provided for these things. Nothing has been done. I am suggesting, Sir, that if Oron is a bit too remote for a bigger building then perhaps at Aba a bigger building could be built and the people of Oron should be asked to send their carvings there.

Talking about antiquities in the East. People seem to forget the famous Awka Heads and carvings. I am glad to say that some of these carvings are being exhibited in England and America, but in the Nigerian Museum I felt very disappointed, and when I went to Jos and even in the collection here not many of these Awka carvings have been preserved. The same applies to the Mbari, houses in Owerri.

Now, Sir, although I criticize the Police because they have only one Nigerian training post shown in these Supplementary Estimates, I would like to thank the Prime Minister on the work of the Police. I think it is evident that he has taken some of our criticisms in good part and one can notice quite a number of

Senior Police Officers being sent abroad for 6 or 9 months as the case may be, sometimes for three months, for further training. However, I think that it is not only these Senior Police Officers who need these sort of trips to England. I think that sometimes some of the junior people should be sent to see the actual police on duty in practice in England. The trouble is that these Senior men go and they are shown the best things. Occasionally they see a policeman on police duty but they never do any beat duty in England. If some of the junior people were given an opportunity to go they would have to patrol the streets and see the actual policemen on duty, and come back here and help others.

I am not suggesting that the moment they come back they should be catapulted into senior posts. There is no need for doing that. Let the Senior men who have been sent come back and perhaps teach them, we hope.

I would also like to make a suggestion in respect of the training of future Police Officers. I know that in our secondary schools there are quite a number of school certificate young boys and that more chances should be given to such boys to train overseas. Some of them who join the Police Force with some indication that they will be trained overseas or even in this country do not receive what I think is adequate training, with the result that they are not given very responsible posts. I think that our young men should be encouraged to become officers in the Police Force within the shortest possible time.

Now, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Health on the excellent expansion and in the useful reports on medical services in the Federation, but I have a criticism to make. It is quite true that all sorts of services are provided for Lagos but, as many Members have said, Lagos only is not Nigeria. (*Interruption*).

I think that the Federal Minister of Health should also consider the expanding of certain services, not all the services but certain of the services to the Provinces. I think that subjects like the combating of tuberculosis and such diseases ought to be on a Federal level, and I seriously think this ought to be considered. I do not see why they should not be.

I think the Federal Minister of Health should also try to expand some of these services

to some of the large regional headquarters. Now, Sir, nobody will doubt me when I say that education is very important to this country, and that the people should be encouraged to help themselves on educational lines. I think the time has come when facilities ought to be improved in the various colleges of arts and science and technology in the various Regions.

I am happy to say that in Zaria the College there has extended in such a way that people can go there and qualify, some as engineers and some in other professions, but the facilities at the branch at Enugu are so poor and the staffing is so poor that you find so many of the boys failing ordinary G.C.E. (Advanced) which some good secondary schools can produce. The College branch at Enugu has failed to produce the same thing as good secondary school can provide. It is my view that the money being spent on these colleges cannot be justified unless they can produce something that is reasonable and fair for the size of the country. One thing is that they always complain of shortage of staff and also complain of the scope that they have been given, and I think they ought to be given more scope. (*Interruption*)

Mr Speaker : Order, order. The hon. Gentleman is speaking at some length and I must tell him that the shape of his speech is not really the sort of thing that is enjoined by the Standing Orders—the financial and economic state of Nigeria, Government financial policy. What the hon. Gentleman is doing is, I think, a very clear and interesting speech about a number of examples of things happening over the whole country affecting various Ministries. It does not boil down to a real second reading speech on the Appropriation Bill.

Mr Mojekwu : Mr Speaker, Sir, what I am trying to say is that the vote for the various Ministries here ought to have been augmented in order to provide these social services and I still say that on the section for Education, there ought to be more money given to the various departments if it is a question of money, and they ought to expand some of their facilities further.

Now, Sir, in closing, I would like to say that our Minister of Finance has shown once again his ability to manage our exchequer. Last time Members were very critical about the abolition of the Finance Committee. Now I

have to congratulate him on the able way in which he has presented these Supplementary Estimates.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

M. Hassan Yola, Turakin Adamawa (North Central Adamawa): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, may I add my quota of congratulations to the ones already showered on the able and trustworthy Minister of Finance. Praises are never too much on him who deserves them. There is no doubt that the Federal finance is in safe hands.

Turning to the Bill, Sir, I would like to make a few remarks on certain items. It is very surprising to find that more and more funds are being voted for the welfare of the Police with the hope that they will be more and more efficient in their work of keeping law and order in the country. But what do we find and hear of the Police? They are becoming more and more inefficient, dishonest, corrupt and politically-minded. To anybody who knows the efficiency of the Police in other countries like Britain, our Police are a disgrace to the nation. In more remote areas it is found that the Police are so biased against certain political parties that they help them to brew trouble with the hope that members of other political parties would be involved and get arrested even without warrant. Many cases are known to me in my area where the Police take over the investigation of cases where they have special interest from the N.A. Police in whose jurisdiction the cases have occurred in order to help out the members of the political party of their taste.

The worst section of the Police is the traffic department which is highly corrupt and a real menace to the public and vehicle owners. The traffic Police are more interested in their pockets rather than in the safety of public life and property. All the reckless driving and overloading, coupled with giving of false licences to the people who do not qualify for them, take place under their very noses and are the main factors for the numerous accidents that occur with great loss of lives and property, which are detrimental to the economy of the country. Sir, I am anxiously looking forward to the day when each Region will have freedom to recruit and employ the Police from among its people.

The next Ministry I want to touch is the Ministry of Communications and Aviation. I must thank the Minister for the construction of the post office at Mubi which we have been asking for a long time. The building will be completed soon. But, Sir, the people of Yola are not at all happy with the Yola-Lagos telecommunication which is rather defective. You can hear a man from Yola but a man in Lagos cannot hear you. It is hoped that the Ministry will investigate and remedy this as soon as possible.

The next Ministry is that of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power. Sir, may I thank the Minister for supplying electricity to Yola town which work is now well advanced and is likely to be completed in December this year.

The next Ministry I want to thank is the Ministry of Works. I congratulate the Minister for the improvement on the roads from Lagos to the North and other trunk roads 'A'. But I must mention to him again that nothing is being done on the Ngurose Crossing which is very vital to Yola-Vuman-Gombe and Yola-Takum roads. It is now time that the report of the investigation or survey of the crossing by experts is out for the necessary work to start. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the piece of road between Numan and Mayo Balwa. The road is about 20 miles and is being improved for over 2 years now by a team of two road engineers. There is no bridge to be built there and nobody can understand why the work has taken such a long time with two engineers. It is hoped that the Minister will investigate to find out what is delaying the work so badly.

In conclusion, Sir, I congratulate the responsible Nigerian leaders who have made the Constitutional Conference a great success by securing a date for Independence on October 1st, 1960. Another spectacular success of the Conference is the creation of no States or change of Regional boundaries, which is a great contribution to the unity and peace of the country which are important factors to the economy of the country. If there is any danger to the peace, unity and economy of the country, it is the political party that advocates for States that will never be created.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I propose to be very short, Sir, and to point out one or two matters which I think to be of interest to the whole House and to the whole country.

We have learnt, Sir, from very reliable sources close to the Civil Service that in 1960 the expatriate civil servants are planning to resign *en bloc* if their demands are not met. This might be good, it might be bad, that is not the issue. It might be true, it might be untrue, I do not know, but the source from which we obtained the information I say is very reliable.

I am saying, Sir, that the only thing to do in this case is to prepare for such emergencies. The Prime Minister has been known to say that this Government was formed at a time of an emergency. If the occasion does arise that we have a mass resignation of expatriate civil servants in 1960 I can assure you that the whole Government machinery might be left at a halt for some time, but if we are prepared for such an emergency, and I think, Sir, from my own personal enquiries from various offices, that there is no reason why the Nigerianisation Officer and our Minister as well should not work hand in hand in order that a skeleton staff will be ready at this stage, then there will be a plan to take over the essential posts which are held by expatriates.

I am not trying to raise a scare but I am saying that this is the time to prepare for such an emergency. It might never arise but if it does arise it must not catch us napping. I am asking the Prime Minister to look into it. Like some other scares we have had such as assassinations and things like that, it might be untrue, and I sincerely pray that it is untrue, but, Sir, it is a scare that you dare not overlook. I know in your heart of hearts you believe in the sincerity of 99 per cent of the people, but human beings are not like that. If the hon. Prime Minister wants to find 99 per cent of the people genuine, he will have to go to heaven, and yet I wish he would remain with us for a long time!

I am saying that if this scare is untrue or whether it is true or not, an emergency plan must be placed in hand just in case. We shall not excuse the Prime Minister if by chance he comes here after 1960, (I do not say he is coming back as Prime Minister, he might come back I do not know in what form), but if any

Prime Minister comes in 1960 and we are still here and he tells us that it was a mistake, that he was caught napping, I think that Prime Minister will soon go back to his constituency.

On the second point, Sir, complaints are always being brought before this House about doctors. I think they are always attacked right, left and centre in this House but I think it is only fair that we should have some sympathy for these doctors. First and foremost they are over-worked and with all respect, Sir, I say under-paid. Furthermore, Mr Speaker, I can assure you that on inspection of any hospital—go to the nearest hospital here, the General Hospital—you will find that doctors work day and night and most of them do work conscientiously. It is not an easy matter to have to interview and diagnose the ailments of about 300 patients a day; they are not machines they are human beings and the same applies to nurses as well. I hope, Sir, that Members of this House will have some sympathy for our doctors whenever they attack them in this House. More doctors should be given to the country, if the country has an adequate number of doctors and they do not pull their weight it is a different matter. I am not praising the Minister, I am praising the doctors. I think, Sir, that the time will come when we shall have enough doctors to go round and then if they do shirk their duties we shall be in a position to attack that institution rightly.

Last of all, Sir, somebody said that at this stage we must apply our minds, however slightly, to the issue of self-government. Self-government is here now with us, Sir, whether we like it or not it is here, and I am sure we all in this House want and desire it. But I think, Sir, that in accepting self-government we have to look around us in Africa, see the course of history within the past few years, ask ourselves whether we are prepared to subjugate our own personal feelings and party feelings in order to go over and beyond what we are experiencing amongst our neighbours. Sir, if we look across the boarder we can see what is going on in Ghana, we hear what is going on in the Sudan, we know what is going on in Egypt and I say, Sir, that each and every Member of this House has a duty to preserve the privileges of the Members of this House and the privileges of our people. It is only where each and every one of us is determined as an individual to preserve the rights of the

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people that we can hope to survive as a nation. Sir, if we as a nation think that the only duty is to preserve an archaic model of Government, or an archaic royalism, or an archaic system in any part of the country, we shall not be doing our duty to the people. I think our justice has been challenged in many parts of Africa to-day and I think it is the duty of all of us to go back to our constituencies and fight so that the people can obtain justice from the courts. Whether they be native courts, or customary courts, or high courts, it is immaterial. But it is the duty of every Member of this House to go back and see that judges do make out justice to individuals regardless of the party to which they belong.

Finally, Sir, there is no doubt that after 1960 the party that shall rule this country is in this House because there is no party that is not represented here, so I am commending these my few words, Sir, to every Member of the House that the duty of every one of us is to come back and make sure that the people remain, Sir, the fountain of our Government and not anybody else.

M. Shehu Kazaure, Wakilin Sana'a Kano (Kano North West Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. As a new Member I am not going to embark on criticising or praising any of these Ministries, I know several Members before me have already done so. In some cases I suspect that nothing was done. But I am sure at this stage as I have just started, I do not think I can do better than my fellow colleagues with the longer experience which they have had. But, Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to say one or two things. I have seen in the Supplementary Estimates, Mr Speaker, that some money has been voted for extra services in the various Ministries. My sincere hope in this respect as a beginner is that this money allocated, will be put into very useful purpose for the use of Nigerians in Nigeria.

My second point is that something struck me as regards the results of the London Constitutional Conference. What struck me, Mr Speaker, was not only that we have got what we wanted and that is a date for self-government but the way these political leaders, these gentlemen from Nigeria with various political leanings, have agreed together solidly and unanimously, forgetting all party politics and asking for the one common goal—self-

government—which was awarded to them. That, I think, was something very important, something which is worth being proud of not only in Nigeria but in the world in general. To these people, Mr Speaker, I say 'bravo, thank you very much indeed'.

I very much hope that some members of the present House when returned to the next House will use the experience they have gained to help the country solve some of the complex problems which come with the grant of self-government. I know those problems are not easy and they are very many. I know there are men here with experience which if applied in the right way will help solve these problems as they have solved the problem of self-government. Being a new man I should not take so much time of the House. I beg to support.

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am happy to be called upon to contribute to this debate on the second Supplementary Appropriation Bill. In supporting the Bill I would like first of all to add to the appreciation already expressed by members of this House on the achievement of our delegates to the London Constitutional Conference. Before the delegates left this country many of us were unable to predict the outcome of the Conference, but by mutual agreement the results are mostly what every Nigerian citizen can boast of and I have specially to express appreciation of the agreement at the Conference of the two top political parties in this country—I mean the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. I do not mean that the Action Group made no contribution but the N.C.N.C. and the N.P.C. led the way right through the Conference. We are really very grateful to them.

Mr Speaker, I would like to place on record our appreciation of the attitude of the Conference towards the memorandum of the Annangs in the Eastern Region. If anybody misunderstood the Annangs I would like it to be clearly understood that the Annangs numbering over half a million in this country are out to solve the minorities problem once and for all. We do not want an interim solution. We do not want people to be going about distorting the decisions of the Conference. We want the delegates and those who understand the report to tell the truth to the people. I know some members of this House are not here—they are going about telling the people lies.

I am supposed to dwell on the economic and financial policy of the government and I want to go straight away into that. But before I go on to that I would like to mention that no matter how sound our economic and financial policy may be if we have not that sense of social security our economic and financial policy will be for trees and cows and goats in this country and not for human beings. I am referring to a situation in a part of the Eastern Region to-day. This situation is being suspected to be an offspring of the COR state agitation. It is known as 'Amaoke' meaning 'Which do you prefer; your life or your property'. It is a kind of Mau Mau, Mr Speaker. There is no security in the COR state and the Annangs are threatened by this organisation of Amaoke. People are knocked up in their houses and when they refuse to open the door these gangs force their way in and ask the occupants to surrender their property or lose their lives. The latest raid took place about 200 yards from Abak Police Station. The man was called up; he refused to open the door: the men broke the door and asked him to surrender all his things. Somebody pointed a revolver at him while the rest went in and collected all his belongings. Then the men, masked and painted, tied this man hand and foot and went off with his property. This is a terrible thing happening about two years before independence.

In another part of Abak Division people were actually shot dead. The sorry thing is that in spite of the efforts of the Nigeria Police Force to suppress this tendency it is alleged that a few police constables are also connected with the show. I would like the Prime Minister to take note of this and check up to know exactly what is happening in that part of the Eastern Region.

I want to express my appreciation of the efforts made by the Police Force as a whole. They work every day at Uyo to suppress this Amaoke society but so far their measures are not effective. Even by day people are not free to move about. When these gangs meet a man on the way who cannot surrender anything they force him to open his mouth and then remove all his teeth. This is the kind of social insecurity in which we are finding ourselves. And we know that this show is being staged by sympathisers of the COR state movement. We the Annangs are very serious about the

matter and the Prime Minister should do something to stop these people. They should remain in their COR area.

I observe that there is a branch of the Police Force that is doing a very effective work in this country especially in the major towns—I refer to Special Constables. I understand a reasonable sum has been voted to pay allowances to these men but it appears these allowances are enjoyed by only a section of the Special Constables. Those of them that are civil servants are not entitled to a penny and yet they do the work of special constables after their duty. The Minister of Finance should look into this financial policy in which people are not compensated for working for the government during their spare time. A few days ago we passed a bill which provides for the payment of allowances to top ranking civil servants serving on the Public Service Commission and yet these special constables are not entitled to anything when they sacrifice their time to serve the community.

I would like the Prime Minister and the hon. the Minister of Finance to look into the matter straight away and set the situation right otherwise these young men are not being encouraged to go on with their work, and I think the Government appreciates the work being done by the Special Constables.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, I would like to mention that in the collection of revenue in this country every section of the community is concerned and therefore in the disbursement of such revenue every part of the community should also enjoy the fruits. I refer especially to promotions in the Police Force. Long after independence we will still have one problem to solve unless immediate steps are taken to rectify such a situation. It is becoming an established practice, especially in the Police Force, that if an applicant for promotion is not somehow related to a certain superior officer he is not to be considered eligible. I appreciate the speed of promotion in the Police Force but when people from some of the major groups are promoted we would also like to see people from some of the minor groups promoted so that when we achieve independence somebody from my area will be A.S.P. or S.P. in Maiduguri and somebody from Sokoto could be A.S.P. or S.P. in Calabar, Ikot Ekpen or Aba. We want that position to be set right straight away.(Interruption).

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Mr Speaker, Sir, I would not like hon. Una to interrupt me. He should go home and attack Amaoke people in his home.

Now, Sir, I want to refer also to the contribution of the Ministry of Communications and Aviation towards the economic development of this country. First of all, I want to thank the Minister of Communications and Aviation half-way for the Post Office that is still under construction at Ikot Ekpene. It is still under construction, and that is why I say half congratulation, not a full one. The work on this Post Office is in its second year—just one Post Office for one Divisional headquarters out of so many Divisions in the country. I feel that if it must take two years to complete one Post Office in one Divisional headquarters it will take eternity to complete the so many Post Offices being asked for in this country. The economic policy involved in such speed of development must be a shocking one. The money that has been invested in that Post Office is now a waste. I know it has been painted and it is now sheer decoration in Ikot Ekpene town. What we want is not the colour of the paint on the walls of the Post Office; we want the service of the Post Office. A thing of beauty is a joy for ever, and you can be sure more Ikot Ekpene people will rush to that Post Office, being a new one and of course a better type, to create more revenue for this country than are patronising the Post Office at present. It is just there as decoration and people are wondering why it was built at all.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : But Amaoke are using it.

Mr Akpan-Udo : No, that is in Uyo, not in Ikot Ekpene.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) : Mr Speaker, I rise to protest very vehemently. There is no Amaoke in Uyo; it is at Ikot Ekpene.

Mr Akpan-Udo : I challenge the hon. Member to tell this House whether he does not know about Amaoke in Uyo.

Now, Sir, as I said Ikot Ekpene people want this Post Office quickly for their use. I remember some time ago the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation was asking me when the Post

Office would be ready so that he could come to open it, but up till now the Post Office is not ready. Worse than this, there have been several amendments to the building since the beginning of construction. To-day they bring private letter boxes of a certain size, tomorrow we are told that was not the size meant for Ikot Ekpene Post Office and they are carried away. Till to-day there is no section of the Post Office where the telegraph and telephone sections will be accommodated. That will be another source of delay. So that I am not even sure that the Post Office will be ready before 1960.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Government earns some revenue from land, and for that reason the people of Ikot Ekpene feel that it is high time parcels of land behind the Federal prisons and adjacent to the Trunk A road across Ikot Ekpene are used for economic purposes. At present that land is used for a certain primitive type of gardening possibly by some of the Warders. A part of it is forest of a small type, and yet it is right in the centre of the town. While we are struggling that Lagos should have a new look we should remember that some of the towns in the Provinces also want to have their own type of new look. That portion of Ikot Ekpene town should have its own new look. The place is an eyesore, just an obstruction.

When this new Post Office was to be erected I understand the land was to be used for that purpose. I further understand the Prisons Department refused to hand it over. Two years ago it was occupied by a number of young men who deal in locally manufactured goods. But they were branded as squatters and driven away. The land is at present not being used and therefore it yields nothing to Government. We want the Ministry of Internal Affairs to consider handing over that portion of land, possibly to these young men who need it for their business or to a company or even the Government could set up a decent building there. If rent is paid it will go into the revenues of Government. . . .

Mr Speaker : The hon. Member now speaking is speaking at some length on not much more than a string of particular examples, not really on lines of policy. One is bound to

tolerate examples for a short time to see whether they are bearing on policy, but he has gone on too long, I think, without going on the main lines.

Mr Akpan-Udo : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish now to turn to the Government economic policy as is reflected in a certain type of industry in this country. Mr Speaker, Sir, before the last world war Ikot Ekpene area in particular, and possibly the whole of Anang Province, was producing several classes of goods that were in very high demand in Nigeria and outside especially in the United Kingdom. During the last world war Ikot Ekpene was noted for its supply of toys to children in the United Kingdom. During that time the plastic industry was not very popular in Nigeria, but as soon as the people in the United Kingdom went through their reconstruction period they have concentrated on the manufacture of plastic articles, most of them toys, and to-day these local products from Ikot Ekpene do not mean anything even in Nigeria.

It therefore means that Government is depending so much upon the revenue from imports that anything can be imported into the country at the expense of local producers who have been concentrating on such products for a very long time. Why should Government patronise the importation of toys and other plastic articles in such a way that local industries are abandoned by the people? (*An hon. Member : To what articles are you referring ?*) I am referring to certain articles which are not so essential in this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel that if Government is to encourage the people to continue with their local products, the importation of certain classes of plastic goods into this country should be checked. The raffia industry which is a living industry in the Ikot Ekpene area has now dwindled because several of the articles which for some years past were being exported to the United Kingdom, America, even Australia and South Africa are now being replaced by the plastic industry, and yet these plastic articles do not last so long as the raffia goods.

I am suggesting this to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to make sure that in future the importation of some of these toys

which are of the plastic type and several other plastic articles are restricted and room given to our local industries such as the raffia industry.

After all our children should develop the Nigerian character and not the English character especially when we are so near independence. Most of these toys represent a certain character not altogether African. It is in this way Mr Speaker that we can ensure that the economic development of this country is in the interests of Nigeria and not patronise an external industry which is a contribution from people who already have sufficient in their own countries.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these remarks I beg to support.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak on a matter which concerns us all.

This morning, Mr Daldry raised a point of great importance and about which not only the Ministry of Aviation, but I feel the whole country would be willing to extend its sympathy to the families of those who suffered tragic accidents which resulted in their death only a few weeks ago.

Now, as the Members are aware, a Dove aircraft belonging to the West African Airways Corporation was presumed lost because in the course of its flight from Lagos to Port Harcourt, it failed to reach its destination and also it failed to get back home, and what is pathetic about it is that a young pilot with two other officers of the Corporation lost their lives.

It is a matter of profound regret to us, and I am quite sure that the House will join the Ministry in extending its sympathy to the families of those concerned.

Now reference was made to the report which was published on this tragic incident. The report covered a fairly wide area and it is a very useful document indeed. I consider the assignment given to the experts who investigated this matter as a very very difficult one. It was not a common type of accident in which case bits and pieces of wreckage could be put together and useful inferences could be drawn from the wreckage if it was discovered. In this particular case the accident left no trace whatsoever. What was worse, there was no communication whatsoever between the missing

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aircraft and Lagos and Port Harcourt. The result is that there are no means of knowing anything whatsoever about the missing 'plane excepting the fact that it is missing and missing for good.

I would therefore invite the attention of hon. Members of this House to study the report, paragraph 51, and that should be read together with any fitting remarks which the report may contain about the Ministry of Aviation.

Now the statement reads "There is no evidence to support a definite conclusion as to the cause of the loss of Dove B.R.M.A.1. There is no definite evidence to support a definite conclusion as to the cause of this great disaster."

Well, as far as the Ministry of Aviation is concerned I am taking into account the circumstances surrounding the missing 'plane. I make bold to say that the Ministry has done everything that could possibly be done in the circumstances. There are points in the report which portray a lot of shortcoming of the Ministry, of which we were long ago very much aware, but these shortcomings have little or nothing whatsoever to do with the missing aircraft.

It was stated that the number of staff, that is the Air Control Officers, the senior Air Control Officers, are not adequate in number to cope with the volume of traffic done in Nigeria. That is so, but I assure this hon. House that that inadequacy has nothing whatsoever to do with this missing 'plane.

The work done by the experts, as I said, pointed to one important conclusion. By some mishap the missing 'plane was presumed to have got into very bad and stormy weather, and this from all accounts was the case in the Bight of Benin at the relevant period. Well it may be due to this great disaster about which there was a previous warning.

I do not say that as a disparagement of the officer concerned, and that is the pilot. He received a warning about the weather, but it is not uncommon for pilots in spite of the warning to decide to take to the air. When weather is bad there are pilots who know exactly how to overcome the weather, either by flying very high above it or by flying under it or by circumventing it altogether. But there is no

compulsion for any pilot to take to the air after he has received such warning about the weather. If after getting a report of the weather the pilot decides not to fly there is nobody who can compel him to take to the air.

In spite of the warning the officer concerned thought it was worth taking the risk and in the course of it he died in what may be described as active service. This is a tragic thing. It is one of the common hazards in the lives of pilots and I do not want us to regard it as the error of omission which might have been pointed out by the Department of Aviation.

I come back to this question of inadequacy of the number of air control staff. I said a while ago that we were aware of this for a long time. It has not been easy at all for us to recruit people with the necessary qualifications. There are two reasons for it. One is that the number of people who are qualified is strictly limited all over the world, and they are extremely scarce. You cannot come by them easily. The second reason is that the salary structure which is approved in this House and which is in operation in Nigeria does not measure up to the market value of competent air control officers.

I was in the United Kingdom myself last year and I did all I could to see that we got people recruited into the service. When we could not get anyone on our own, and the Crown Agents did their very best and could not get people recruited I had to interview the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation in the United Kingdom. In the end he promised that he would prevail upon his officers to help but he himself was not quite certain whether they will be willing to come out because the condition in England was attractive enough to keep all of them there. When I got back I thought it would be easy for us to get two or three of them on secondment terms. Then we came across some difficult problems. Happily my Colleague the Minister of Finance is here. A seconded officer will cost us twice as much as an ordinarily recruited officer in the service and we did not consider it favourable to get people seconded. A seconded officer is a very very expensive servant. But we doubled our efforts to see that we got people either on leave or by some other means. But we could not even get that through.

Thank you very much.

Mr Speaker : There will be a short break now. I do ask the House to give me a quorum by as soon after a quarter to five as may be. I will be ready myself to come back and then I will call the Minister of Finance to wind up.

Sitting suspended : 4.35 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.50 p.m.

Chief Kolawole Balogun (Oshun) : Mr Speaker, please, there is a reason why I wish to speak in support of this Bill but first of all I wish to take the opportunity to congratulate the Minister of Finance, especially on his recent visits abroad and his momentous appearance at Montreal. I think that apart from anything else conferences and performances of this nature help to put Nigeria on the map. (*Hear, hear*). It can also not be contested that the Federal Minister of Finance is very fortunate.

Well, Mr Speaker, we now come on to the main point which I wish to contribute to this debate. I wish to state that I am not making this point as a matter of criticism because all hon. Members of this House know full well how very important and how difficult questions on aviation are. They are very delicate matters and they are matters on which we only often have to trust to the guidance of God. I am making this point only in order probably to ask the Minister to emphasize the already alert position which he has taken on this matter. If you look at this Report, and really I want to take my stand from the findings of the Commission, because the other sections of this Report are Greek to me, but I think that hon. Members can take their stand on the findings and conclusions, which are reasonable and clear to us. We find that Finding 51, as the Minister has ably quoted, states that there is no evidence to support a definite conclusion as to the cause of the loss of the Dove, but when you go further, Findings 52 and 53, you will find there—I do not want to cause any offence—but you gather the impression that there is a bit of contradiction, because 52 says that bad weather conditions made the chartering of an aircraft most difficult and undoubtedly constituted a hazard, and then the Report goes on to say: "...it is possible in view of the Pilot Officer's comparatively slight experience", and so on and so forth. It then goes on to state in 53 of the possible loss of control by the Pilot.

Mr Speaker, reading the whole thing, as a whole, I would like to draw the conclusion that probably in this world of guesswork (because this is guesswork in which we are dealing in this case), one can well draw the conclusion that it may well be that it is the maintenance of the aircraft that is concerned, that it is probably a bit deficient. I am saying this with all trepidation because no one can really put his foot on the ground and say this is what happened. I think that if you will look at the whole Report the conclusion is that it might be the maintenance. What makes me bring this to the notice of the Minister is that there is some rumour going on now that in view of the complications arising from the inauguration of the new Nigerian Airline, that the maintenance of our aircraft has really gone down a bit and some people say that most or all of the planes have been grounded and that most of the maintenance is done in the United Kingdom. That is why I would like it if the Minister would take some occasion to enlighten the House about this, because if we neglect the maintenance of aircraft we are really running into danger indeed, and I think we must keep our eyes on the maintenance and see that aircraft are properly maintained, and I think that this will ease a great deal of the risk.

I do not think that one can emphasize this matter too much, so I want to say on this matter of maintenance that I want to bring this to the notice of the Minister to look into the question and enlighten us before the House rises.

Now, Sir, I would also like to draw attention to page 14-612. There is a recommendation here that the Sub-Flight Information Centre at Lagos Airport should be divorced from the Aerodrome and Airport Control and separately staffed. I would suggest that we are probably going to get a duplication and if you begin to duplicate your Information Centre from your Aerodrome and Approach Control and all that, then there will be no co-ordination and then before long a report comes here and says it is because the Information Centre does not know what the Aerodrome and Approach Control are doing and that is why some other calamity has happened, which God forbid. That is why I want to draw the attention of the Minister to this. It is that, before we start this innovation, I think we should be sure that it is not going to run us into greater danger than what we are now in.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to the keenness of the Minister, Sir, on the question of Aviation generally. On the question of Posts and Telegraphs, Sir, now the Minister is getting a bit unpopular because the rates are fairly high. I hope that the Minister will try and find a solution midway between the present rate and whatever is reasonable, because it appears (I hope Mr Speaker, I am catching the ear of the Minister) now that there is a great deal of complaint about the rates for telephones. I think there are many telephones all over and in all places, mainly in houses, and if the rates fixed are reasonable it may well be that the P. and T. will pay its way, but if we have to take away telephones then (*Interruptions*) Mr Speaker I am merely suggesting to the Minister.

I am merely saying to the Minister... (*Interruptions*)... I have a telephone here in Lagos and I also have a telephone in my home town in Oshun, and I have been paying the rates and will continue to pay for them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with these few remarks I want to say that I support the Appropriation Bill.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, in winding up this very interesting debate I would like to apologise to some of the Members who have not had the opportunity to speak on this Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill. I would like to say that I hope to reply at this juncture not because I am willing to stop you from contributing to this debate, but because I would like to make it abundantly clear that if we are to keep to our schedule and to hope to rise on Saturday, we must have to curtail the speeches to a certain minimum level to enable us deal with other Bills. I shall therefore try as far as is possible to be brief in my reply to enable, at least, the Minister of Education to deal with the Second Reading of his Bill to-day, and if we can get through it quickly before time, it may well be that one of the most interesting Bills for this Sitting, that is the Queen's Counsel Bill might be debated.

Mr Speaker, Sir, first and foremost, I would like again to express my very warm appreciation to the hon. Members for the generous way in which they have treated me in this House from time to time. The showers of praises which they have thrown on me can only encourage one to be more humble and to try to do his duty as

much as is humanly possible in the interest of the nation as a whole. I can assure you that whenever I receive such praises I would like it to be extended to the Prime Minister and my Colleagues in the Council of Ministers because without their full co-operation I could do nothing.

Further I would like to say that I also have a word of gratitude for hon. Members in this House for the way they studied their Bills and for the contributions they have made. Their criticisms I am sure, have always been a source of inspiration, and by their constructive criticisms they have strengthened the hand not only of the Minister of Finance but also of the other Ministers in discharging the onerous duties that have been put upon us.

Now, Sir, I would like to reply to some of the points made. All the speakers in this debate have directed their attention to the Civil Service; the incorruptibility of the Civil Service, the necessity of insulating the Civil Service from any influence whatsoever, and the ability of the Civil Servant to discharge his duty as is expected of every true Nigerian that is happy to usher in the new era that we are all looking forward to, with all those remarks I must say, speaking for myself, I fully agree.

Members have also talked about the Public Service Commission, and I can assure you that in accordance with the Provisions of our Constitutional Instrument, the Public Service Commission is definitely insulated from party politics or politics for that matter, and from ministerial control. We can therefore hope that they will continue to live up to the expectations of the people of this country.

But there is an important point which has been made by respective Members of this House, and that is their complaint about confidential reports and all the rest of it. But surely, hon. Members are not suggesting that promotion should not be on merit. And if it is going to be by merit, certainly the heads of departments, whether they are fair or not, as the case may be, are bound to make reports on workers. You do not expect members of the Public Service Commission to look at the face of hon. Chief Akintola and say because he is a good lawyer therefore he should be promoted to become the Attorney-General of the Federation. Or to look at the face of hon. Izah and say he is a fine boy from the Mid-West and

say, therefore, he will get to the top of the teaching profession. You must allow the head of department to make reports, whether confidential or not. That has to be done. All we can say is to appeal to the departmental heads that they should be fair and be free from any influence in making such recommendations. (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Dr Awduche made some remarks about the new currency note and the new coinage we intend to issue next year and said that he hoped that they would be backed by sterling. I can assure him that we are not going to issue spurious notes or coins, with apologies to Chief Solaru, excepting those that are manufactured in Ijebu, I can assure the hon. Dr Awduche that our money is at par with sterling and that they are all backed by sterling. I can assure you also that our sterling reserves are such that we can rightly be proud of.

Now, Sir, the hon. Udochi has asked the Government not to spend too much; in other words that Government should not be a spend-thrift. I want to assure you that we want to do so. But at one breath hon. Udochi wants us to spend very little but in another breath he wants a telephone at Afenmai. I wonder, if we follow his advise as well as that of other hon. Members in this House if these things will be possible; even the Uyo man from a university wants a telephone at a place he called Ama-Uke.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I can assure hon. Udochi and other Members that we are taking care of their money. We are trying to do as much as possible in development work and at the same time to see that we do not spend everything and that we leave something for us to spend on a rainy day.

Mr Speaker, Sir, Oba Aiyeola talked about congestion in Lagos. It is very interesting to find that this comes from an Action Group Member. I am in sympathy with his view and I agree with him that the sooner we removed this congestion the better, and I think the only practicable way of doing it is to extend it up to Ago-Iwoye, and if possible to Ogbomoshu.

The hon. Abdulkadir Koguna praises the Ministry of Transport as well as of Works and I am sure that although the Ministers do not

reply, they appreciate your praise and at the same time the general hints and criticisms, and I do hope that they will try to remedy the situation as soon as possible.

The hon. Mr Adeyinka made a very remarkable remark on the Ibadan murder. Thank God the matter has been investigated and the Police are still investigating. We hope the Police will soon find out about the person who committed this broad daylight murder during the polling day at Ibadan.

The hon. Chief Yellowe (unfortunately is not here) has told us so much about something happening in the rivers and in the creeks but he was careful enough not to cite any specific instance, and when I asked him to-day about the specific instance he said, "You don't expect me to tell you those who are committing murder in the creeks". Certainly, if Members are not going to cite instances now, now, now like Jaja Wachuku, I am afraid that it will be difficult for the Government to track down the culprits. In any case, we hope that if they are such that cannot be given in the open they will give secret information to the Police in order to assist in tracking down the people who are making it impossible for people to earn their honest living.

The hon. Dr Mbadiwe spoke about the Niger bridge. It is true that when I returned from my last tour I spoke about the need to bridge the river Niger from Asaba to Onitsha and I said that Government was pursuing it. I can still say it here that the Government is very alert to its responsibilities about bridging the Niger and we are doing everything possible to find the necessary money to finance it. It may well be that if we are lucky and our arrangements go through, we might be able to make a categorical statement during the budget session.

I am a little bit worried about the remarks of our respected hon. Chief T. T. Solaru who said that I am the Minister for borrowing. If we do not borrow I do not know how he expects us to carry out those capital projects. Borrowing by a country in my view shows the credit-worthiness of such a country because in all borrowing cases, with very great respect to Mr Daldry who has perhaps better knowledge about borrowing and lending than myself, you will agree that no bank will give out a penny unless you have the necessary securities. So,

if Nigeria can win the confidence of the people in the outside world to give us loans to enable us to carry out our development programme, I can assure the hon Chief T. T. Solaru that it is not the type of borrowing that he had in mind but that that is the type of borrowing that shows the credit-worthiness of Nigeria and which will enable us to make investments on which we can find an easy return and continue to yield profit for the country.

Sir, the hon. Mr Daldry, in his usual capable way, has tried to pinpoint—I don't know whether it is on my feathers this time because I am not wearing any now, perhaps on Chief Onyia's feathers—however he pointed out what is right to be pointed out, by drawing the attention of the House to what could be looked upon as an omission in the Supplementary Estimates. He drew my attention to page 28 of Head 77 and asked why the amount put down there was not listed in the schedule to the Appropriation Bill. My answer is that the salary shown there is that of a Chief Justice and since salaries of Judges are regulated by statute and not subject to the appropriation of this House, we only put it down and, therefore, there is no need to put it down in the schedule to the Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

The second one is at page 29, this is again for the information of the House only. The expenditure for the Water Supplies Renewals Fund is not subject to annual appropriation but the contributions to the fund are provided annually under the Public Works Department Head. As regards the Capital Supplementary Estimates, Capital Supplementary Estimates required for very urgent works will be tabled in this House on Friday or Saturday and for this I am very grateful to Mr Daldry for bringing out these points to enable me to explain to Members of this House.

Sir, the other Members, in short, spoke about Independence. The most fervent one, as usual, was the hon. Fani-Kayode who, I am sure, will—I don't know what he will do on Independence Day, he may drink to his heart's content—but I note his anxiety about the Civil Service and the other points he made. I do not say that what he says is true to fact but I agree that at Independence we should also be able to Nigerianise to such an extent that we can feel that if anything were to happen that we could certainly live up to expectations.

At the same time I would assure him that Nigerianisation is going at an appreciable speed and we hope that all things being equal we will be able to retain the services of our expatriate officials who have contributed so much to the stability, the success, the impartiality and efficiency of the Civil Service of the Federal Government of which I can say here on the Floor of this House with a sense of responsibility that we are very proud of.

Sir, as regards Independence my main concern is that political independence must be marked with economic independence. This country must be founded on a sound economic basis because our independence will mean nothing if people are going to lie on the streets not able to live well. If they are to go hungry. The economic potentiality of this country is great but we need finance to develop it in order that the people may not live in want in the midst of plenty. It is my determination and that of my Colleagues and the Prime Minister that we shall soon lay the foundation of our economy unsinkable, so that when we enjoy political independence we too can enjoy the benefits of life and bring prosperity to this great country. I do hope and pray that all of us will survive the next election and I hope that hon. Chief Akintola will not only go to Ilorin to campaign but should go and watch himself in Ogbomosho.

M. Hamza Gombe (Gombe): I rise to support the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill and to congratulate the Council of Ministers for the good work they have done since coming into office. Much progress has been achieved throughout the Federation, under their leadership and every kind of work has been extensively improved. I need not go into details in describing the progress made possible under their leadership but, Sir, I would like to invite both the Federal and Regional Governments to do all they can to encourage Civil Servants to work mainly for the love of the country and not merely for the money they are paid.

We have now reached a critical moment in our history, one in which we are very close to Independence. As we become independent it is likely that expatriate technicians will leave the Civil Service, in which case the country will have to do with what it can get.

It is, therefore, important that we do all we can to shoulder the extra responsibilities particularly by way of training more Nigerians in technical skills.

Lastly, Sir, I should like to associate myself with those Members who said that for the good of this country we must do away with our political differences. I agree with them, Sir. If we do not put away our political differences independence will mean nothing to us but a liability. I beg to support.

Mr Benson rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Question put accordingly and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a Second Time and committed to the Committee of Supply, pursuant to Standing Order 63 (4).

Committee upon Wednesday.

NIGERIAN COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Wachuku): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill entitled "A Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology Ordinance, 1952" be read a Second Time.

The Bill, Sir, is a straight forward and simple measure. It seeks merely to alter the titles of the Principal and Assistant Principals to designations more appropriate to the function and responsibilities of the post they hold. The House will be aware that the College, although it is essentially one unit, is divided into three branches which are situated at Ibadan, Enugu and Zaria. At the head of the whole College there is the Principal, while the heads of the three branches are called Assistant Principals.

Earlier this year a Visitation was appointed to the College. The Visitation observed in its Report that, while it was quite clear from the Ordinance that the Assistant Principals were appointed to assist the Principal in the direction and Administration of the branches, it was equally clear that in practice they had come, within certain limits and under the Principal's general supervision, to exercise a degree of local authority so considerable as to make the

designation "Assistant Principal" something of a misnomer. The Assistant Principal is in fact the chief administrative and academic officer of a Branch and not, as his title would suggest, merely deputy to the Principal.

A further point is that the existing titles have led to some confusion. For example, correspondence intended for the Principal, whose headquarters are at Zaria, is often misdirected to the Assistant Principal at the head of the Zaria Branch and *vice versa*. The Visitation accordingly recommended that the title of "Rector and Principal" should be used to designate the Head of the whole College, and that the title of "Branch Principal" be substituted for "Assistant Principal" as the title of the head of each of the three branches.

These changes in title will in no way alter the understanding that the Principal and Rector is the supreme authority under the Council of the College. I am satisfied that these changes in title are desirable, not only for the sake of accuracy and the efficient administration of the College, but also in order to remove misunderstanding concerning the status and importance of the posts. Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): I crave the indulgence of Mr Speaker and the House to ask the Minister of Education kindly to clarify one or two points in connection with this change of nomenclature. The substitution of the words "Rector and Principal" for the word "Principal" should be clarified. I understand a Rector to be Head of a College and Principal Head of a College. I do not understand the distinction here of "Rector and Principal".

The other point is the confusion the Minister said has arisen as a result of the title "Assistant Principal". I have never heard of such a thing as "Branch Principal". Why can't you think of something more definite than that? Why not continue to call them Assistant Principals? Can they be mistaken for Assistant Principals of Grammar Schools or Colleges? They will be addressed as Assistant Principal, College of Technology, Enugu or Ibadan. Where is the confusion? It is

wasting the time of the Legislature bringing this point here. I would like the Minister to explain this alleged confusion.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Mr Speaker, we want the assurance of the Minister that this is not a way of upgrading the person because this change suggests raising the status and the pay of the Principal. We want an assurance that this is not upgrading going side by side.

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)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it has become the habit of one or two Ministers only to submerge themselves in the anxiety of this House to complete the session in time. We want an explanation in simple words from a gentleman whom I can call a simple gentleman, the Minister of Education. Why does he not want to change these words? Is there something hidden underneath? Is it more money? If it is put us in your confidence. If you are going to give the Assistant Principals more money let us know.

The Minister of Education : Mr Chairman, if there is anything which causes confusion it is the lack of understanding of what I have said on the part of Chief Solaru. When I was presenting this Bill I said that the fact that the name 'Branch Principal' is substituted for 'Assistant Principal' does not change the function of the Assistant Principal. If he is quarrelling about the change in name he should not quarrel because Assistant Principal and Branch Principal are one and the same thing.

We have endeavoured to change this for two reasons. One is to be in accord with the recommendations made by the Visitation appointed to the College and to avoid the confusion that has hitherto existed in correspondence meant for the Principal always wrongly addressed to the Assistant Principal. There is no reason why you should quarrel with the change because the names mean the same thing. (*Several hon. Members ; Any money*)? There is no more money but there must be money for the Principal.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I should like to ask the Minister of Education to pay attention to the remarks made formerly by the hon. Chief Solaru about the use of this substitute, Rector and Principal. Nothing could be more redundant, Sir, and while I will not take the Minister to task now, I hope that in the very near future he will see fit to realise that to call a person Rector and Principal is absolute nonsense. He must either be called Principal or Rector. I have never heard in any place of somebody being called Rector and Principal. He is making a fool of the poor man in Zaria.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central) : Mr Chairman, I think the last speaker is just irrelevant. He fails to realise the explanation of the Minister. The Minister said that the change in the nomenclature was due to an enquiry set up on the College and their recommendation. Is this man trying to condemn the recommendations? If he has anything to do with that as an educationist, it is for him to direct his objections to the Principal.

The next point, Sir, that the hon. Chief Solaru was trying to refer to was whether the change in nomenclature required any increase in pay, and the Minister in answer said it may, if I got him correctly.....

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : It will not.

Mr Adeyinka : All right. If the Minister says it will not, I see no reason why we should bother ourselves with only a change in nomenclature. Whether you call somebody a Rector, a Principal, a Tutor, what you want him to do is to impart knowledge to the students. So I think that question should not waste the time of this House.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 5 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third Time and passed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am grateful that we have had confirmation from no less than two hon. Ministers of State in this Federation, one of

them the keeper of the Federation's money. They have told us that this change in nomenclature does not imply increase of pay. You are all witnesses to this. . . (Interruption) . . .

Some hon. Members : Now.

Chief Solaru : Now, there it is. I want confirmation whether it is now or in 1959 because, Sir, I think we are within our rights. We know the tricks of these people; they change the nomenclature and then the pay goes up and the function does not change at all. If that is what it is, why not be honest about it? I am sure, Sir, that we ought not to be fooled all the time. I think, Sir, that the Minister should give us an assurance that as far as he knows this does not mean increase of pay; and we shall all watch out in the next Budget Session and if an increase of pay is brought here you can be sure that we shall throw it out.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) : My last speech, Mr Speaker, in this matter is to advise, if I can, the Minister not to bring before us again, Sir, a Bill which from his own showing is immaterial. It is a waste of time, waste of paper, waste of energy, and if the Minister does that, Sir, in his Ministry I hope this House will not indulge in that.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : We must congratulate the Minister for the able way he has presented this Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the controversy which the proposed Bill has aroused, I prefer to read every word I am going to utter on the Second Reading of this Bill. This is, perhaps, a departure from the practice to which I have been accustomed, but I think that since lawyers are concerned one cannot be too careful in the choice of words and in the weighing of them.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Second Reading of a Bill to define the functions of Queen's Counsel. The purpose of this Bill as it stands is to restrict the functions that shall be performed by a legal practitioner after he has

been appointed a Queen's Counsel. The reason for this is that persons are not appointed Queen's Counsel unless they practise solely as barristers, and not as solicitors as well.

This is not the first time that this matter has been raised in Nigeria. It was raised in the 1920's and in the debate on the Estimates on March 7th, 1939, the Honourable S. B. Rhodes, later Mr Justice S. B. Rhodes, proposed that senior members of the Bar in Nigeria should be appointed as King's Counsel and he was supported by the Honourable Olayinka Alakija. The Honourable the Attorney-General, then Mr Cox, in reply referred to the fact that legal practitioners in Nigeria, in the absence of a separate Bar, practised both as barristers and solicitors and as such were precluded from appointment as King's Counsel. The matter does not appear to have been raised since 1939 and it is not improbable that one of the reasons has been that it was not realised that the difficulties mentioned by the Attorney-General in 1939 can now in fact be overcome. The purpose of this Bill is to overcome these difficulties so as to enable members of the Nigerian Bar to be appointed as Queen's Counsel.

It is, I submit, Mr Speaker, appropriate that members of the Nigerian Bar should be Queen's Counsel. Nigeria follows the English system of law, and Queen's Counsel form part of that system. It is a great honour in this system of law for a person to be appointed Queen's Counsel and it seems wrong in principle that our own barristers should be excluded from this honour as they are at present.

Apart from the honour, there are two important practical advantages in establishing this group of senior lawyers. Firstly, it gives barristers an incentive to strive to attain the honour of the appointment and thus to live up to a high professional standard. Secondly, it provides a body of experienced men for appointment to the Bench, and in an independent Nigeria there will be an ever-increasing demand for experienced men for appointment as Judges.

I have considered most carefully the objections to this Bill which have been put forward by certain members of the Nigerian Bar. I think the real objections to this Bill as it stands is that a person will be able to become a Queen's Counsel and continue in partnership with a person who is practising as a solicitor. This is

contrary to the normal practice and certainly contrary to the practice in the United Kingdom, but there is a precedent for this in some other parts of Africa. It is, however, in my opinion, an inevitable situation under the existing circumstances in Nigeria because as there is no separate Bar, legal practitioners are entitled to practise both as barristers and as solicitors. It would, of course, be otherwise if legal practitioners were not entitled to practise in this manner.

I have been wondering whether the objections to this Bill would be removed if this Bill were to be amended by inserting immediately after the words "shall not" in Clause 2, the words "so long as other legal practitioners may practise as both barristers and solicitors." If the Bill is accepted, I propose during the Committee stage to introduce an amendment which would remedy the defect to which the Members of the Bar have made reference. If that amendment were to be made it would be open to the Nigerian Bar Association to consider whether and when a separate Bar should be established and, if a separate Bar should be established, then under the provisions of this Bill, as amended, Queen's Counsel would have to dissolve their partnerships and set up on their own, as from the date of the creation of a separate Bar.

The institution of Queen's Counsel is found in many other parts of the world where the English system of law prevails. Indeed, only recently the Minister of Finance of Nigeria had the privilege of meeting a Canadian Queen's Counsel, Mr Diefenbaker, the Prime Minister of Canada. Mr Manley, Chief Minister of Jamaica, is another Queen's Counsel. Of course, we politicians have no prerogative in this matter but we can appreciate a good thing when we see it!

Mr Speaker, Sir, my colleagues and I believe that the appointment of Nigerian Queen's Counsel will lend dignity to our Bar and is fully compatible with the steady course on which we are steering this ship of state to join as a sovereign member the only free comity of nations in this world, whose system of law is the English Common Law, the learned exponents of which are the Queen's Counsel. Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. the Attorney-General has taken this matter to heart, and the Chief Justice of the Federation is heart and soul for this Bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (*Applause*).

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. (*Hear, hear*). It sets out to achieve an objective which had been long expected by reasonable members of the Bar. (*Hear, hear*).

Sir, the speech made by the hon. Minister in support of this Bill makes me say that no more can be done other than that I associate myself with what has been said. I support what has been said completely, but in going on I do feel if one has anything with which to quarrel with in this Bill it is that it may have taken far too many things for granted which ought to have been clarified, and it is to be hoped that at some later stage the Minister may consider how to take care of these things.

For example, Sir

And it being 5.45 p.m. Mr Speaker interrupted the business pursuant to Standing Order 4 (3).

Debate to be resumed upon Wednesday.

STANDING ORDER 67

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the following Motion standing in my name; That Standing Order No. 67 be amended from Line 2 by leaving out from "not" to the end of line 12 and adding the following:

Mr Speaker, Sir, before I proceed I should like to add one word, it is realised that our present Standing Order No. 67, Public Money, is based on the original Section 61 (1) in the Nigerian Constitutional Order in Council, 1954. In response to a request from the Speaker of the House, the Law Officers of the Crown realised that it was necessary to amend the Standing Order to be found in the new Provisions of Section 61 (1) of the order enacted, by Section 12 of the Nigerian Constitutional Amendment No. 2 Order in Council, Legal Notice No. 137 of 1958. The portion to be substituted reads as follows:—"Standing Order 67 (Public Money), line 2, leave out from "not" to end of line 12 and add—"except upon the recommendation of the Governor-General, proceed upon any bill, motion, amendment or petition which, in the opinion of the Speaker or other person presiding, makes provision or requests that provision should be made for imposing or increasing any tax, or for imposing or

contrary to the normal practice and certainly contrary to the practice in the United Kingdom, but there is a precedent for this in some other parts of Africa. It is, however, in my opinion, an inevitable situation under the existing circumstances in Nigeria because as there is no separate Bar, legal practitioners are entitled to practise both as barristers and as solicitors. It would, of course, be otherwise if legal practitioners were not entitled to practise in this manner.

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Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (Applause).

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

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Sir, the speech made by the hon. Minister in support of this Bill makes me say that no more can be done other than that I associate myself with what has been said. I support what has been said completely, but in going on I do feel if one has anything with which to quarrel with in this Bill it is that it may have taken far too many things for granted which ought to have been clarified, and it is to be hoped that at some later stage the Minister may consider how to take care of these things.

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increasing any charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund or other public funds of the Federation, or for altering any such charge otherwise than by reducing it or for compounding or remitting any debt due to the Federation. The recommendation of the Governor-General shall be signified by a member of the Council of Ministers rising in his place and stating that he has it in command from the Governor-General to give his recommendation to the consideration of any such bill, motion, amendment or petition and the signification of such recommendation and the name of the member of the Council of Ministers signifying it shall be entered upon the Votes and Proceedings."

Well, this may appear to be unintelligible, but I think the main purpose of this is that under the old Standing Order when matters were being discussed or estimates being debated in the House, all that a Member could do would be to move the reduction. It is not open to the Member to increase or revoke any part whatsoever; that is the regulation, that is the Standing Order that is to be changed. But at that time it was not specified who would indicate whether any motion or any point raised by the Member will result in increasing any vote or imposition of any tax. This particular amendment enforces the duty upon the Speaker of the House, who would give a ruling in that case, but still a Member may be privileged to bring an amendment or to bring a Motion, the effect of which would be to increase any provision, provided that beforehand, permission of the Governor-General had been sought, and the Governor-General

had instructed a member of the Council of Ministers to indicate his consent to such procedure.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr Speaker: The Motion, under the Standing Orders, now stands referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders who, I believe, will be meeting in a moment or two to-day.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(The Minister of Commerce and Industry).

Mr Speaker: I have received a request from a Member to raise on the Motion for the Adjournment the failure of the Speaker to catch his eye whenever he stands to speak. He is not the only disappointed one. The Speaker is very disappointed himself but the conduct of the Speaker cannot be challenged on the adjournment. The way to do that is to put down a Motion which can be debated on Private Members' day and therefore it cannot be discussed on the Adjournment.

May I say how sorry I am.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at nine minutes to six o'clock until 10 a.m. on Tuesday the 25th of November, 1958.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 25th November, 1958

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : I have to announce that the following papers already distributed to Members are deemed to have been laid on the Table :—

Report by Board of Investigation on Missing Aircraft Dove D.H. 104 VR-NAY (Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1958);

REPORT FROM STANDING
COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : I have to lay on the Table a Report from the Standing Orders Committee which will appear in the Votes and Proceedings of to-day's sitting.

Report—The Standing Orders Committee reported that they had considered the motion for the amendment of Standing Orders referred to them (Votes and Proceedings of 24th November) and were of the opinion that the amendment should be made.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*O.263. **Rev. E. S. Bens** asked the Minister of Transport whether the NEDECO have submitted their Report on the investigation into the navigability of the Rivers Niger and Benue; what was the cost to the Federal Government of the investigation, and whether similar investigation will be undertaken in the eastern Niger Delta.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport : The final Report on this investigation has not yet been submitted, but it is expected that this will be received towards the end of this year.

The final cost to the Federal Government has not yet been calculated, but the known expenditure to date is approximately £391,000. A similar investigation will be undertaken in the eastern Niger Delta. NEDECO has already moved to Port Harcourt, and the investigation will commence in the last quarter of this year.

*O.279. **Mr J. Assadugu** asked the Minister of Transport what steps he is taking to ensure that towns in Numan Division are not flooded during the rainy season as a result of the

activities of the investigation team on the River Benue.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport : I can assure the hon. Member that nothing the Federal Government, or any other agency, is likely to do in the foreseeable future will result in increased flooding of towns in Numan Division.

*O.280. **Mr J. Assadugu** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he will undertake as a matter of urgency the laying of a bituminous surface on the Bauchi-Gombe-Yola road.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : Work is at present in hand on the reconstruction of that part of this road between Gombe and Ture. There are no funds available at present for the bituminous surfacing of the road.

*O.281. **Mr S. F. Nwika** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys how many miles of trunk roads A there are in the country, and of these how many miles have been tarred.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Surveys : The total mileage of trunk roads A in the country is 6,031 of which 1,970 miles were bituminous surfaced as at 31st March, 1958.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

MERCHANT SHIPPING INDUSTRY

Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper : That, in order to enhance the economy of this country, this House calls upon the Federal Government to investigate the possibility of establishing a Nigerian merchant shipping interest, so as to encourage Nigerian entrepreneurs who, with the necessary Government support, will be willing to participate in the enterprise.

Some people are in the habit of making Motions, no matter how frivolous, they are satisfied as long as such Motions help to create political sensations, and strike banner headlines in newspapers which may yield political dividends for campaign purposes in times of elections; but I thank God that I do not belong to that class of legislators.

The motive behind this Motion is engendered by the love of my country, the love to see it thrive and develop not only politically but also economically in such a way as would make

her command the respect of the world over.

Mr Speaker : I am finding it hard to hear the hon. Member. I see the signal also from the Official Reporters that they cannot hear. Certain things that the hon. Member has to refer to are much better held up so that the speaker may raise his voice and be heard in the microphones which will carry his words to the Official Reporters and to myself.

Mr Komolafe : In the present age interdependence of one nation upon the other when goods from, and products of, one country move so frequently to the other, it is nothing but sheer national ruin and economic suicide for one country to depend wholly upon foreign shipping. This state of affairs may be understandable in cases of out and out colonial territories whose economic postulate depends on the decision of the master race. But thanks to the magnanimity of the British people the goal of our colonial tutelage is now in sight. Are we emerging from political colonialism only to step into economic serfdom? Who knows. Britain owes as much of her security, if not more, to her merchant fleets as to her naval force. America and pre-War Germany and even Japan, all pride themselves on their mercantile marines. Let us leave these older countries and go to the countries which have recently gained their independence. Israel, India, and to come nearer home, even Ghana, have each developed a considerable shipping concern along the lines of the older countries in such a way that they now derive considerable financial as well as political advantage from such enterprise.

Last year, Israel earned from cargo and passenger freights 5.5 million dollars and this figure is expected to be doubled this year, so announced Mr Schind the Israeli Minister of Communications. The Israel Merchant Fleet handled last year more than 60 per cent of the total cargo and passengers to and from Israel. In India the plan to participate in the marine trade is no less spectacular than in Israel. India at a start set up three shipping corporations wherein the Government of India contributed 51 per cent of the Share Capital and nominated Directors proportionate to its share of Capital. In the scheme evolved by the Indian Government, a shipping company or a group of companies would have to act as agents for the corporation. India having realised the existing difficulties of local ship-

building and of personnel, offered to purchase or hire ships from the older Western countries which have surplus ships to offer, and to appeal to foreign personnel who are prepared to serve in the Indian Mercantile Marine with equal loyalty as they would give to their own countries.

Ghana voted £4 million to get a start, though belatedly, and she now operates the Star Line with a sure degree of optimism. Let us now bring the picture close to Nigeria and see what the situation looks like here. In 1953, the year in which the West African Line, headed by Elder Dempster's made a binding agreement with all the Nigerian Governments as the sole carrier of Nigerian produce, the total value of imports to Nigeria was £108,290,000, and the value of the exports amounted to £125,338,600, while the estimated value of freight accruing from both exports and imports amounted to £46,725,000. But Nigeria shared not a penny of this vast sum of money flowing out of the country. You may tell me in the usual economic euphemistic language that these companies plough back into the country the profits they earn, but that is not just what we want, we want the bulk of the money to remain in this country to swell our national dividend. That year an agreement was made by the Crown Agents on behalf of the Nigerian Government, and with your permission, Mr Speaker, I will read that Agreement.

"Agreement No. 1 : The Shippers in consideration of the Agreement of the Carriers hereinafter set forth agree to forward all their cargo of every description for shipment from the United Kingdom and North European Ports to British West Africa exclusively by vessels owned, chartered or managed by the Carriers."

"Agreement No. 2 : In consideration of the said Agreement of the Shippers the Carriers agree to carry within a reasonable period all the said shipments from their regular ports of loading at the rates of freight shown in the annexed schedule.

"Agreement No. 3 : If the Carriers, during the currency of this Agreement, grant to other shippers any more favourable rates and conditions, they undertake that these rates and conditions shall be granted to the Shippers during such period as they are granted to others.

“Agreement No. 4 : In the event of there being any alteration in the Carriers’ ordinary tariff rates of freight, the Shippers’ special net rates shall be adjusted upwards or downwards to the nearest round 3d so as to maintain the percentage rebate from the tariff rates obtaining before such alteration.

“Agreement No. 5 : In the event of exceptional circumstances arising in connection with any item enumerated in the Schedule the rate of freight shall be mutually agreed.

“Agreement No. 6 : Any shipment under this Agreement is subject to all the terms and conditions of the Carriers’ Bill of Lading in force at the time of shipment.

The effect of this Agreement is the confirmation of absolute monopoly which makes it impossible for indigenous shipping agencies to survive. In time of war and in time of peace the economic activity of every man and woman in the country is controlled by a single combined monopoly. Fluctuation of freight rates is in accordance with the monopolistic desire without any form of control.

There was a very wealthy merchant in Lagos, who was shipping produce to Great Britain and he bought produce to the tune of £25,000—in those days it was a great lot of money. This man had some dispute with the shipping lines and then when he wanted to ship his produce to Britain he was held up and told there was no shipping space. And what happened? The result was that this man was subjected to all difficulties and his produce was left to rot as there was no shipping space for him. He was destroyed. (*An hon. Member : That was too bad*).

There is a Nigerian who has the required training and experience in the shipping trade and the will to take the risk. He has submitted a memorandum, I understand, to the Government on shipping projects and on the ways and means of operating an indigenous Merchant Shipping Industry, but that memorandum has never appeared before us. We have never heard anything of it. The Nigerian has, upon his own initiative and industry, been striving hard to establish a Nigerian Shipping Line but the great combines look on him as an interloper. They even went so far as to use all the financial means at their disposal just to wipe him out. Still he has persisted and in the face of overwhelming odds, against these combines. They,

the combines went round and said : “Why doesn’t the Government start a shipping line of its own, just as it does in the case of certain corporations operated by the Government?” The shipping line will, as in the case of the Nigerian Airlines be controlled by the same monopolists headed and manned by their brothers. In short, they will control such a project and be able to call the tune to the Government as much as they like.

I should like to speak of the Ports Authority. The Ports Authority own the *Ajasa*, and the *Ajasa* goes to fetch coal from the East to the Ports of Lagos, but to my surprise according to my information, when the *Ajasa* starts from Lagos it starts out empty and goes to Port Harcourt empty. Why does this happen? Because the shipping combines made a protest to the Government that they were competing with them. They said, “Why are you competing with us because you know we control this coastal area and yet you allow the Ports Authority to carry goods and cargoes from here to the East?” What does the Ports Authority do? Well, it says, “All right”, and allows them to carry on. So that the *Ajasa* instead of carrying goods and cargoes from this Coast to Port Harcourt arrives there empty and then carries coal back. As a result of that, from the 1st of September the cost for the operation of the *Ajasa* has mounted from £46,000 to the tune of £65,000.

This is what we are subjected to in this country. Why? Because you know what it means. The other man does not want anything more than economic survival. He wants his brother to be economically secure. He wants to serve you as much as possible at your own expense. (*An hon. Member : Parasites*). It is not far to see, as I have told you. In short, they will control the whole project and thus be able to call the tune.

Now, I have quoted the example of the “*Ajasa*”. Mr Speaker, I seek your permission to read the following passage from “The Wealth of Nigeria” by G. Brian Stapleton, Pages 208-209 :—

“There is no attempt to belittle the work of the United Africa Company in the development of Nigeria, nor must its existence be regarded as an evil. But it is with the possible exception of the Marketing Boards, the most powerful economic force in Nigeria to-day and, through its connection with the Unilever combine, has at its command

financial resources at least equal to those of any of the Regional Governments.

"The lack of skilled personnel may prove to be a more important factor even than lack of money in slowing down the increase in the wealth of the country. It is to-day possible to point to several schemes which have received official sanction and had funds allocated to them, but which remain at the planning stage for lack of skilled personnel to carry them through.

"It is these factors that hold up the development of the industry in Nigeria, not the continuous presence of British Administrative control. For the future Nigeria must be careful to avoid economic colonization which can be just as frustrating as political colonization.

"It is not difficult for a small undeveloped country to become dominated from an economic point of view by another nation or by one or two big companies.

"To come nearer to Nigeria, there is little doubt as to the power of the Firestone Rubber Co. in Liberia. If the Company withdrew from Liberia, economic chaos would result; therefore, the Government must pay close attention to the needs and desires of the Company." (*An hon. Member : Economic strangulation*).

This worthy opinion of a trained economist residing in this country goes a long way as a pointer to the danger in the offing if our Government fails to give encouragement to those of our men, however few, who have the courage to plunge into this well-guarded sphere of the foreign combines. All that Nigeria is crying for is to give this Nigerian room to expatiate, initiate and develop. At present there is a Nigerian Shipping Line run by this same Nigerian on the basis of chartering ships from European countries. If you say he does not own ships, then you are wrong to judge thus, because the great foreign shipping interests operating between West Africa and Europe also charter ships. See the advert. in the "Daily Times" of 12th March, 1958.

I do not advocate that the West African Conference lines should be wiped out by the Government or nationalized, that would be nothing but a daydream. All that I ask for in this Motion is that Government should give

recognition to African talent in this enterprise, and encourage them to develop, *vis-a-vis* the foreign firms, give them elbow room and don't allow them to be stifled out.

Apart from the monetary advantage that may accrue therefrom, the country stands to gain strategic advantages. Suppose there is war and all the foreign shipping interests were forced to withdraw from the shores of this country. Suppose there is a diplomatic dispute between Nigeria and the country whose nationals hold the sum total of the ships carrying our produce.

The statement made sometime ago by the hon. Minister of Transport, that he was looking into the possibility of his making a start in that direction, is a laudable one, but I believe the implication of that statement is to the same extent as was done in Japan after the revolution of 1868 and more recently, in Israel and India, that is by making the necessary arrangements to provide the capital and all the mercantile requisites, and look round for capable Nigerians to hand over to or to take increasing share of its managements.

For all I know shipping business is not conducive to government control like railway transport. With all the fury of nationalization in socialist Britain, when the Labour Government held sway, the shipping industry was never and is not nationalized. At this junction, if the Chairman would permit me, I shall read from "The Wealth of Nigeria", page 172. "Could nationalization be applied to all the new growing industries so that a great relative increase in Nigerian ownership could be achieved? This measure appears attractive, but it is hardly practicable. Setting aside the question of skills and capital already mentioned, it is not desirable that taxpayers' money should be used to promote a variety of speculative new industries which may or may not succeed. The important thing to be emphasized in relation to ownership and the government is that government ownership means the limitation of individual freedom. It is for Nigeria to decide which way she wishes to go. On the whole, at the price of some inefficiency and slowness in development, freedom of ownership is probably well brought outside the provision of and control of certain essential services."

For all I know, if you say we lack the skill and money, let government provide the money and give room for men of straw to come forward to take the advantage. They may make mistakes in the start, but such mistakes will in the end be overcome and experience accumulated. The Government can best help by supervision and technical aid. It can provide those best in present circumstances.

Well, if the Speaker allows me, I shall cite an example of African Ministers. At the time when it was projected that Africans could be Ministers, or Nigerians could be Ministers in this country, the idea was pooh-poohed, even by white men, but to-day, we have not only Ministers, we have Prime Ministers and we have Ministers of Finance who can go outside to the world and negotiate loans. If you say that Nigerians have not got the technical skill and capital, if the government can provide the capital (and there are certain willing Nigerians who by accident have been able to acquire the experience) I think the best thing will be for the government to make use of the things we have and draw from this spring of experience, so that in time to come it will not be difficult for us to find people who have been able to find experience by planning to do things themselves.

With these few points, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr J. I. Izah (Aboh): Mr Speaker, I rise to second this Motion. It is a Motion that speaks for itself, and the hon. Member has rather over-argued his case, because it is a Motion which the Government of a country aspiring to independence in 1960 should have thought of on its own and should have made a statement on to a Legislature of this type. Mr Speaker, it is well known that to-day the economics of this country are run by foreign hands, and if after our independence, after our political independence we are not in a position to have a say in our economics, surely such political independence is a hollow one.

Mr Speaker, as the hon. Member has said, this is a Motion that gives the Minister and the Government an opportunity to make a categorical statement on what progress has been made in giving this country a Merchant Navy.

Mr Speaker, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): Mr Speaker, this is indeed one of those happy and rare occasions when a Minister has to rise and ask his Government to do something more than what a Floor Member has requested it to do. The hon. Mover of this Motion has simply asked the Government to investigate the possibility—as if it is something very remote indeed—of establishing a Nigerian Merchant Shipping Industry so as to encourage Nigerian entrepreneurs who, with the necessary Government support, would be willing to participate in the enterprise. To my mind, Sir, this does not go far enough. I therefore beg to move the amendment standing in my name, namely to delete all the words after “Federal Government” and insert instead, “to establish at the earliest possible date a national shipping line in which Nigerian interests have a controlling share.” (*Applause*).

Sir, this Government has in the past been accused of dragging its feet, of holding back the establishment of a Nigerian Shipping Line. This accusation is perfectly true, and for excellent reasons. Our caution, in embarking upon such a gigantic project, is due to financial, technical, economic, commercial and other considerations. The Federal Government cannot go rushing into every venture that popular clamour demands. This Government, and this House, I believe, are the guardians of the public purse. We are the trustees of the taxpayers, and before investing taxpayers' money in any commercial venture we must make sure that the circumstances and the times are correct to make it a success.

It is true also, Mr Speaker, that this House and the National Economic Council which comprises representatives of the various Governments of the Federation, have been discussing the possibility of establishing a national shipping line for some time, in fact for a few years. Until very recently it would not have been a worthwhile proposition, but now circumstances have changed and we now believe that it is worthwhile. This is just a propitious moment to start. The post-Korean boom in shipping business had increased the cost of buying and chartering ships to such a level that it would have been folly to enter the market at that time. Those already in the shipping business or who could easily charter ships or who had already chartered their ships before the boom could operate ships cheaply and make huge profits, but to start a new

venture then would have been to pay too dear a price and to embark upon a venture which was not likely to bear any fruits.

Sir, I have started this far back just to give the background to the series of debates which have taken place in this House and outside it during the past few years. Hon. Members will remember that last September this House debated a Motion in like terms but more progressive, I think, than the present one, which is to the effect "that this House is of the opinion that the time has come for the establishment of a Nigerian shipping industry and desires the Government, if possible, within the framework of the country's other urgent requirements, to make any financial provision necessary for the development of such an industry in the next five-year economic planning period."

This was the Motion that was passed by this House. Following this the Government would not have been expected to do anything until 1962. So I believe that hon. Members will be delighted that the Government has moved faster than we agreed here last September. (*Hear, hear*). Since then, that is to say since September, circumstances have drastically changed. The worldwide recessions have so reduced commerce that ships can now be chartered and bought at very good prices indeed. Freight rates have, of course, fallen off but in an expanding area of immense potential wealth like West Africa this is only a passing phase.

Sir, I think that now is the moment to enter the shipping market. Now is the time to float our own national shipping industry. This is the moment, if I may say so, for which your Government has been waiting. It is the moment during which we should cast aside all caution and the moment when Nigerian ships should be launched upon the oceans of the world.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it was against such a background that about three months ago the National Economic Council asked the Federal Government to expedite the investigations and negotiations that the Minister of Transport had been engaged in so as to float a national shipping industry at the earliest possible time. But, Sir, in embarking upon a big project like this, one can make a lot of mistakes unless one decides in advance what one wants and the way to get it. This may sound elementary, and

probably it is elementary, but it is important. And so to begin with, I spent some time thinking how to start it and what the end should be, and I had to analyse all the implications from the economic, political and commercial angles and eventually I decided on three axioms to guide me in the negotiations which have been going on.

In the first place, that Nigerian interests must have the controlling share in any such enterprise (*Hear, hear*); secondly, that our technical partner must make such a substantial equity investment in the business that he would go all out to make it a success because if he did not, he would be losing a lot; and thirdly, that our prime objective should be to create a national shipping line in order to teach our people a new skill and also to obtain a share of the carrying trade to and from Nigeria.

I said on my arrival back from the United Kingdom a few weeks ago that the time had come when we should take part in the carrying trade so as to repatriate some of the huge sums of money that we are paying in freight to other shipping lines which I gather realise millions of pounds every year. That is also one of my main objectives, and I have used these three axioms as my guide in the negotiations which have been going on.

As I was saying, Sir, we need a shipping line, and we are going to get it; but we must not deceive ourselves in thinking that anybody can operate a shipping line and make it a success. We Nigerians know very little about shipping yet. A few of us have touched the very fringe of the shipping business either as shipping agents or as dock labour contractors or freight agents. Some more of us, probably hundreds, have gone to sea either as deck-hands or engineers or as apprentices. But let no-one think for a moment that a few months or a few years spent at sea qualifies one to start and run a shipping industry. The skill has to be acquired. Ocean shipping is one of the most complex and advanced and highly skilled industries in the world. Large profits can be made, it is true, but still larger sums can be lost in a surprisingly short time if one ventures without the necessary preparation, if one is over-ambitious and lacks the technical know-how and managerial experience in the industry.

I would not like hon. Members, Mr Speaker, to mistake me. I am not saying or suggesting for a moment that we are incapable of ever

acquiring these skills and experience. We can acquire them and I know we are already acquiring them. Perhaps hon. Members know that there is a training scheme for cadets and shipping managers already in operation, under the auspices of the Navy and some of the shipping interests who have offered such facilities to our own people for training. But all I am saying is that if we are to establish a shipping line on a sound foundation, we must start it as other Governments who have gone before us have done.

Ghana has been mentioned and I am glad the Mover of this Motion has mentioned Ghana. We must start it in such a way as to make it succeed, we must start it in partnership with an experienced liner operator in whom we have implicit trust. It is only after some years of very close co-operation with such experienced people that we can take over the management ourselves. I would like hon. Members to be assured that in the negotiations I shall keep all these points uppermost in my mind, that is to say, the interests of Nigerians both to control and to acquire as quickly as possible the necessary skill and experience to take over the entire management of the shipping line in the shortest possible time.

To continue the story, Sir, I have to say that it was easy to find possible partners, indeed I found perhaps an embarrassingly large number of shipping interests, large and small, who showed some interest in the venture. Members will, of course, appreciate that at the present time, owing to the recession of the world trade, hundreds of ships are lying idle in the various shipyards of the world and, therefore, one cannot suffer from lack of ships at the moment. Ships are not only what we want, we want also the would-be partners to be able to invest a substantial sum of money into the business. Therefore, to select the right partner and advise the Government was not an easy task but I had to call for the best type of advice. Time has been short but we have made very good efforts to make the negotiations as short as possible so as no longer to delay the setting up of the line.

In the past three months I and my officials have interviewed or corresponded with over fourteen such firms or groups of shippers or other people interested in the shipping trade,

some of them large and some of them small. We have been in negotiation with quite a number of them and we have also sought advice from the United Kingdom Minister of Transport's shipping advisers and from the President and General Manager of the United Kingdom Chamber of Shipping and other people who have valuable experience in the shipping industry. All I can say, Sir, is that Members can rest assured that the best possible advice has been obtained and that every proposal, including those from some of our own people who are interested in shipping (although on a very small scale) has been given the fullest consideration and that, naturally, what will decide the issue will be what will be in the best interests of this country.

I have no doubt, Sir, that Members are anxiously awaiting the name of the prospective partner or partners. I fear that I must crave the indulgence of this House and say that it would be improper for me to release any names now that negotiations are still going on. Commercial negotiations, as Members are aware, especially negotiations on this scale, cannot be undertaken in the glare of publicity. The discussions, I am afraid, will have to remain confidential until they are concluded. I can, however, assure the House that since my return from London early this month I have given a detailed account of the negotiations to my colleagues in the Council of Ministers and I am glad to say that I have the whole-hearted support and authority of the Prime Minister and the entire Council to press forward my negotiations to a finality with the least possible delay. (*Hear, hear*).

These are my instructions and this I will regard as my prime duty as soon as this House rises towards the end of this week.

Sir, I can say no more on this particular issue but I hope and trust that before this House meets again the agreement will be signed and the final arrangements to get our own ships afloat will be far advanced.

I now return to the original Motion which we are debating. As I have said, Sir, I think that it has not gone far enough. What does it say? It asks us to investigate the possibility of establishing a shipping industry.

Sir, this Motion has been overtaken by events which I have just enumerated. The time for investigation is not beginning it is completed and negotiations for the signing of a firm contract have very nearly been concluded also. A national shipping line for Nigeria is no longer a mere possibility, in a few months it will be a reality; that is, real ships painted in our own colours, flying our own flags, loading and unloading in our own harbours, will be seen. I think, Sir, that the time for long talk is over; what Nigeria and this House now want is action. In this respect and on this issue I promise that the House will get very prompt action. (*Applause*).

Perhaps before I finish I should just say one or two words about some of the statements made by my hon. Friend the Mover of the Motion. He wants Nigeria to take part in the shipping industry and wants me to investigate the possibility of doing this. I agree with him and in fact I say that within the next few months results will be seen. He said that shipping monopolies suggested the formation of a shipping line to the Government. That is not so; surely this House has been calling upon the Government from year to year to start a shipping line. It is not the shipping monopolies, and I would not like such a statement to go unchallenged. I do not want anybody to steal the show from this House. If this shipping line materialises, as I hope it will materialise, the credit should go to this House.

He also said that the collier *Ajasa* was deliberately operated to favour expatriate shipping lines. I also want to say without meaning offence that this is absolutely false. The *Ajasa* is essentially a collier, that is, it carries coal but it has room for passengers, a few cabin passengers and a number of deck passengers.

Surely the Ports Authority is always anxious to get as many passengers as possible and I think that probably the charge should not be that it runs vessels empty of passengers but that it has not got enough room for passengers. If that were said I would probably have been inclined to agree.

I want to say that this is not a matter for sentiment. We are all agreed on having a Shipping Line and we want it to succeed. The Cement Company is succeeding. I conducted the negotiations and the Government took a controlling share. The fact is that in these long term investments the Nigerian is never

very keen on putting in his money: he wants quick returns. That is why the Government has to produce the money, start the industry and as soon as it starts paying the shares are sold to Nigerians so that they can profit. That is the thing we want to do in this case. This is a long term investment. A Shipping line will not pay for the next few years, and there are very few Nigerians who have idle capital to invest in a project like that. That is why the Government has to take the initiative, reluctantly. Government would be much happier if Nigerians would be able to do it themselves.

In this country, and in other fast-developing countries, the Government has to give the lead. This is not a matter of sentiment. I think that the mover of the Motion and the seconder are very reasonable people indeed and they will agree with me that I have not only announced that Government is doing what they have asked for but I am saying that Government is prepared to do much more.

I have already alluded to the case of Ghana. We know what the position is in Ghana, so, Mr Speaker, I do not want to take any more time over this Motion. Hon. Members will agree with me that the original Motion has taken us no further (in fact it has taken us backwards) than we went in September last year. It is supine and ineffective and far below the tempo of the present economic and political aspirations of Nigeria on the verge of independence. I therefore feel very confident that the amendment which I have proposed being more far-reaching, more progressive; more definite and more effective, will receive the unanimous support of all sides of this House.

Sir, I beg to move. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. M. I. Wada): I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha): Mr Speaker, Sir, I have no choice but to accept the amendment. In accepting the amendment I will say that it is true that the Motion has been overtaken by events, but the fact is that I have been tabling this Motion for the past two or three sessions without success. The Motion has not come up for debate. If it had come up, say, during the last budget session, I am sure that probably the Minister would have said otherwise. The Minister has said that he is consulting shipping companies overseas but I say

that the Minister should consult Nigerian shipping interest because I understand that there is a Nigerian shipping interest no matter how minute. He should seek the interest of Nigerians willing to participate in this enterprise.

With these few remarks I support the amendment.

Question, That the words proposed to be left out, be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That those words be there added, put and agreed to.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Resolved, That, in order to enhance the economy of this country, this House calls upon the Federal Government to establish at the earliest possible date a national shipping line in which Nigerian interests have a controlling share.

ADVISORY PLANNING COMMITTEES ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): Mr Speaker, Sir, as the Minister said, this is not a Motion which requires any talk at all much less long discussion. We all heard the views expressed by various members of the House yesterday as to the requirements of the people in the glorious rural areas for telecommunications and postal services. There is no doubt at all that the Minister in implementing his five-year plan has tried his best and has advised his experts as to what they could do for Nigeria. But we believe that the time has come when experts should assist the country after consultation with various bodies from various parts of the country.

I am certain that my friend Sarikin Bai knows more about his area than the expert advising the Minister. I am sure that the Member from Ijaw knows more about the difficulties of water transport and watercraft they need to carry mail. We are suggesting that, in accordance with the terms of the Motion, "It is desirable as a preparatory step to the second development programme to set up Advisory Planning Committees on telecommunications and postal development on a zonal basis to ensure the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the equitable and effective distribution of telecommunications and postal services throughout the Federation before the conclusion of the present Five-Year Development Programme".

We are fully aware that the Programme has been extended for two years. We know that but I think we have to start now to create different zones for the country in order to find out and set forth a scheme that covers the whole country so that one side of the country might not be developed at the expense of another side of the country. We want our country to develop together. A lot has been done in several parts of the country and in some places nothing at all has been done. We believe it is because there has not been adequate consultation with different people from different parts of the country.

I do not think that the Minister will do otherwise than accept this Motion which I am certain must commend itself to all members of this House. It does commend itself to me, that is why I am moving it. I do not want Ife Division to be so treated as to have better telecommunications than the Division of my friend the Roy Mariere.

We want development to go together and I am quite sure that after this Motion has been seconded I hope the Minister will just get up and say "I accept the Motion".

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, we will not waste many words in urging what already meets with the approval of every side of the House. What is being asked for is contained in the Motion. We all know how much money has been voted for the implementation of the first Development Programme and we know that in that Programme a good many places were missed out which ought to have been put in. No doubt, the experts probably go by the map, but it might have been an antiquated map, for some of the places mentioned in that programme are probably limited to a few hamlets where probably nobody needed any telephones. Whereas if there was such an Advisory Planning Committee set up here as the previous speaker has said, they would be better advised as to what places should be fitted out with telephones.

The example I can give is that in planning education local authorities have a hand in locating educational institutions such as schools and colleges. If it were left to the man at the head he would probably group the schools round a centre and would not know that little children would have to travel miles before they would get to their schools. Very often a

school has to be shared by two or three villages. How is the expert at the top to know which place is to be acceptable to the people of that area? And so for telephones and postal communications.

Sometime ago we were treated to a long drawn out dispute between the people of Aguata and Ajalli in the Eastern Region. The people of that area knew what place was of greater importance, but the then Minister of Communications and Aviation pontificated—"I am situating the Post Office at Aguata". Even he was saying it as though he were laying it down for all eternity, but then having laid it down he himself found that he was not eternal in the post!

You see, the fact is that local people themselves can carry the burden and then they cannot turn round and blame the Ministry for wrongly situating post offices and telecommunication services. We all of course know of certain discrepancies, or shall I say, mis-handlings, in the allocation of telephones. It is not unknown even in big cities which are well served for professional people like medical officers or private doctors having to wait for telephones while a barber or a bread maker gets his telephone simply because somebody in the Department does not like the look or the face of the officer; he thinks he is too bumptious or officious. But what has that got to do? The man is a medical man and his profession demands priority, but the baker gets it and the barber gets it probably because the barber is a gossip and the bread maker—I do not know how many loaves he sends around each time the baker turns out his loaves!

But that is beside the point, Sir. The point is that this Advisory Planning Committee is to take over from the shoulders of the Planning Authorities a load of care and a load of anxiety. Sir, we say that we should take that preparatory step now so that when the time comes it will be possible to bring to bear upon such advice as has been given your expert opinion and to tell us what is possible and what is not possible within the advice given. Sir, otherwise we should find, as the previous speaker has said, lopsided development in this country.

I would remind the House again that we want this independence to mean something to the ordinary man wherever he may be situated. He is a citizen of Nigeria. (*Applause.*)

Sometime ago, even in this present age somebody was talking about some remote part of this country where the whiteman has never been seen. Well, I do not know whether the whiteman is such a rare commodity that he must be seen. What is really meant is that there is a place so remote, so inaccessible that the whiteman who is the emblem of Western civilisation was unknown. It is a shame that such a thing could be in this country. There ought not to be a part of this country now so inaccessible either by road, rail, water or even by air that nobody would have heard about what is happening. All our boasted independence would be wrecked upon the rocks of indifference if the ordinary villager is not brought within its ambit. I think one of the ways of doing it is through the telephone communication and through postal services.

And so without further specious pleading, I am quite sure we will be willing to accede to the request of this Motion that an Advisory Planning Committee be set up to help the next stage of our Development Programme.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, may I hasten to extend my heartfelt sympathy to the mover of this Motion and in saying that I would also assure him that his destination and mine are the same, and if I disagree with him at all it is because perhaps he wants to travel by train and I want to travel by car. Otherwise, there is no difference whatsoever in the objective which both of us have in mind. Now, as I said, we are trying to achieve the same end but the method of attaining that end may be different.

The mover of this Motion and his seconder are asking the Government to set up an Advisory Planning Committee on telecommunications and postal development on a zonal basis so as to ensure the preparation of a comprehensive plan for telecommunications and postal services throughout the Federation. In the first place, I would remind hon. Members that so far as postal services are concerned, the policy of the Department is clearly laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957 which sets out clearly the principles determining the establishment of various types of post offices. This is a continuing policy and during the next five-year development period which has now been

extended by the addition of two years, the Department will automatically increase the scope of its postal services in accordance with those principles.

Telecommunications admittedly present a wider development picture. The main purpose of the current development programme is to provide Nigeria with a trunk system which is the framework on which all future development will be based. The extremely advanced V.H.F. Trunk A system and the extension of many Trunk A lines together with the establishment of a large number of new exchanges mainly in the rural areas all of which have been set up in great detail in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957 are, as hon. Members are aware, such as the funds at our disposal will run to during the current development period. I repeat that the amount provided by this House has not been unlimited, in fact, the amount has been provided to satisfy a definite range of interests within the period of five years, now extended by an additional two years, and we can hardly go beyond this provision unless of course, the House is favourably disposed to increase the vote. But whether the House has unlimited funds into which it will dip its hands will be a different matter.

The present organisation of the Posts and Telegraphs Department provides senior officers who are known as "Territorial Controllers" and who are stationed at regional headquarters, Ibadan, Kaduna, Enugu and of course in Buea in the Cameroons. These officers are in close touch with the Regional Ministries and they deal with postal and telecommunications matters, and I would explain that the responsibility for planning to a great extent, at least at the initial stage, has been delegated to these senior officers.

It is the duty of these senior officers to deal, in collaboration with the Regional as well as Local Authorities during the early stages of the planning period, with the question raised. It is to these officers that recommendations as regards the needs of the Local Authorities as well as Regional Governments would be directed. When the materials for planning are collected by the Territorial Controllers they will be submitted to the appropriate body for consideration.

Now, I said to start with, that our objective is one. The Motion seeks the zoning of the whole country, but the present arrangement we have made has satisfied the spirit of that Motion in the sense that all arrangements for the various Regional groups as well as Local Authority groups would be under the supervision, that is for planning purposes, of the Territorial Controller, who is always in touch with the Regional Authorities as far as the question of their demands is concerned.

In other words if in the Eastern Region certain Local Authorities would wish extension of either telephone facilities or postal facilities in a given area, the matter would be discussed, possibly at Local Authority level, and from that level it might come to the Regional level, and consultation would be held with the Territorial Controller who, of course, would ask all his representatives in different areas of the country.

Now, having collected the data, the Territorial Controller from the Region would bring that data together, to the top here, and of course there is an overall Advisory Committee in Lagos who would also examine these various territorial proposals for the purpose of collation and compilation. Of course, whatever we collated or compiled would not be final because it is possible that every Member would ask for telecommunications, would ask for post offices, would ask for all sorts of things, and it is not often that we think of money and of the limitations of our powers at the initial stage. It is possible that even my hon. Friend, Mr Abii, who has a very small farm near Owerri, would think that that farm should have a telecommunications connection, and the person to enjoy it would be no less than hon. Abii himself; and of course he may share it with his better half! He may think that that farm should have prior attention, but it is put to the Committee to agree or to disagree with such a demand.

Well, the point I am making is that, already, now, the spirit of this Motion is satisfied through the establishment of that system of co-operation between the Territorial Controllers and the Regional and Local Authorities. This is very much in vogue in the North, because there you have very wide and extensive areas with a lot of problems which do not exist maybe in the East as well as in the West,

where the presence of the Territorial Controller is felt much more. He gets about and he gets in touch with the people and especially with the Regional Authorities and all the requirements and demands are channelled through the Territorial Controller.

The Territorial Controller for the West is now in Ibadan and he functions in precisely the same way as the Territorial Controller in the North. If the presence of this gentleman has not been felt by hon. Members, I will furnish further particulars about his whereabouts so that before the next planning period hon. Members will be in touch with the Territorial Controller and submit to him whatever the requirements of their own areas are. He does not work as an individual, he has a team of his own advisers and whatever he says is not absolutely final because it is subject to collation and compilation at the central level. So I am assuring the House that the principle of zoning the country for the purpose of planning has been accepted, but zoning must be done with extreme care.

If the zoning is on too small a basis there will be chaos and confusion, and that is why the Government has chosen larger blocks to be regarded as a zone. Already the spirit of this Motion is being met, and if I disagree with the mover, it is not because what he has said is not acceptable to the Government, it is because what he has said has been rendered unnecessary because that has already been the policy of the Government, and of course all the points that he has made would be noted so that we may be able to pass the necessary word to the Territorial Controller and those who work with him, to be extremely vigilant and to give greater publicity to their activities so that the whole country may be well aware of the work of the Territorial Controller, especially immediately before we come to the next planning period.

If the needs of any given area are not satisfied, I do not want hon. Members to blame that on the Territorial Controller in their own areas. The Territorial Controllers submitted proposals which, if they had been accepted in their entirety, would have ensured that no single Member of this House would have had cause for complaint. But the Territorial Controllers' recommendations were broad based, they covered the entire needs of practically the whole country, but unfortunately we could not

take all these proposals in hand at one and the same time, because the resources at the disposal of the Government, financial as well as technical are extremely limited, and if during the next development programme, cases are put forward by the Territorial Controller which should receive prior attention, Members can be sure that the Government will give it all the attention that is necessary.

Finally, I would appeal to hon. Members to work in co-operation with these Territorial Controllers, and with the planning out of the Government in their areas and their Regions. If this is done, they will be able to appreciate the immensity of the work which is being done and which has to be done before the development programme is agreed upon.

So, Sir, if I disregard this Motion it is not because the intention is not a good one or that the objective is not acceptable to the Government but because we have already met this point, and I hope that with this explanation my hon. Friend will withdraw his Motion, or, if he does not withdraw, he will understand my spirit in opposing this Motion tooth and nail.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am supporting this Motion in its entirety. I say so, Sir, that I am supporting it, because I want the Minister to set up an Advisory Planning Committee for Afenmai Division. I want one in Afenmai Division because that is the only way I can be assured that there are people on that Board who will know the place. A place like Afuje deserves a Post Office. I know that a place like Ukpilla is over due for a Post Office. I also know that a place like Igarra has been clamouring for a Post Office and has been promised one for a long, long time but nothing has happened. I therefore support the Motion with the view that the Advisory Planning Committee will be set up in Afenmai Division.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I see a danger—a grave danger—in the proposal of the Minister of Communications and Aviation (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker: May I remind the House that the clapping of hands in the House is not orderly. I will also say now that I have received a message that the tape recorder is

not working, is dead, and the Reporters are working under great difficulty. Will Members therefore refrain from interrupting speeches so that the Reporters may hear what the hon. Member is saying.

Chief Onyia : The danger I envisage is that the proposal is likely to subordinate the influence of the Federal legislator to the whims and caprices of the Regional Governments and the Local Councils dominated by the opposite political parties. (*An hon. Member : How do you know ?*). I know what I am saying. You have got your views. I have my own practical experience.

Sir, the Federal legislators are responsible for the matters within the control of this House and if the power of every thing that is going to be done is transferred to the Regions then the Regions would dominate the whole show, obscure the popularity and the activities of the Federal legislators. What I do say is if at all you are going to make your proposals you should take the Federal legislators into such full confidence that their recommendations will not have to be obscured by the activities of the Regional Governments or the Local Councils. After all the Federal legislators are here telling you what they require in their own areas and what not, and when they go back they should not become subordinated to the Local Councils. They should consult their people of course. They were elected by their people. They know what is right for their people. They can take the Local Councils into confidence. As a matter of fact the Regional Governments could be brought into the picture. The legislator has his own constituency and he knows the feelings of his constituency and can take the people into confidence along with the Local Councils. But please do not subordinate the influence of the Federal legislator into the whims and caprices of the Regional legislators and the local politicians.

Mr H. M. Adaji (North Igala) : I rise, Mr Speaker, Sir, to oppose this Motion. Above all the Minister said the decision of having postal communications or telecommunications for a given area has to be decided by the inhabitants of that particular area and.... (*Interruption*).

Mr Speaker : Order, Order. The House has very soon forgotten my remarks about the interruption of speeches. The tape recorders are not working and Reporters have not the

means of checking their reports. I hope the House will give them a fair chance of taking down the hon. Member's speech.

Mr H. M. Adaji : . . . and has to be decided by the very people who will make use of the very telephones and postal services you are now asking for. It seems to me, Sir, that the argument of a Member who commented on the influence of Regional legislators over the Federal legislators is a sign that they come to this House without the mandate from their own people. If it is true they got a mandate from their own people before points are raised in this House surely the point raised by the Minister would have met their needs in that the post offices have to be located with the consent of the people. The people will sit side by side with the controllers to decide the affairs. Then they have to forward their report to the Regional Government, thence to the Federal Government. The local councils are elected bodies. If they are afraid of the Regional Government which perhaps is opposed to their political party then they only have to make themselves popular in order to capture majority seats in their Council so that their views are forwarded to the Regional Government for approval. They will not turn it down because after all the Western Regional Government has not the final say in this issue. Telecommunication comes within the duties of the Federal Government. It is the Federal Government that decides which side ought to get postal services and the Controller, which is the eye of the Federal Government, is touring everywhere and takes the advice of people. Therefore, that is enough.

Secondly, Sir, in setting up committees the hon. Member forgot entirely that money must be spent in maintaining the members of the committees, paying their travelling allowances, night allowances instead of using this money in completing post offices or connecting certain areas with telecommunications. I therefore do not agree with Mr Fani-Kayode in raising this particular point.

Furthermore, Sir, may I ask all Members of this House to support me in opposing this Motion.

Sitting suspended : 11.40 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 12 noon.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City) : Mr Speaker, Sir, much as I agree with the views expressed by the movers of the original Motion

about the needs of the various rural areas and about the need of some people that know the rural areas very well to be on a board or committee so that they may advise on how best such rural areas may be served with these facilities, I still feel, that Government has made it quite clear. I would like to bring certain things to light, also.

Quite apart from what the Minister has explained that certain channels exist before anything is executed as regards the policy of the Posts and Telegraphs, there is also an Advisory Council. The membership of this Advisory Council is composed of not only technical officers of the Posts and Telegraphs but also Members of this hon. Legislature. Now there are the Territorial Controllers, there are other officers of the various Regions attached to Posts and Telegraphs Department in those areas, quite apart from that—as I have already said—there are Members of this hon. Legislature who go there not only to listen to the views of the Government in that Advisory Council but also to carry with them the views of the House which they have heard during the debates in this hon. Legislature. At the same time these various Members can also use their experience because they are members of the public as well, and can tell these technical officers wherever they think that their policy is not practicable or will not be to the best interests of the people.

Under the circumstances, I think Government has made it quite clear and has made it abundantly possible for all the various areas to be served, and I am of the opinion that if the Native Authorities or the Native Administrators or Local Councils are to be consulted, I think ample opportunity is being given to hear the public view. After all these Native Authorities, Native Administrators or Local Councils are elected bodies, as somebody has already said, and as they are elected bodies whether they are N.P.C., N.C.N.C. or Action Group, they represent the views of the majority of the people in that area. In actual fact, whatever views they present are the views of the people in that area. Now the views of the people represented in that area will be brought forward to the Territorial Controller who will carry it, with his technical advice, to the Advisory Council and the Advisory Council—in which there are Members of this hon. Legislature—will scrutinize everything

and after scrutiny, which is most important, the whole thing has to come before this hon. Legislature and it cannot be passed without your sanction.

Under the circumstances, Sir, I beg, reluctantly and hesitantly, to oppose the original Motion and to support with all the might at my command, the remarks made by the Minister.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi): Sir, I beg to oppose the original Motion.

This House passed a Motion just about three years ago calling on the Ministry to establish Post Offices in various divisions, regional headquarters and provincial headquarters. The intention of that Motion has not been carried out by the Ministry completely and, again, we are coming here to saddle the Ministry with various projects that cannot be carried out.

Again, Sir, a Sessional Paper has been passed in this House in which was indicated the various places where Post Offices and Telecommunications services should be established; that has also not been completed, and still people are calling on the Ministry to establish Boards and Corporations that will tell the Ministry where it is going to establish Post Offices and so forth.

I want to say that if the Members of this House have confidence in the Territorial Controller, who is a Federal employee, or in the Posts and Telegraphs Board, which was established by the Ministry—in which Members of this House have very great representation—it is the duty of the House to support the Minister in his statement that this Motion should be thrown out.

Well, Sir, the only aspect of the Minister's explanation which the Members do not like is that the Minister seems to infer that the Local Government Councils are the people who are to recommend the places where Post Offices are to be established. That is not their function. All we consider is that the Territorial Controllers, who are four in number, know where these Post Offices should be established because we have a principle which stipulates the only way in which any Postal Agency can be converted into a Post Office. We all know that well enough because when a Post Office is established it will only be then that places will require postal communications such as telephones and so forth.

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Well, Sir, if we are going to establish committees, how many committees do we think are going to be adequate for the whole Federation? Are we going to establish committees in every Division? Are we going to establish committees in every Province, or are we going to establish committees only in the Regions? If you are referring to the original committees, well, I would say that the Territorial Controller and his staff are already committed with the Regions. If you are talking about Provincial Committees I think that will not satisfy the needs of individuals. What will satisfy the aspirations of people is that the Post Offices to be erected in selected areas satisfy the requirement set up by the Act passed by this House, and this requirement is that a place should be converted into a Post Office only when its turnover is 18,000 or 25,000 units and that is the only time it is possible.

I think that if the Ministry is able to give us Post Offices in those places that satisfy this requirement, we shall all be satisfied. The only problem is that the Ministry, under the present circumstances, is unable even to satisfy those requirements which have been set up in this House and which have been passed. Well, if you want so many committees to work somebody on any committee naturally will like his area to be included, even though that area does not satisfy the requirements laid down by this House.

All we know is that this House has already passed a resolution stipulating the conditions under which Post Offices should be erected, and we want the Minister to follow these very strictly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : I think we might very soon come to a decision on this Motion, as we have five more to do yet.

Question put and negatived.

UTILISATION OF VHF TELEPHONE STATIONS

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper. The Motion reads as follows:—"That, in view of the inadequacy of telephone services in the minor towns in Nigeria, this House calls upon the Government to make available for

public use the telephone service now made possible by the installation of VHF stations in several parts of Nigeria".

Mr Speaker, in moving this Motion, I have in view the fact that several sections of this House have, in the past, expressed very loud opinions about the inadequacy of telephone services in several parts of the country, and so this Motion first of all is affording Members a special opportunity to emphasize these views to the Minister.

Secondly, this Motion will afford the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation an opportunity to tell this House how far he has gone to satisfy this need that Members have been crying for.

Now, Sir, I notice that for some time past these VHF stations have been springing into existence in several parts of the country, especially along some of our trunk roads, and they can be seen occupying conspicuous positions. In my town, Ikot Ekpene, the allocation of one was completed over a year ago, but the regret of it all is that up till this day that VHF station is not in use; if it is in use it is not known to the people. I know it is officially used by top-ranking officers of the Telecommunications Department who may call there just to check up, and yet the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are retained there to keep this VHF station working.

An electric plant has been installed and people are there day and night to keep the station working, but it is not used. Alternatively, the telephone service in Ikot Ekpene is still of the single channel type operated through Uyo to Aba, and yet Ikot Ekpene is only 24 miles from Aba and Uyo is at the other end. Why, after two years, we should still go through Uyo to get Ikot Ekpene from Lagos is what this Motion seeks to know. I observe there is an amendment in connection with this Motion. When the Minister moves it we shall know what the House feels about it.

Members of this House feel very strongly that the VHF telecommunication should be mainly confined to the big towns, and we hear of 12 lines, 24 lines and 48 lines being laid from here to there and yet people in the villages know nothing about it. We are looking to the time that our District Councils should be connected by telephones. It is surprising that the Central Police Station in Ikot Ekpene which serves Enyong and Abak Divisions should have no

telecommunication service at night. And what happens if Ama Uke from Uyo murders somebody at Ikot Ekpene at night. . . .

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) : A point of order, Sir. I once again seek the protection of the Speaker against unnecessary persecution from that man there.

Mr Speaker : Mr Akpan Udo.

Mr Akpan Udo : The last speaker lives at Ibadan and not in Uyo and so knows nothing about what goes on in the Eastern Region.

Mr Speaker, during the Budget Session last year I complained to the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation that it is very unfair that Ikot Ekpene should not have a direct communication line from Aba and I was told that a direct line would be installed before the year was out ; but still, to-day, to get Aba one has to shout *Uyo ! Uyo ! Uyo !* every time. I think it is a great inconvenience to telephone subscribers. Rates have been increased and there is no reason why one should take 24 hours to get somebody at Aba while it takes only a few minutes to get somebody at Enugu. I am suggesting to the Minister that these rates should be followed by improved service. These new rates should operate in townships where improved services exist and should not be paid in the rural areas where no improvement in the service is being enjoyed.

This Motion is calling on the Minister to say why Ikot Ekpene VHF station should not be used. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr Speaker : It will be a great convenience to the Speaker if as many Members as possible, when putting down Motions, would include a second name of their seconder so that I may know whom to call. It would be a convenience, if the Mover is absent, for the seconder to move the Motion.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion. The Motion as it stands is ably moved by the Mover and I think everybody in this House is satisfied that this Motion should be carried out.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact what the Mover is trying to say is the common experience of all of us who are from the rural areas. It is no good that when you are living in a certain section of the country you would not know what is happening in other parts of the country. If telephone installations are being provided in some of the divisional sections of this country, it will be possible for us to contact one another.

I remember a certain time when there was an outbreak of disorder in my Division ; simply because there was no telephone communication the District Officer in charge boarded a launch and travelled for a day to get to Warri to telephone the Police. If there were to be a telephone, it would have been possible for this District Officer to telephone the Warri Police immediately before the situation got out of control.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this goes to support what the last Motion is trying to do in this House. The Mover of the Motion, Mr Fani-Kayode, was saying that a committee be set up in this House when the five-year plan for telecommunication is finished. The committee should study all the circumstances and decide on what towns to concentrate in providing telecommunication services. But it is a pity that the Minister was getting very much afraid that the committee would dictate to him what he has to do. I am trying to say that the committee, if it is set up, would not dictate to him but would only point out to him that these are the necessary towns that require telecommunications.

Mr Speaker, in fact we are here to seek the interests of the people in the rural areas. There was also a Motion which came up in this House and that was the first Motion about telecommunication. It was a motion moved by me to instal Departmental post offices at Bomadi and Potani in Western Ijaw, and it was unanimously supported and passed. But it is surprising to me that the Minister, while trying to formulate his policy, has forgotten Western Ijaw where I come from. I am appealing to the Minister that in his next plan to instal telecommunications, Western Ijaw should be connected.

Not only that, Sir ; I am appealing that other improvements be provided specially in that area. It is a special area and, therefore, we want things specially done in that area.

Mr Speaker, the Motion is clear, it should be supported by every section of this House. I beg to support.

Question proposed.

Mr Speaker : I must now apologise to the Minister for the fact that his Amendment, which he sent in yesterday, has not been printed. We have had it cyclostyled this morning and copies are available for Members. I hope most Members have had it. The Amendment is in order and ought to have been printed.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion.

First let me say that I am in full sympathy with the Mover's desire for improving telephone services in the minor towns and rural areas of the country, but the Motion would appear to be based on the fundamental but nonetheless common misapprehension that wherever there is a VHF radio repeater station, it is possible for telephone services to be extended from that station to the surrounding countryside. This is not necessarily so. There are many VHF stations dispersed around this country but their purpose is to convey the radio trunk telephone channels which link the main exchanges or junctions in the Nigerian telecommunication system.

The VHF system provides the main material route of the national telecommunication system and for this reason, although it is essential to the provision of telephone services in remote areas, it cannot be said to serve those areas directly. Service to such areas is provided by means of spare routes, either overhead lines or radio, which link on to the main line VHF trunk network at convenient junctions. Incidentally, this hon. House will wish to note that some 60 of such spare routes are included in the present development plan.

The House will also be interested to learn that so far the VHF scheme and complementary trunk line system has added no less than 25,000 trunk channel miles and has linked the following major centres:—Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna, Enugu, Benin, Oshogbo, Lokoja, Zaria, Kano, Jos, Port Harcourt, Onitsha and Aba.

May I state that that was responsible for a statement made by the Mover of this Motion, the absurdity of which escaped him. He said that a VHF station or a mast was completed over 18 months ago but it was not working. He then said that there were staff working in it and at the same time he said the thing was not working. I cannot conceive of a more classical example of illogicality. The point is that that must be a repeater station which is not designed for the purpose which this Motion intends. The main intention behind the hon. Member's Motion is, presumably, to urge the Government to extend telephone services to the remote

rural areas as widely and as rapidly as possible. In this connection it should be noted that in the current telecommunication development programme of the Posts and Telegraphs Department as set up in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957, the main emphasis is placed upon the development of a comprehensive and efficient trunk telephone system which is to form the foundation for the future development of the national telephone service in the present and in subsequent development programmes. Such a foundation is an essential requisite to the development of a balanced and efficient national network. It is obviously futile to link rural areas on to the network unless there is sufficient trunk channel capacity to carry on the resultant increase in traffic.

I must mention too that when the development programme was presented to this hon. House I had the honour to sit somewhere else in this House and it was my intention then, with all the information then at my disposal, that the programme did not go far enough, and the present Mover, I remember distinctly, was one of the greatest obstructionists in my path. If he had followed my line, not only would the rural areas but even the most apathetic areas would have had telephone service to-day. If I am wrong, Sir, to expand a programme of which we have all unanimously put a limitation only in 1957, then how can we stop in mid-stream to expand this programme without the necessary finance to finance it? That is the problem before us now.

Another important consideration which must be borne in mind by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs in providing services to minor towns and rural areas, is the need to earn revenue. The Department of Posts and Telegraphs is a revenue-earning Department and the normal criterion adopted when the Department is considering the provision of a new telephone service in a particular locality, is whether the service will be economical or not. Unless there are over-riding strategic, administrative or other reasons, the service is not provided unless there is a reasonable expectation that it will be viable.

Telephone service is a trading concern and I am very happy that the hon. Member sees the weight of argument in that particular respect. If there are other considerations like administrative convenience, welfare, for example, and

such like, that may be a consideration which will over-ride an absolute economy consideration, but it cannot be argued that just a remote little village of only half a dozen people, completely surrounded with water somewhere in the Western Region, should have telephone connection for no other reason than that my good friend, the hon. Mr Akpan-Udo, is resident on that island.

I trust that I have now been able to convince the hon. Member that my Ministry is doing everything possible to provide services to rural areas and minor towns and that this reference to VHF stations is based on a misconception for the functions of VHF stations. In the circumstances, perhaps the hon. Member will feel disposed to withdraw his Motion.

It does not matter by what means you enjoy telephone service; it may be through VHF, it may be UVHF, it may be by overhead line; what the people want is just to have telephone service, not necessarily through one particular medium. If it is technically impossible to get telephones by these means, you can get them by some other means, but do not let us forget one important consideration, we want efficient administration in this country.

We want to promote the welfare of the people of this country. We want to advance the industrial pace of this country. Wherever these considerations are the most important factors we will not consider at this stage economic considerations in supplying telephone services. In other respects economic considerations must loom very large as to whether any particular area would have telephone services or not.

I listened to the hon. Member, especially the seconder, linking up this Motion with the function of some advisory committee. Perhaps it is relevant at this stage for me to mention to this hon. House that already we have various committees functioning. On this committee, which is a planning committee, we have various regions and various interests represented. On the Posts and Telegraphs Advisory Committee we have, apart from the Minister of Communications and Aviation being the chairman, his Parliamentary Secretary who is a member of this House is a member, the Director of Posts and Telegraphs is a member. That is on the official side. On the technical side the Principal of the

Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology is a member. In addition to this the Territorial Controllers are also members. We draw principally from this House. We have three members representing each of the Regions of Nigeria, and they are here. So that the interest of this House and of Nigeria is already fully represented in this Advisory Planning Committee. Whether any particular village should have telephone services will be a matter which this Committee will always consider from time to time.

I feel strongly that in view of this explanation the Motion moved by my good Friend is unnecessary and perhaps, Mr Speaker, he may be inclined to accept my amendment as an alternative to his Motion, and the amendment will achieve the same and perhaps a better end than the original Motion seeks.

I therefore respectfully move the following amendment: That this House notes with satisfaction the greatly improved trunk telephone services resulting from the completion of the major part of the VHF telephone trunk network, and expresses the hope that use should be made of the increased trunk capacity to provide telephone service to the minor towns and our much beloved rural areas in Nigeria as widely and as rapidly as is compatible with the resources of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and with the need to ensure a balanced and efficient telecommunications system.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys
(Alhaji the hon. M. I. Wada): I beg to second.

Amendment proposed.

Mr H. O. Akpan-Udo (Ikot Ekpene): Mr Speaker, I would like the Minister to know that I am quite willing to accept the amendment. Of course there is no other channels to get the spirit of this Motion through. The very sorry part of it is that the Minister, in proposing his amendment, has forgotten the main point contained in my Motion which is the installation of a direct line from Ikot Ekpene to Aba. I did not suggest in my speech that VHF should be used to supply telephone service to the rural areas. I want the Minister to say why Ikot Ekpene should not be supplied direct from . . .

Mr Speaker : That is not in the Motion and I would not allow the Minister to reply to it.

Mr Akpan-Udo : I accept the amendment, Mr Speaker.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) : Mr Speaker, I rise to support the amendment and to thank the Minister for having taken much time to explain matters to the Mover of the original Motion. I do not intend to speak with bitterness, but I am going to say this much, that the Minister has kindly cleared the air and I am sure the Mover of the original Motion has realised the ignorance in which he has always been wallowing and waxing. His only intention for the Motion was based upon his objection to having anything to do with Uyo, so in order to make a barbarous area rise up he must pull down a civilised area.

The amendment is quite in order and I am not surprised that the man who has been attending meetings of this House since 1955 should be so ignorant to come to this House with a Motion which has just received the amendment of the Minister. I beg to support the amendment.

Question, that the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, that those words be there added, put and agreed to.

Question, as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House notes with satisfaction the greatly improved trunk telephone services resulting from the completion of the major part of the VHF telephone trunk network, and expresses the hope that use should be made of the increased trunk capacity to provide telephone service to the minor towns and rural areas in Nigeria as widely and as rapidly as is compatible with the resources of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and with the need to ensure a balanced and efficient telecommunications system.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper, that, in view of the fact that more development is required in the rural and urban areas in this country, this House calls on the Government to investigate the possibility of supplying electricity from the

major electric power plants, such as those at Ijora and Oji River, to the important nearby rural and urban stations or towns, including those which lie on the route through which electricity is supplied from the power plants to the large commercial and industrial towns.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Motion is self-explanatory and is the wish of the people of this country. I appeal to the Government and to all sides of the House to give it full support. It is the wish of each and every one of us in this House that development should be extended to the people in the rural areas. We do not call on the Government to go to the rural areas with hoes and matchets to till the ground and clear the bush but to extend such things as electricity. Surely this is really a democratic Government, as we know it is, for the people and by the people. I do not see why the Government should not accept a Motion like this.

The Motion is a simple one and has very good intentions. It does not put the Government into difficult position. It does not ask the Government to start now to extend electricity supply to the people in the rural areas. The Motion gives the Government chance to make preparations for the extension of electricity.

As the Mover of the Motion, Sir, I am aware that there are many implications and problems which the Electricity Corporation must consider before extending electricity from the major power plants to the nearby towns and stations. Firstly, Sir, the extension must be economic; there must be every assurance that the Corporation would be able to recover the cost of extension from the rent being collected from the users. Secondly, there should be ready money for the construction, that is capital for the work. I am also aware, Sir, that huge capital is involved, but so far as we must prepare ourselves for independence in 1960 we do not want to be independent in darkness but in light. If the E.C.N. has no money, I should advise them to appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to give them money either by grant or by loan.

Mr Speaker, Sir, major electric power plants such as those at Oji river and Ijora are meant to provide electricity to the big commercial and industrial towns like Lagos, Ibadan, Enugu, Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Aba, and such important projects as the Nkalagu cement

industry. The Motion comes to remind the Government that smaller towns and stations along the route where the power passes should be considered to get electricity which is very important for local industrial, domestic and commercial development.

Mr Speaker, I beg leave to quote some of the instances and some important stations that the Government should try to supply with electricity. Take the power plant at Oji river, Sir. There are nearby towns at Udi, Awka, Awgu, Nsukka, Abakaliki and the rest of it, including Orlu. Mr Speaker, I would seize this opportunity to point out that Oji River power station is just a few miles from Awgu township and it is also built on the land of Awgu people. Awgu is just a rural small district with a population bigger than its size. In Awgu, Sir, the people have developed the place highly by their own efforts. Everbody from the Eastern Region here will bear with me that Awgu is just a show window of community development in the Eastern Region. The people are very much desirous of getting electricity and I feel it will be most economical if the Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power will simply give the people electricity. It is only 18 miles by bush electric route.

Mr Speaker, Awgu has been placed in a commercial centre by its geographical position that the shortest possible route, Enugu and Port Harcourt now *via* Awgu, is one of the most developed in the Eastern Region. From Enugu to Port Harcourt *via* Awgu is 108 miles as against 220 miles *via* Onitsha, and it avoids the rigours of the Miliken Hill. It provides the shortest possible first-class route from Enugu to Aba, Umuahia, Oron, Eket, Owerri, etc.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I said that electricity should be supplied to some important and urban areas. Take for instance Nsukka. Nsukka has been chosen as the place where the Eastern Regional Government is going to build a University of Nigeria and it is very very important that electricity be extended to that town.

Mr Speaker, let us ask ourselves on what does the economy of this country rest? It rests solely on industries and without electricity there can be no industry. Electricity is the live wire to any successful industry. Some time ago, I tabled a Motion in this hon. House

urging the Government to encourage national factories for clay industry. Just six miles from Oji river, at Inyi in Awgu Division, we have pottery industry. Such industry should be improved by means of electricity. We have also in Awgu Division corn and mill grinding industry. I feel, Sir, that it is not asking the Government too much to extend electricity from Oji River power plant to Awgu Division.

Mr Speaker, coming to the Ijora power station, this has been built here in Lagos but I feel that such a power plant should supply power to some nearby towns and some towns in the Western Region. It is big and I want it to be expanded further. In a place like Ikorodu, I saw in the house of hon. T. O. S. Benson, a private electric plant working there two days ago. Such private plant should not be there if electricity is supplied from Ijora.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the use of electricity is very vital throughout the whole Federation, but the Government should not be put into difficulty by being asked to agree to the development without preparation. The development should go step by step. Electricity makes life easier and more abundant. It gives the people the pleasure to enjoy their light as though it were not night. It gives bachelors the time to ease themselves; they return from duty, they simply switch on their stoves and have less difficulty after their job. So it is what everybody in this country wants, Mr Speaker, and I beg to move.

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi): Sir, in supporting this Motion I am not losing sight of the fact that the Government has already taken steps to implement some of the wishes of the Mover of this Motion. A glance through the statement made by the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power during the last meeting of the House will show that the Minister has earmarked several towns that will enjoy electricity, and some of these towns are located in the Eastern Region, some in the Western Region, some in the North and some, of course, in the Southern Cameroons. Well, Sir, the power station at Oji river is supposed to supply electricity to Awka because there is a line already established between Oji river and Onitsha. The one at Oji is the one supposed to give electricity to Udi, which is between Enugu and Oji river, and by special

arrangements it is proposed to give Owerri a plant which is bought from Shell BP, and also to Awgu itself, Okigwi and Umuahia on one direct route.

The intention of this Motion is to ask the Minister to include more towns in the number already listed. The Mover is aware of the fact that about 13 towns are to get electricity in the west, about six in the Eastern Region and about eight in the north, but he feels that more towns that lie along the route of the power stations should be included. (*An hon. Member: And what do you think about that?*) My view is that all the towns along the route connected by the power stations which are small urban or rural towns that can pay for it should be given electricity.

We are not going to lose sight of the fact that money must be paid for installing these services. As somebody said, electricity is a social service and must be paid for. We quite agree, but the point is that the intention of the Motion is to ask the Minister to work in co-operation with the Regional Governments and Local Government Councils to provide electricity to the towns that do need it.

With that in view we are aware that the Federal Government will not be able to provide all the necessary funds required for the installation, but if there is good co-operation between the Regional Governments and the Federal Government as well as the Local Authorities that are prepared to help in finding part of the money required for these installations, it would be easy for the Corporation to work in such a way as to enhance its prestige in the right areas.

Quite recently the Minister expressed the view that unless the E.C.N. is able to sell at least 500,000 units of power, it would not be economical to give every nook and corner in this Federation electricity. Well, the intention of this Motion is to expand electricity in such a way that the E.C.N. would be able to sell at least 500,000 units of electricity, or more, with a view to making the service pay for itself.

With these few remarks, I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed :

Mr Speaker : May I say an amendment was received this morning which is too late. Under

Standing Order 19 (4) (b) it is necessary for one day's notice to be given of an amendment.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a pity that the hon. Member, Mr Chukwu, was not available in the House when I informed the House of the proposal for the extension of the electricity supply in the country.

As I told the House, both the Northern and Western Region Governments have provided capital by way of loans to the E.C.N. to establish more undertakings in their respective Regions. The Eastern Region Government are giving the matter deep consideration, and I hope before long they will follow suit by entering into negotiations with E.C.N. for the extension of electricity supply in the Eastern Region.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has made particular reference to the question of the extension of supply by transmission line. The Government will not oppose the Motion because it is the policy which the E.C.N. is now pursuing. It is not, however, possible, in all cases, since for technical reasons regard must be had to the most practicable voltage for transmission. Ede power station is a good example. It feeds four towns and if enlarged it would be able to supply more towns.

With regard to Ijora 'B' Power Station, and the Oji River Power Station, it is possible to supply small quantities of power at 1100 volts to towns and villages within a radius of 15 to 20 miles, although in the case of Oji River it will be more costly. For instance, in the case of Ijora 'B' Power Station, the House is aware that the Western Regional Government has provided capital of £275,000 to supply Ikorodu, Shagamu and Ijebu-Ode, and in order also to feed the villages between Shagamu and Ijebu-Ode there is now being erected a 33,000 voltage transmission line from Shagamu to Ijebu-Ode and the power is being tapped *en route* to supply the villages of Ikenne, Ilishan, Oko-Owa and Odogbolu. This has been possible because that has been the arrangement from the start and therefore the voltage of the transmission line which is 33,000 is to suit this policy. I am sure the House will wish to

know that this work is almost complete, and the ceremony of commissioning these new undertakings will take place at the end of December this year. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr Speaker, Sir, in respect of the Oji River scheme, the intention was to connect Onitsha direct from Oji River power station. Because of the absence of any sizeable town in between to justify the tapping of power and the long distances involved, a much higher transmission line has been used—66,000 volts—and therefore it would be costly to tap. It will need a more elaborate transformer arrangement to scale down power of such high voltage before it would be suitable for domestic purposes. Awka and Udi are the only towns along the route which might be supplied by this system, and it would be too costly.

Take Awka, for example. The cost of transformers and other equipment such as the power transmission line would be £6,000. The distribution costs would be about £40,000. The running costs, assuming this capital is an outright grant or interest free loan, is £7,700 and the estimated revenue at the standard tariff is £6,300. It will be seen therefore that in fact there will be an operational loss of £1,400 per annum initially, although there is a transmission line relatively close to the town.

The Federal Government has laid down the policy that quite apart from the existing amenity undertakings it will no longer be responsible for further subsidies, although it will be willing to provide capital by way of loans to E.C.N. providing funds are available.

Sir, the most effective way of providing future amenity undertakings is through the policy which the Regional Governments are now pursuing.

Hon. Members will appreciate that every effort is being made to supply as many towns as possible with electricity, but it will be some time before our desire, which is to see the whole of the country electrified, is carried out.

In this connection, Sir, efforts are being made to investigate the cheaper sources of electricity supply by damming off some rivers.

Mr Speaker : It is one o'clock. Sitting suspended under the Standing Orders until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.10 p.m.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Northern Regional Government, in partnership with the E.C.N., has engaged the services of a firm of Consultants, Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners to survey the Shiroro Gorge of the Kaduna River as a source of hydro-electric power. If found to be feasible it will be able to supply many parts, if not the whole of the Northern Region. (*Hear, hear.*)

The Federal Government, in partnership with the E.C.N., are also contemplating the examination of a possible hydro-electric scheme on the River Niger which, if it is found to be feasible, will supply many parts of the Northern Region and the whole of the Western Region. In addition there are also some natural falls in the Southern Cameroons which are worth examining when time and funds permit.

Sir, when these schemes materialise, which I am confident will be the case, supplies of electricity will be increased greatly, and at a reduced cost so as to make it possible for everybody in Nigeria to enjoy this amenity. (*Hear, hear.*)

I would also appeal to hon. Members to educate the public on what is involved in the question of electricity. It is, Sir, an amenity which people cannot enjoy free of charge. It is an amenity which people, if they require it, will have to be prepared to pay for. Sir, if this co-operation is forthcoming I can assure the House that all Governments in the Federation of Nigeria will do all that lies in their power to see that everybody in this country enjoys electricity in future.

Sir, Mr Chukwu, when moving his Motion, emphasized the need for electricity supply for the purposes of industrialisation. I agree with him entirely. Electricity is one of the prime necessities of industrialisation, without which progress in the modern world would be limited, and practically all the luxuries which are now entirely dependent upon it would just not exist. Before its application to luxurious purposes can be practicable there must be an abundant supply of cheap electricity. An abundant supply of cheap electricity is only possible where the following conditions are obtainable.

(a) Heavy Industries, which consume vast quantities of electricity and therefore pay the bulk of the cost of providing and running the electricity undertaking. The domestic power supply automatically becomes a by-product.

(b) An abundance of cheap source of power such as hydro-electric undertaking. The investigation of it, I have just told the House, is being undertaken by the Federal Government and other Governments in the Federation very vigorously.

(c) A very large national income derivable from the exploitation of valuable minerals like oil and diamonds, and from which it is possible to afford a country-wide electrification in response to the demand of industry.

(d) A high average income among the residents of any particular place which would justify a high standard of living.

Well, Sir, these are the points which I would like hon. Members to bear in mind whenever the question of electricity is raised in this House. It is very easy for any Member to demand electricity to be supplied in his own area simply because he wants his house to be connected, but when this amenity is provided it is very often found that the people in the area cannot afford to pay.

Sir, I hope this explanation will satisfy Mr D. N. Chukwu, and that he will appreciate that we are not sitting idly; the Governments in the whole of the Federation are doing everything possible to see that electricity supply is widely distributed as soon as funds and everything connected with it are possible.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, we are all of us much beholden to the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, for the painstaking way in which he has explained to us the scheme and the ventures that Government are embarking upon, but the hon. the Mover of this Motion, I think, has in mind that the existing power stations at Ijora and Oji River could be put to fuller use. As a matter of fact, if one remembers rightly, it was said that the Ijora Power Station is capable of being a much greater source of power than it really is now.

One would have expected to hear how much power could that Ijora power station give out and what areas it is possible to light if it is working to full capacity. Of course, one could not help remembering there was a time when in Lagos, with the power station at Ijora there reaching half-way to the skies, yet there were power cuts in Lagos, and one begins to fear

whether the £4 million or thereabouts spent on that power station has been put to the fullest use. If it is working to full capacity, Mr Minister, we would like to know what areas could be lighted. And if those areas are capable of paying for the amenity, whether the Government would be prepared to consider them.

We have heard how Regional Governments are helping in giving loans so that the jobs could be undertaken, but, of course, if our power stations are not good enough, it means that we shall have to wait until these schemes that have been outlined to us have come into operation. I think it is true that many people demand amenities without knowing that they cost a lot. Until the scheme is put before them, until they know what it is going to cost them, it may be that some people are over-optimistic as to the ability of the Federal Government or the other Governments to provide amenities to their people.

I feel that we can take our example from something that happened in a part of the Federation, where people asked for certain amenities and when it came to paying for them people rose up in arms. Well, it would be the duty of those of us who ask for these amenities for our areas to be supplied with full information as to how cheaply our present power could supply us with electricity over what wide area, so that we could prosecute very vigorously the job of asking our people to be prepared to pay for these amenities.

It is true, Sir, that the Ijora Power Station and the Oji River Power Station can supply, may supply power to Ijebu and perhaps to Ibadan (*An hon. Member: To Ilorin!*) That is one of the things we would like to know, Sir, if it could supply up to Ilorin. It means that the earlier it is done the better, because if it is not we are paying for that power station right now and it means that only few people are enjoying the amenities and they are paying more for it.

I think it is a case which the more the people buying, the cheaper it becomes. If that is so, Sir, we would urge it upon the Minister of Land, Mines and Power to see to it that these power stations are put to the fullest possible use. I do not think anybody will dispute the fact that we want cheaper sources of power in this country, but I think that until we are able to spread it to cover a greater area and a greater number of people, it will continue to be very costly indeed.

We remember when electricity was supplied to some parts of the Western Region by the Corporation it did not cost as much as it is doing now, and then the electricity Corporation was not paying its way, and then they stepped it up. What we are saying is that we would like our electricity concerns to pay their way, but at the same time we would like them to do it in such a way that a greater number could enjoy it and thereby reduce the cost of operation. Maybe my economics are wrong in this direction, but I think the more of us who share in these amenities the better for us in the way of cheaper electricity.

It is in this sense that I would support the Motion that towns along the lines that these power stations can supply should as soon as possible be brought into connection with it.

Chief J. S. Olayeye (Okitipupa): Mr Speaker, Sir, since the power station at Ijora here could supply light to people as far as Horin, I see no difficulty why people in Okitipupa Division should not be supplied with electricity. Okitipupa is only 140 miles to Lagos through the Ijebu-Benin Road. I remember speaking to some member of the Ministry the other day and he said that Okitipupa is very remote, and therefore there is no possibility of extending electricity to Okitipupa. I argued for a long time with him, but I did not convince him. It is wise that every rural area is given the supply of electricity and, as such, I put it to the Minister that he should think very seriously about supplying electricity to Okitipupa.

During the last session of this House he mentioned many places in Ondo Province, but he did not mention Okitipupa. Now, from Ilesha to Akure is about 52 miles. In a similar way the distance between Ondo and Okitipupa is 52 miles. Since electricity could be extended from Ilesha to Akure, which is 52 miles, in the same way could Okitipupa be given such an enjoyment. So I hope the Minister concerned will erase such a thing from his mind and see to it that people in our area are given electricity.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Motion I would like to speak on the question of extension of services from the Oji River Power Plant. We have heard read out to the House during the last sitting a list of places to which electricity supply would be extended in the very near future, and taking them as the

names were given one had expected, or would think that the services there might have some connection with Oji River Power Plant.

Now, among the names mentioned were Okigwi, Umuahia, Awka, Owerri, and I was disappointed to note that Orlu was not mentioned. Mr Speaker, Orlu station is about 18 miles from Okigwi, and about 12 miles from Owerri, 30 miles from Awka and about 30 miles from Umuahia, and is almost on the same direct route from Oji River. As a matter of fact, if one is coming from Oji River to Okigwi, I see no reason why a facility that would touch Okigwi Station could not touch Orlu Station, and I might add, Sir, that Orlu Station is in no way of less importance than any of the places listed. In population it is very comparable, in commercial activity, certainly there is a lot of it, and it also had a number of educational institutions which would make very efficient use of the facilities; and it also has hospitals. These hospitals are very nearby and could benefit from the services, and as was being said earlier on, the more subscribers that we have, the cheaper the electricity.

I would very respectfully protest on behalf of my division that it should be seriously considered and as, the hon. Minister in his usual way has given very great thought to all these matters so far, I am kindly asking him to review the matter and see how Orlu could be brought into the picture. We are seriously concerned about this matter, and we do hope that as Members have very vehemently demanded that the extension of electricity to their divisions should be completed between now and independence, we expect the same to be extended to us. I am fully aware of the fact that it was the intention at one time to enquire into the demand potentialities, and I hope that the enquiry has already been carried out and that matters will be speeded up without any further delay.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr C. C. Mojekwu (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, Sir, looking through again at the Report of the Electricity Corporation published for the year ended 31st March, 1958, and considering the importance in respect of industry in the consumption of electricity, I notice, Sir, with regret that there are only about 27 towns in the whole of the Federation of Nigeria that have any supply of electricity.

Now, Sir, page 46 of this Report reveals that in 1955-56 168 million units were generated and purchased in this country. Out of these 42 per cent were used in industry. In 1956-57 201 million units were also generated and purchased. Out of these 39.7 per cent were used in industry. In 1957-58 246 million units were generated and purchased. Out of these 42.5 per cent was again used for industry.

The point I want to make is this, that it seems to me that the Electricity Corporation has been increasing its output but the rate of increase for use in industrial undertakings has not been increasing proportionately. It was 42 per cent in 1955-56 and again only 42.5 per cent in 1957-58. Now what accounts for this? I would like to give an example.

In Onitsha, where I come from, there has been a great demand by people with local industries for electricity to be given to them, but we haven't got enough, and yet here is a potential place where people want to use the Oji River plant. This has been constructed and we were told it could supply as much as we required and yet here are undertakings for industrial purposes and the Electricity Corporation seems to be incapable of supplying the ordinary needs of the little industrial people in certain localities.

Sir, in places like Awka, Okigwi and, to humour my friend, Orlu there is some industrial potentiality. Particularly at Awka and Okigwi, because there are minor industries developing in those areas, and I wonder whether, in fact, the Electricity Corporation has taken a serious view of investigating the industrial potentialities and the number of units required in these places, and to see whether it is really in the interests of the Federation that these places should be supplied. For instance, Awka, I know, has already been investigated, and the hon. Minister has already stated this, but, like other Members who were complaining, these investigations are merely made in the offices of the Administrating Officers and the people who really know the needs of the people are never either consulted or invited to the investigation. What happens is that somebody passes along the road, looks around and sees only a few houses. What and where is the industry here?—not much—and that is the answer.

We know there are quite a number of people who want to set up industries in these areas,

and they haven't got the facilities. If a proper investigation could be made and the potentialities checked upon, then the Minister would be satisfying the needs of the people in the countryside and it may mean increasing the revenue of the Regions.

I think that 42 per cent of the total output of electricity consumed by industry is far too small. I would like to see about 60 per cent of our production being consumed in industry. Places like Onitsha and Enugu, where, in fact, there exists, presently, a demand for industrialists to use electricity, but they haven't got this coming to them.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That, in view of the fact that more development is required in the rural and urban areas in this country, this House calls on the Government to investigate the possibility of supplying electricity from the major electric power plants, such as those at Ijora and Oji River, to the important nearby rural and urban stations or towns, including those which lie on the route through which electricity is supplied from the power plants to the large commercial and industrial towns.

IMPROVEMENT OF IBADAN-BENIN TRUNK ROAD

Mr C. O. Komolafe (Ilesha): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the Motion on the Order Paper. This Motion reads: "That, in view of the dangerous condition of that portion of the trunk road 'A' which stretches from Ibadan to Benin, this House calls on the Government to undertake without delay the complete resurfacing of that part of the road."

For the benefit of hon. Members who generally do not pass that way to their homes while coming from Lagos, I shall make a brief description of that road.

This portion of the road stretching from Ibadan is part of the trunk road 'A'. In fact, it is the actual road that connects the Eastern Region with the West, and the road passes through the Cocoa belts and the Timber belts of the Western Region. The amount of traffic that passes along this road justifies the prompt attention of the Government to this road. Anybody passing along this road, apart from the fact that it was constructed quite a long time ago, is winding and has bumps going up and down. The kind of tarring that was done on the road some time ago when it was tarred is

such a narrow strip of metal, say, about 6½ or 7½ feet wide, leaving a broad bit on either side of the road full of sand and laterite.

It is a fact, Sir, that even the condition of that portion of the road that is tarred leaves much to be desired. After last year's heavy rain that fell, anybody passing along this road is subjected to all sorts of bad conditions in his car, bumping and all sorts of things. The number of accidents that happen on this road also require that it is time the Government did something about it.

When I made the investigation I was told that it is the policy of the Federal Government to sort of use the Public Works Departments of the Regional Governments in looking after roads which pass through regional areas. I also discovered these Public Works Departments of the Regions have perhaps too much to control and that they have much work on their hands, so that if the Federal Government finds out that the Public Works Departments of the Regions will not be able to cope with situations of this kind, I think it is time the Minister of Works inaugurated a scheme whereby these roads could be given to certain contractors, like Oni and Son, road contractors that are known for doing very good work on roads.

There is a road stretching from Oshogbo to Ilesha which was done about 12 or 15 years ago by a contractor. The same contractor tarred the road from Ede to Oshogbo to Ife. If you go along this road, you will see it looks like velvet carpet. It is so smooth that when motoring on it it appears as if you are going on London roads. I am sure the Minister of works will agree with me because some time ago he passed over that road and I am sure the Prime Minister passed through that road himself.

We should consider the small cars and not the big cars with shock absorbers. We should also consider the economic advantage of this road, especially to people of the Southern regions. Those coming from the East have to pass through this road; the bulk of the cocoa produce from the Western Region—Ilesha and Ondo—passes through this road to Lagos and also from Benin areas. Because of the bulk of the Yoruba people living that way who are petty traders passing up and down every day, something should be done quickly. We should consider the kind of traffic that uses this road up and down day and night, especially

during the cocoa season beginning from October to, say, March. If you happen to pass on that road in the night you will be surprised at the rate at which you come across lorries and trucks carrying produce and heavy logs. If there is a road that contributes so much to the economic welfare of this country, I think it is right that the Government should do something to put that road in good condition.

Besides, independence is knocking at our door. We may have very important visitors into this country. I am sure the Government of the Federation is thinking of tourist industry. You would not expect visitors from America or Canada or Great Britain to stop in Lagos. You will want them to go to Ibadan, to Ife to see the ancient museum; to Ilesha to see the ancient palace of the Owa, and also to other places. They have to pass over this road.

It was rumoured that at the time Her Majesty the Queen wanted to visit Ife during her visit to Nigeria, she was advised to put off that visit till another time, and the motive behind such advice was because of the condition of this road, especially between Ibadan and Benin. I am not saying this for the sake of exaggeration. I want the Minister to please visit this road as soon as possible and he will be able to understand what I am talking about this road. I feel that it will do us a world of good if the Minister of Works and Surveys could employ one of these Italian contractors to tar this road. The P.W.D. only do patching work on it.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to second this Motion. I remember some time last year during the Budget meeting, I drew the attention of the Minister to the condition of this road, and I am very happy that the hon. Mover has been able to put the condition of this road before the Minister. The Minister will not deny that the condition of that road is bad, especially between mile 13 and mile 29 within Ibadan Division. Several times people pass through it; small cars like my own (not big cars like that of the Minister) which do not have shock absorbers, ply that at great risk. I had to lose some of the springs of my car when I went to tour my constituency. The Minister will agree with me that there was a time when I saw the P.W.D. men dropping their materials there and I thought they were going to work there, but up till this time they have not done anything.

That road is one of the oldest roads that connect the Eastern Region with the Western Region through Asaba to Lagos. Members on this side of the House will agree with me that they have to testify to the condition of this road.

I think this Motion is good. We are not asking you to construct a new road but to repair the one you have already constructed. I know the Minister is actually working very hard and I hope he will take this our Motion into serious consideration.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. M. Inuwa Wada): Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to borrow from my hon. Friend Chief Akintola and say I am in complete and whole sympathy with both the Mover and the Seconder of the Motion. Mr Speaker, this road is very well known to me but I am afraid the Mover has painted the condition of the road so badly that one would think the road is completely impassable.

It is true, Sir, that the rains of last year did a great deal of damage to this road. It is also true that last year an arrangement was reached between the Federal Government and the Western Regional Government for the work on this particular section of the road to be undertaken by the Western Public Works Department. The Mover wants the Federal Government to do away with the services of the Regional Governments. Well, he may mean what he says simply because he does not understand the complications.

I want briefly, Sir, to tell hon. Members how the workings of trunk roads 'A' are carried out in Nigeria. We try to use the Regional Public Works Department as much as possible because of reasons well-known to Members. Both the Federal Government and the Regional Governments have economic development programmes to carry out, so it is only fair for the Government in the Federation to use the available staff in the most economical way possible. Besides, some Members seem to forget that a road may be called Trunk A, Trunk B or anything, but that road is a Nigerian road, that road belongs to the Federal Government as much as it belongs to the Regional Government; in fact the people who use the road are Nigerians.

So don't think that the Regional Governments are not as anxious to keep these roads in as good condition as we are here. Any road work or any other work of construction does not relieve the Public Works Department of its responsibilities. A contractor, like any other businessman, wants to make a profit and he wants to make as much profit as he can, so if you give him some work to do you must supervise it. If you do not supervise him he may do one of many things. Either he may do the work not to the specification given or he may use inferior materials. So on any road work we give, the Federal Government or the Regional Government on any major engineering work given to a contractor, must have an Engineer to check him to see that he is doing the work as originally conceived and that he is also using materials which are the best for that particular kind of work. That is why before you give him the work you must tell him precisely what to do.

If it is a road you must tell him how far he has to carry the road, what bridges are to be constructed, how they are to be constructed, how he will make the culverts, etc. All this involves a great deal of work before you actually give out the contract. This is what the Engineers call surveying and preparation of contract documents. After the heavy rains of last year and the great damage caused by them, as I said earlier, the Regional Government of the West agreed to survey this road and to do the work by direct labour on our behalf.

It is common knowledge that after the introduction of self-government in the West, many expatriate officers left that Region. It was not the fault of the Region that the work was not done; it was because they were very short of staff and, as a result, were unable to do the work. But now I am glad to report to hon. Members that the survey has been completed and the contract documents are now being prepared in the office of the Federal Public Works Department. So, Mr Speaker, I want to assure the hon. Member that we are doing all in our power to make this road what we all would like it to be.

The Mover, Sir, wants the Federal Government to resurface the whole of the stretch from Ibadan to Benin. Here I am afraid I must disagree with him. There are two sections of the road which are really bad; Mr Adeyinka mentioned one of them from

mile 3 from Ibadan to mile 23, that section was certainly greatly damaged and the road has deteriorated a great deal. We hope this section will go out to contract very early next year and we hope to spend a sum of £250,000 on it. The other section, Sir, is from Ifon to Benin, that is where some of the bridges were over-topped and at least one of them was broken. After that time I am sure Chief Onyia will agree with me that the Provincial Engineer put in some emergency repair work and since then he has been doing some work to bring the road back to what it originally was. We gave him altogether £7,500 to repair that particular section of the road.

I am mentioning the amount of money, Mr Speaker, to show to hon. Members that road work is not as easy as some of us think it is. We are now finding that it is costing us more and more to construct new roads and to maintain them, as a result of what the Mover himself has said—the heavy traffic using the road, the heavy logs of timber being carried on these roads. The amount of money that could construct 10 miles of road 10 years ago can only construct 2 miles now because we must construct the roads with a stronger foundation, use stronger materials for the whole work.

Without going very far, Sir, I see that I have already won the sympathy of the Mover and the Seconder and I am sure he will agree that the Government is fully aware of this and I will, therefore, respectfully ask him to withdraw the Motion.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): I do not know, Sir, why they haven't got eyes on *that* side of the House. In fact, Sir, I sincerely believe that there must be a conspiracy between the hon. the Minister of Works and car salesmen in this country. We give away so much money to U.T.C. in buying spare parts as a result of travelling over these roads that I wonder whether he is a shareholder in U.T.C. or in some of the car firms. On the other hand, there might be a conspiracy against me because I have to go from Ife very often and believe me it is a question of finding not so much the holes in the roads but trying to look for the roads in the holes. To say that the roads are bad only between mile 23 means that the Minister has not been there for a very long time. From mile 3 to 55 it is like driving through hell;

I have not been there but if driving through hell is bad it cannot be worse than driving to Ife from Lagos.

I notice that the Minister did not answer my allegation about the Queen's visit. The whole of the people of Ife Division were very much disappointed because the Queen could not visit Ife because of bad roads. This was responsible for depriving us of the Queen coming to Ife and if she had come through, possibly she might have got to Onitsha and possibly to Benin to see the beautiful works there. I am asking the Minister not to give us sympathy but to repair these roads instead of pushing the responsibility upon the Regional Governments and telling us here that the Regional Government should do it. We know you have got to appoint agents but you are responsible to us here. We do not want to know how you do it, we want results.

You can tell us it is taking a long time because expatriates have resigned when we told you to make skeleton plans for these expatriates going away and you opposed the idea. Now you cannot make roads because you had not the foresight to know that these people would be disappearing from the face of Nigeria once we had got self-government. That is lack of foresight and I think it is no excuse at all to give us here.

I believe the Minister will look more into this matter at least to make sure that the road between Benin and Lagos is so well tarred that we can all be safe and sound in going to and from Benin.

Mallam Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, I can understand the embarrassment of hon. Members in this Legislature and certainly I know what it is for a growing country like Nigeria with its present state of economic development to remain without good roads. I do know that in order that the economic development of any country may be successful roads have to be built in the various nooks and corners of the country. I know the Minister of Works has a very big task and I know he has been gifted with something that has enabled him to carry on this task successfully. It is the very patience that has enabled him to hear the criticisms of Mr Fani-Kayode, founded and unfounded.

Talking about roads reminds me of the very bad roads in the North. I do not grudge that Benin-Lagos road should be repaired. I am all for it. But, what is good for Benin is good also for the one main road linking Southern Nigeria and Northern Nigeria, and I am certain that hon. Members in this Legislature know that as far as economic development is concerned Nigeria should be treated as one economic entity for economic development of Nigeria cannot and should not be carried out in watertight compartments. Those parts of the road needing repairs should be repaired as far as possible in order to give the Minister a chance to turn his attention to the very bad roads in the North.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Very briefly, Sir, there is one thing that I think ought to be added. When the Minister is giving out this contract for resurfacing some of the bad patches I hope he will give attention, too, to cutting down some of the menacing huge trees which ever so much block the roads. There are cases of trucks from all over the country lying down for days with perishable goods in them—not to talk of passengers—just because a log has fallen across the road and is blocking it altogether.

Not so long ago, some time this year, a log fell across the road and the most annoying part of it was that about twelve hours after the log had fallen down the P.W.D. staff were not on the scene. In fact passengers and travellers had been working and employing farmers with crude instruments to cut the logs. It was a long time before these P.W.D. men came on the scene just to see what log it was so that they could go back to the P.W.D. and get the materials, much to the annoyance of the people who had been waiting in acute discomfort since the night before.

These trees may be beautiful and picturesque but they are menacing and lives are known to be lost. I cannot fail to call to mind the late Onwenu. He spoke about this thing in this Legislature here and I think he was forecasting his own fate. He died by crashing into one of these trees by the roadside. When you are resurfacing these roads kindly remove some of the trees that overshadow these roads.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin): I would like to say that when the Minister of Works is criticised it means that his Ministry is the most important among the Ministries and

the Minister should be proud of this. Without roads no other Ministry could function. It is not only this particular road that is very appalling and needs much improvement but other roads within the Federation of Nigeria which are still an eyesore. I must confess there are improvements compared with what the roads were in the previous years. It shows that the Minister is trying to respond to the call of the people of this country to make the roads what they should be. Sir, I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, that in view of the dangerous condition of that portion of the trunk road A which stretches from Ibadan to Benin, this House calls on the Government to undertake without delay the complete resurfacing of that part of the road.

INSTRUCTION IN THE THREE MAIN NIGERIAN LANGUAGES

Mr L. L. Lakunle (Oyo North): Mr Speaker, I rise to move the motion standing in my name, That this House calls upon the Government to make the study of the three main languages of Nigeria, namely Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba, compulsory in Classes I to III in Secondary Schools in the Federal Territory.

Sir, I am quite aware of the many subjects which the students must study, and very seriously too, before they can pass the West African School Certificate Examination. It is not my intention to add to their already heavy burden. The purpose of this Motion is to enable our boys and girls in Secondary Schools to have elementary knowledge of the three main languages of Nigeria. This explains why the languages should be taught only in Classes I to III.

The students will therefore be able to concentrate on their examination subjects during the last three years in the school. If an Hausa student is so interested in the Ibo or the Yoruba language and *vice versa* that he can study it to the extent of offering it as one of his subjects in the West African School Certificate examination, it is all well and good. But I want to say emphatically that this Motion would certainly have achieved its objective if only an Ibo student can come to the West and say to his friend, "Ek'aro, Eku'se, Se alafia ni" and go to the North and say to his friend, "Inakwana", "Ialalau, Inagejia" "Bagejia", and

understand why the Mover and the Seconder of the Motion think, and they have both stated it, that these three main languages must be taught at the same time in those three classes. Perhaps it is because they are not teachers. One is a lawyer, and the other is. . . . I do not know.

Those of us who are teachers know how difficult it is to teach three languages at the same time to students, while there is another language which is the medium of instruction. It may not mean two, or even one, but then there is that one which is foreign to students, and which is the medium of instruction in the school, and that is English.

Certainly, whatever we are going to do in Nigeria to bring about unity in the various tribes is welcome, but I am one of those people who believe that there should be unity in diversity, even in the languages. I believe that I would be a happy man if I could speak the Yoruba language, the Ibo language and every other language in this country, but I do not think that by learning these languages you would be able to solve our problems. I do not think the extension of Lagos would be solved by learning the three languages, nor would the boundary question be settled, nor would the question of creating states be solved by learning these three languages.

I certainly think the only way of getting together and understanding more is to get together and speak in any language that is common to you and that will help you to understand one another. But in view of the fact that we have a lot that we want our children to learn in the school, I think it would be too much for them at this time or in the foreseeable future to make it compulsory for them to learn three different languages at the same time. It will only debar them from their other studies and that can mean anything in the long run. I do not like the Motion.

For these reasons I want to be brief. I repeat that I want unity for Nigeria because it is most important. Unity is important in order that Nigeria can be politically free and enjoy freedom. Unity is important so that the economic development of this country may be possible; unity is important so that we may be respected throughout the world, but I do not believe that this unity will come by learning three main languages.

Sir, I beg to oppose.

The Minister of Education (hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Speaker, while I have very considerable sympathy for the terms of this Motion, I nevertheless find myself unable to accept it.

There is, I am sure, no Member of this House—certainly there is none on the Government bench—who would not wish to see the study of our languages developed. Our languages are the foundation on which our indigenous cultures are built and they are a heritage which we all value and cherish. Nothing brings people more closely together or makes for greater understanding and sympathy than a knowledge of each other's languages.

But having said that (and I say it with all sincerity) I am bound to have regard to the practical considerations that are involved and it is because of these considerations that I am unable to accept the Motion.

The teaching of three vernaculars simultaneously would not be a practical proposition. It is usual when introducing a school boy or girl to a study of languages to stagger the commencement of the courses so that the child is not plunged into a study of two or more unfamiliar languages at the same time.

Apart from that, one has to take into account the whole of the students' time table. Where a vernacular is studied in a secondary school the time devoted to it is four periods a week; and this implies that at least twelve periods would have to be devoted to vernacular teaching at the expense of other subjects on the curriculum. That would make heavy inroads to the time available. Even if we could fit that in it is doubtful, for example, if an Ibo boy studying Hausa and Yoruba for four periods each per week would make much progress in those languages.

When a pupil enters a secondary school his primary aim (apart from the general development of his faculties which is the purpose of all education) is to achieve the School Certificate, if not a higher qualification. In the School Certificate only one of the vernaculars may be offered as a subject. The curriculum of the secondary schools is full and heavy and I doubt the wisdom of adding to it two additional vernaculars and thus reducing the time available for the study of subjects that must be taken. I doubt, too, whether parents would approve of paying fees

to study subjects which are not admitted in the examination or whether they would approve of the expenditure of time and effort that would not contribute to a pass in the examination. Apart from the three languages mentioned in the Motion, there are many other languages spoken in Nigeria—some of them by very considerable groups of people. Would the parents of such children welcome the developments which the Motion envisages, when their own parent language is not being taught?

In the terms of the Motion the teaching of Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba would be made compulsory in Classes 1-3. School Certificate is taken in Classes 5 or 6 and where one of the vernaculars is offered its study should be continued to the School Certificate standard, and not stop at Class 3.

The most crying need in our secondary schools is for the achievement of a better standard in English and to enlarge the study of vernaculars at the secondary school stage will mean a still further deterioration of the standard of English acquired at the secondary schools. This, as I have myself made clear on more than one occasion, is a most urgent problem at all levels of our education and primarily at the University level. We must be realistic about this matter. We are here, Mr Speaker, conducting the business of this House in English because it is a language which we all understand. Nigerians are increasingly taking part in Commonwealth and international conferences and discussions. In 1960 we will in our own right assume full membership of the Commonwealth and of a number of international organisations. A sound and thorough knowledge of English will be an essential part of the educational equipment of an ever increasing number of Nigerians; and we must make sure that our educational institutions bring them to a high standard in the knowledge of English.

It is for these reasons, and not because I am in principle against the spread of an understanding of our various vernaculars, that I feel unable to accept this Motion and I am sure that Members of the House will appreciate and accept the reasons which I have put forward in support of my stand in this matter. In view of what I have said I would like to invite

the Movers to withdraw the Motion. If, however, they feel unable to do so, I would be compelled to oppose it.

Sitting suspended : 4.35 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 4.52 p.m.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife): On this Motion, Mr Speaker, there are one or two points which I am certain must have escaped the mind of the Mover and the Seconder thereof, and I am certain that these two points might change the mind of the hon. Minister for Education in his opposition to this Motion.

The first one is this, Sir. It will be very easy if these three languages are mixed together, so that when they are taught at school you do not teach three languages, it would be a mixture of all three. And then since I am sure that it is English that is so hated, we will put it in our Criminal Code that it would be an offence for anybody to speak English. That is very easy, and if that does not meet with the approval of the Minister, he can bring Esperanto, and banish the other three languages, and all of us should learn Esperanto, which is very easy. Hausa will be abolished, Yoruba will be abolished and as for the other minor languages, they will also be abolished. I am sure this last one will commend itself to the Mover. If we cannot find any other solution he can try the deaf and dumb language with fingers.

In any event I think this Motion is a waste of time, and it should be withdrawn now.

Mr Lakunle : Mr Speaker, Sir, I am quite satisfied with the explanation of the Minister. Everybody agrees that it is desirable for Nigerians to have an elementary knowledge of these languages. The question is the practicability of the matter. For this reason I am prepared to withdraw the Motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

FARM LAND AFFECTED BY TRUNK ROADS

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West): Mr Speaker, I rise to move the Motion standing in my name, "That this House calls on the Federal Government to take necessary steps to ensure that farms bordering on some Trunk Roads A are not adversely affected by reconstruction work now in progress, and that where such farms are affected, adequate compensation is made by the Government to farmers whose land is thus encroached upon".

Police Constables to be borrowed either from Ogbomosho... (*Interruption*)... or Oshogbo or somewhere else.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief S. L. Akintola): Point of order, Sir. I have to seek your protection. Too much is being made of Ogbomosho in this case and of my brigade, and nothing has been said of Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh.

Mr Sanni: Mr Speaker, Sir, if the hon. the Prime Minister would kindly grant the request of the people, the Council is prepared to provide offices and quarters free.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, when the hon. Member asked my permission to raise this matter on the Adjournment he did not speak of any anomalies at all. He only asked me to raise the question of Police disposition in Oshun Division.

Now, since discussing this matter with the hon. Member, I made enquiries and I am informed that there is at present only one Police station in Oshun Division and it is at Oshogbo and is manned by one Sub-Inspector, one Sergeant, one Corporal, one Lance-Corporal, 13 Police Constables. Of these, Sir, one Corporal and three Police Constables

are from a team of C.I.D. Of these, two are in the Division to investigate crimes and the others are stationed in Oshogbo almost permanently in the town.

The House of Representatives at the Budget meeting, as the hon. Member rightly pointed out, approved increases in the Police establishment and it is hoped that another Police station will be established at Ogbomosho, and then it is hoped to put one Sub-Inspector, two Sergeants, two Corporals, one Lance-Corporal and 16 Police Constables there. There is no arrangement at present for posting any of the Police Constables at Iwo. But I have no doubt, Sir, that the Police establishment at Ogbomosho and Oshogbo will be able to make a very effective tour of the Province. As the hon. Member pointed out himself, Iwo is not very far from Ibadan, and if there is any necessity for Police at any time, they will be drawn from Ibadan. So I have to assure the hon. Member that he has no cause to fear at all.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at fifteen minutes past five o'clock until 10 a.m. on Wednesday the 26th of November, 1958.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Wednesday, 26th November, 1958

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPERS

Mr Speaker : I have to announce that the following papers already distributed to Members are deemed to have been laid on the Table.

(1) Draft Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure (with Memorandum) 1958-59 (November).

(2) Nigerian Ports Authority—Third Annual Report for year ended 31st March, 1958.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

***O.256. Mr S. J. Una** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation when work will commence on the proposed aerodrome at Uyo in view of the fact that land is already reserved for the project.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation : The question of a final decision on the construction of an aerodrome at Uyo will be dependent on the result of a survey, the availability of funds and the guarantee of the Eastern Regional Government that they will meet any deficit on any scheduled services using such an aerodrome.

***O.282. Mr S. F. Nwika** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he will take steps to provide all Divisional Headquarters throughout the country with telecommunications facilities before 1st October, 1960.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation : The current telecommunications development programme set out in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1957 is an extensive one but does not include all and every divisional Headquarters in the country. This programme cannot be extended and it will not be possible therefore to provide telecommunications facilities to every Divisional Headquarters by 1st October, 1960. However, the importance of providing these facilities at all Divisional Headquarters is recognised and every effort will be made to ensure that those Divisional

Headquarters, which have not been served by the end of this current programme will be served as soon as possible in the next development programme.

Supplementary to O.282.

Mr Nwika : Will the Minister of Communications and Aviation provide these facilities to Divisional Headquarters already in the programme before 1st April, 1960 ?

The Parliamentary Secretary : The hon. Member is aware that because of problems the current programme has been extended to 1962. If he says 1962, I say yes.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : How does the Minister propose to allow the Divisional Headquarters to join in the celebrations in 1960 if there are no postal facilities ?

Mr Speaker : That is a rhetorical question.

***O.283. Mr J. Assadugu** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether, in view of the fact that Shellen, Guyuk, Lala and Kiri Districts are approximately 32 miles away from the nearest post office, he will consider building at least one postal agency in that area.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation : No applications to operate postal agencies at Shellen, Guyuk, Lala and Kiri have been received either from the Native Authorities or from private individuals.

In view of the hon. Member's interest, enquiries are now being made to determine if there is sufficient potential postal business at these places to justify the establishment of postal agencies, and also to find out if there are any authorities or persons who are willing to operate the agencies.

***O.284. Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation what is the annual volume of business transacted in each of the postal agencies at Ukanafun, Utu Etim Ekpo and Ikot Okoro ; and which, if any, of the three Postal Agencies qualifies for conversion to a Sub-Post Office.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation : The numbers of annual units of business transacted at Ukanafun, Utu Etim Ekpo and

Ikot Okoro Postal Agencies are 6,025, 8,405, and 10,442 respectively. None of them qualifies for conversion to a Sub-Post Office in accordance with the standard laid down for the establishment of a Sub-Post Office in paragraph 13 of Sessional Paper 4 of 1957.

***O.285. J. U. Udom** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he will consider providing telephone facilities at the Western Annang Rural District Offices in Abak Division in view of the pressing need for telephones in those offices and the proximity of the office buildings to the Aba/Opobo telegraph line; and whether he will provide similar facilities at the office of the Calabar Provincial Farm at Obiokpa.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation : It is regretted that there are insufficient funds under the Posts and Telegraphs Development Programme (Head 604) to provide any services additional to those included in Sessional Paper No. 8/1957.

However, the request of the honourable Member has been noted and will receive due consideration when plans for future development are being formulated.

***O.286. Mr J. U. Udom** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether, in view of the unnecessary delay and irregularities now existing in the carriage of mail to and from Abak Post Office, he will consider operating by motor vehicle a direct mail service between Abak and Ikot Ekpene.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : Investigations have failed to disclose any irregularities in the mail service to Abak. The service is provided daily by mail runner from Uyo, which is 10 miles distant, and it would be less convenient to serve Abak from Ikot Ekpene which is 16 miles distant. The amount of mail despatched to and from Abak is not beyond the capacity of the mail runner and it would not be an economic proposition to introduce a Departmental motor service for such a small quantity of mail.

Some delay to mail for Abak does occur because the mail runner does not depart from Uyo until both the Calabar and Aba mails have been received. It has been decided that the mail runner should in future leave for

Abak as soon as the more important Aba mails are received at Uyo. This arrangement will result in a worthwhile improvement in transit times between Abak and Aba in both directions; mail from Aba will arrive 7 hours earlier than at present, and mail to Aba will take under 4 hours instead of 23½ hours. As the mail runner will leave Uyo before the mail from Calabar is received, mail from this direction will not be delivered at Abak until the following day. However, it is felt that the public would prefer to secure earlier connections with Aba and Nigeria as a whole at the expense of some delay to their correspondence from Oron and Calabar.

***O.287. M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation: how many Provincial Headquarters in the Northern Region have not yet been connected to the telephone trunk system and whether he will place them on the priority list.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : All of the Provincial Headquarters in the Northern Region, with the exception of Bauchi, are provided with telephone services and are connected with the trunk system. Arrangements for the provision of service to Bauchi are well in hand.

Supplementary to O.287—

Chief T. T. Solaru : I ask the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether he would arrange for drum telegraphy to be connected to Bauchi so that those who are there might join in the celebrations.

***O.257. Mr S. J. Una** asked the Minister of Health if it is proposed to amend the Marriage Ordinance to suit indigenous conditions and traditions as it is obvious that the present Ordinance is an importation of English Marriage Laws.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : No, Sir. It is considered to be impracticable to attempt to codify the various forms of customary and religious marriage practised in Nigeria to-day.

***O.264. Mr A. Adeyinka** asked the Minister of Health what were the findings of the Departmental Commission of Inquiry set up under the Chairmanship of Dr Pearse, the Senior Medical Officer in charge of the General Hospital, Lagos, into the conduct of the Hospital Secretary; and

why were the findings of the Commission not released to the public in order to remove doubts and suspicions.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health : The hon. Member is under a misapprehension in describing a Departmental investigation as a Commission of Inquiry. The findings of the Departmental investigation were as follows :—

1. The investigating committee found that there was no evidence to sustain the charge that the Hospital Secretary had converted the General Hospital into a "family" department.

2. A thorough investigation into the allegation that the Hospital Secretary "had introduced tribal discrimination in employment and promotion in the General Hospital" revealed that the allegation was unfounded.

3. Allegations in regard to the Hospital Secretary taking the law into his own hands and searching workers without authority were considered to have some substance, but the committee considered that the Hospital Secretary's actions were prompted by zeal and in no way by malice.

4. Allegations that the Hospital Secretary's administration was bad and dictated by tribal and family considerations were quite unfounded : far from finding evidence of mal-administration the investigating committee was of the opinion that the Hospital Secretary should be congratulated on his efficient administration.

5. The allegation that the Hospital Secretary went out of his way to destroy confidence as between the Department and its employees was found by the investigating committee to be unfounded : the committee considered that the Hospital Secretary had ample and sufficient grounds to justify him in his attempts to improve discipline and general behaviour amongst the staff. It is inadvisable in practice and contrary to policy to publish Reports or findings of Departmental investigations.

*O.255. **Mr P. A. Aiyuk** asked the Minister of Research and Information what agricultural and forestry research schemes have so far been executed in the Southern Cameroons.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Research and Information : I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to written question No. 94 published in the Official Report of 30th July, which includes detailed information on research schemes. Although the Federal Departments are not at present directly engaged in many experiments there, the Southern Cameroons, equally with the other Regions, benefits from the work done at research stations elsewhere in the country. The advice of the Research Departments is always available, and officers visit the Southern Cameroons from time to time—for example a Plant Pathologist made a visit last year to investigate coffee diseases. The Agricultural Department is now trying to recruit a Coffee Agronomist and an Animal Geneticist both of whom, when appointed, will spend a considerable amount of their time in the Cameroons. New planting material of improved varieties of cassava, rice, yams, maize and legumes is released to the Cameroons as soon as it becomes available. The Forest Research Department maintains an experiment in exotic tree plantations in the Bamenda area. The fact that the last meeting of the Agricultural Technical Committee of the Council of Natural Resources was held at Buea, in March this year, is further evidence of the interest taken in the area.

*O.289. **Mr J. Assadugu** asked the Minister of Research and Information whether he will consider the establishment of a Nigerian news agency to enable the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation to be less dependent on the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Research and Information : I presume the hon. Member has in mind the world news bulletins of the British Broadcasting Corporation which are relayed by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. I regret that it would be impossibly expensive for the Federal Government to establish a news agency with world coverage, as this would involve the appointment of overseas correspondents, the monitoring of news broadcasts from foreign stations, and subscription to the established news gathering agencies.

*O.290. **Mr J. Assadugu** asked the Minister of Research and Information whether he will consider the advisability of intensifying Fisheries research in the River Benue.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Research and Information : As indicated in the White Paper on the Federal Fisheries Service presented to this House last year (Sessional Paper No. 6 of 1957), it is the policy of the Federal Government to intensify inland Fisheries research generally, when qualified staff become available; and due consideration will be given to the importance of the Benue fisheries.

ORDER OF THE DAY

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION

(1958-59) (No. 2) BILL

[First Allotted Day] : Committee

The Chairman : Under the Standing Orders the Clauses and the Preamble stand postponed until after consideration of the Schedule.

Schedule.

HEAD 22.—OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Question proposed That the sum of £5,000 for Head 22—Office of the Governor-General and Council of Ministers, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr B. A. Obaje (South Igala) : Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to move to reduce sub-head 17 by £10, and in doing so, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Governor-General and the Council of Ministers. . . . (*Interruptions*)

The Chairman : Order, order. I do ask the Committee to keep silence in order that we may hear what is being said. We are now on a Supplementary Estimate with one very small item.

Mr B. A. Obaje : I regret to say that the Governor-General has not been able to visit my Constituency all this time. . . .

The Chairman : That is not in the least relevant. Do I need to read to the House the one item that is contained in this Vote. It is Carriage of Diplomatic Mail, the sum involved being £5,000. Any argument addressed on that is relevant. No other argument can be relevant.

The Rev. E. S. Bens (Brass) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the provision on this Head. Mr Chairman, I have to take this opportunity of thanking the Governor-General and the. . . .

Several hon. Members : Sit down, sit down.

The Chairman : I am sorry. The Committee is well aware of the scope of the discussion and that it must be relevant to the carriage of diplomatic mail.

Mr J. I. Izah (Aboh) : Mr Chairman, I just want to ask a question. Could we please be informed how these diplomatic mails are carried. Are they carried differently from other mails or along with the ordinary mails ?

An hon. Member : They are carried diplomatically !

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, diplomatic mails are carried diplomatically !

The Chairman : Well I take it, it is clear that the first Amendment on the Order Paper was not moved because it was not relevant to the Head.

Question that £5,000 for Head 22—Office of the Governor-General and Council of Ministers stand part of the Schedule put and agreed to.

HEAD 25.—POLICE

Question proposed That £34,570 for Head 25—Police—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central) : Sir, I rise to move to reduce Head 25 by £50. Mr Chairman, Sir, when rising to move this Amendment during my Speech on the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, I made mention of the murder committed in Ibadan, which we were told the Police were investigating at that time, and I remember, Mr Chairman, that I did move this matter during a Motion for Adjournment in this House, and the Prime Minister did assure me that the Police had actually completed their investigations and referred the matter to the Director of Prosecutions in the Western Region, and that they are now just waiting for action, Sir.

But as I mentioned before, Sir, during my speech, when I came back from the United Kingdom I learned that this matter had been referred to an inquest. Well, Sir, why I wanted to raise this matter is that the Coroner was satisfied that the Police Department did not perform their duties properly. He said further that the way in which the Police conducted their enquiries was not satisfactory.

So what I am trying to move, Sir, is that I would like the Prime Minister to make it a point of duty to investigate this matter concerning the Police Department and the C.I.D. men at Ibadan, and if it is proved that they were unable to carry out these investigations satisfactorily, then C.I.D. men from Lagos should be sent to Ibadan to investigate this particular matter in order to bring to book these murderers.

Well we have been asked here to provide money for additional staff and training and stores. What I am trying to point out, Sir, is that after the investigation it was proved that the Police Department is not satisfactory. Any Police Officer who is instructed to investigate any particular matter should do it with more efficiency and satisfaction.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, the Prime Minister is otherwise engaged and is not here. It is my duty to reply on behalf of the Government. All I can say is that this matter is still *sub judice*. The findings of the Coroner's inquest were to the effect that the murderer is supposed to be at large and therefore investigation continues.

Mr H. O. Abaagu (Kwande): Mr Chairman, I just want to say a word or two about the uniform of the Policemen. Mr Chairman when this question was mentioned here during the last Session of the House I think the Inspector-General of Police told us that the present uniform of the Police would be supplemented by blue shorts...

The Chairman: I am very sorry. I think the hon. Member is talking about Police uniforms. I do not think there is a word about that or any money voted for it in the Supplementary Estimates. I am sorry, I think that probably may come up next March.

Mr Abaagu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I congratulate...

The Chairman: Order, order, I cannot hear.

Mr Abaagu: I congratulate the Police on their efficiency in the performance of their duties, and Mr Chairman, I will not leave this question of uniforms out. I think it is high time now that the Police should have a uniform similar...

The Chairman: The hon. Member must obey my ruling.

Mr Abaagu: I support.

Mr G. O. Ebea (Ishan): Thank you very much, Sir. I want to ask a question under Head 25, sub-head 2. A provision of £25,000 has been made for local transport and travelling. I would like to know whether this provision will cover the cost of supplying a landrover to Divisional Police Headquarters so as to enable them to carry out their duties more efficiently. In Ishan to-day we know how much our people are suffering by way of having to provide cars just to help the Police to carry out their investigations. I think it is the duty of the Government to provide Police stations with a landrover or any other car that will help the Police to carry out their duties, and then allow the poor taxpayers to use their money for other purposes.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, Sir, there is a certain provision for the Police to purchase landrovers and so on, and I wonder whether the hon. Member is asking for this provision in view of the peculiar position of the roads in his Division. If that is so, I think the hon. Chief Rosiji, the Minister of Health, will carry the message to the Western Regional Government.

Mr Sanni O. B. Okin (North Ilorin): Mr Speaker, I rise to oppose the Amendment on the ground that we all know that the Police cannot carry on their duties efficiently without the co-operation of the public. If the Mover of the Amendment knows something that will assist the Police, the hidden facts must be brought to the notice of the C.I.D., and I think that will add more to the efficiency of the Police. Therefore, Mr Speaker, I oppose the Amendment.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East): Mr Speaker, the matter raised by hon. Adeyinka is a very serious matter. We are told, Sir, that the murderer did it in broad daylight. The man murdered was murdered during an occasion when he went to exercise his civic rights. If people are not free to go to the polling station to exercise their civic rights, but they will be murdered, and nobody will trace the murderer, Sir, that will be a very serious situation for this country, especially when we are getting ready again to have another federal election.

The point raised is that new people should be sent from Lagos to investigate the case in Ibadan, and they will have the opportunity of going into the matter deeper than what the Police in Ibadan are doing. That is a very genuine suggestion, Sir, and we cannot sleep over it, because the question of life is so important that people who want to go and vote in the polling station should feel free that they are not going there never to return to their homes.

Alhaji Bello Dandago (South West Central Kano) : Mr Chairman, much as I have sympathy with the spirit and the intention and the feeling of the Mover of the Amendment, I have this to say, Sir. The murdered gentleman would not come back to life. He was brutally murdered, it was unfortunate, nobody would like it, and that is that.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the money sought in this vote, if given, Sir, will better the standard of the Police Service, because it would be spent in connection with something to do with the Police in general.

So the fact that we cannot bring back the life of the man is a good reason for us to resolve to prevent such incidents in the future. I have nothing to say about the allegation, whether it is true or not true, it may be true that something escaped the attention of the Police. But what I am saying is that this money sought, Sir, will be spent in bettering our Police Force in detecting crimes generally.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : Mr Speaker, I am sure that the Mover of this Amendment will withdraw if we can get an assurance from the Federal Minister of Finance, who is now acting for the Prime Minister, that this matter will be looked into.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, all I can say at this juncture, if the Mover is withdrawing his Amendment, is that I will carry the views expressed to the Prime Minister.

Mr Adeyinka : Well, in view of his assurance, I beg to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Question again proposed that £34,570 for Head 25, Police, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. L. Nsima (Eket) : Mr Chairman, I am talking on subsection 37A, Cadet Assistant Chief Officer, and down there in the footnote we see that it is a training post for a Nigerian. What I want to say on this Head is that Nigerians have been trained very many times in the Police Force with a view to their undertaking special duties in the Force, but after the training they are left to vegetate... (*Interruption*)...

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri) : On a point of order, Sir, there is a footnote on the item the hon. Gentleman is discussing.

The Chairman : I am aware of that.

Mr Nsima : These men are trained, and when they come back to the Force they are left to vegetate, they are not given encouragement to do their work. The training becomes an impediment to their progress and promotion; so that some of them, those who were left behind, those who did not go for training, are made to supercede the Policemen who had actually had training for that special duty. The result is that the Policemen who had the training become disgusted and they are leaving the Force. When they leave with this experience, all their training, the money we put in their training will be useless, and then we come back to this House again some other day and make other arrangements to train more Nigerians who are not being properly cared for in the Department. They are not given promotion, they are not encouraged, and they realise that they are vegetating there for the five years they have to spend before they leave—they signed before they were allowed for the training, for five years, and because they were trained with public money—so they are told—and after serving for five years without any promotion they get disgusted and leave the Force, and then we come back and vote more money for training while we are not utilising those we trained. That is the point I am making.

If we train Nigerian Policemen, we must give them the encouragement to remain in the Force. They are leaving, and we employ younger ones, and we keep on training them, training them for ever, and we do not want the ones we train to remain in the force to work. After all this is considered, the Police Force in an independent Nigeria will consist of recruits

because those trained for the job are leaving due to lack of encouragement.

Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to put it in the form of a question to the Prime Minister. I discussed this issue during my speech two days ago. What I want to know is this, whether it is true that the Police constables already in the rank and file with the requisite qualifications are being discriminated against in entering the cadet training scheme; and if so, whether the Government does not think that is an injustice? Because somebody has already entered into the Force with the requisite qualifications, he is precluded from taking the necessary cadet training course and only the outsiders are taken.

And the other question I want to put is whether the Government is prepared to consider the cases of the unfortunate Police Constables who have given all their lives to their work and have retired because they have been affected by Legislation, which was not through their own fault. Those who served with them in the Civil Service have their pensions; those who served after them have their pensions; and they are just an unfortunate set who came between and are suffering in the country. Is the Government going to take a compassionate view of these people and give them some sort of compassionate allowance? In the United Kingdom they give something like National Assistance to such unfortunate people.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, the point made by the hon. Nsima, in my view, is miles away from the item under the Head under discussion. He referred the House to subsection 37A—Cadet Assistant Chief Officer, Grade II, Fire Brigade, and then he went on to talk about the Police. As a University graduate he should be able to know the difference between the Fire Brigade Officers and the ordinary Police Force. Fire Brigade men are not Policemen. I think Members know that the hon. Chief T. T. Solaru has been asking this House to separate the Fire Brigade from the Police. I want to make it clear that although this Department is being run by the Police now, they are not Policemen.

Mr Chairman, we have been queried as to why this provision is put in the estimates without financial provision. It is put in there because we still have some savings in the Police vote to pay this officer if appointed, but we cannot appoint him unless approval is given by this House, and unless it is put in the supplementary estimates we cannot provide for it under the proper vote in next year's estimates.

Now, I think the query that has been raised by the hon. Mr Nsima on the training scheme and his reference to people getting frustrated and leaving the Police Force are unjustified. We will, I think, all agree that the new scheme of acceleration in the promotion of men in the Police Force, especially indigenous staff, is very well taken and noticeable in the country. You will find many Superintendents of Police and Inspectors of Police—quite a number of them you will find—and I think it is a credit to this Government that it has ensured that the indigenous Police Officers are being promoted to the top with such a speed. I, therefore, think that that remark is a little bit unfair to this Government and to the Police Force in particular.

Now, Sir, the Point made by Chief Onyia, who is in his gayest attire to-day! Sir, I do not think I know a man who will advocate that special treatment be given to an arm of the Civil Service which will not be enjoyed by any other members of the Civil Service. I do not think that we should advocate special treatment in respect of Policemen who retire because of old age and all the rest of it. However, we shall examine the hon. Member's point much more carefully and if there is anything that can be done which will not be looked upon as special treatment to special people (with due deference to pensioners like Chief Onyia), we will do so.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Chairman, Sir, my remarks are related to drivers who are tested for their driving licence by A.S.P's, Superintendents or Inspectors of Police.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we have observed that it is officers in this category who are empowered to pass motor drivers as fit to possess licences. Some of them have never owned a motor vehicle or driven one before they came into this position, and yet he is in a position to pass a driver. I very respectfully say, Sir, that the number of inefficient drivers we have on the roads to-day has been tested and passed

by people who know no more about driving than the man they are supposed to be testing.

It is my humble application, Sir, that the Government should look very closely into it so that no A.S.P. or Superintendent or Inspector is put in a position to test and pass drivers unless the Government is satisfied that the person knows sufficient about driving and the dangers of driving to be able to test and pass others.

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to support the last speaker about Police Vehicle Testing Officers who test drivers, and also those who test vehicles for roadworthiness. I think it would be proper that when a vehicle is put off the road the driver should report to the nearest testing officer after the repairs have been done. Indeed, Sir, I support the last speaker.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak) : Mr Chairman, Sir, while I am supporting the additional expenditure of £34,570 under this Head, I want to say that a very high standard of efficiency is required by this Department in order to agree with the amount of money spent. It is clear that the Police Department is responsible for the preservation of peace and order in this country, or in any other country.

Last week one hon. Member spoke of a secret society which is disturbing the peace in Calabar Province. I want to say that this was a very serious question, and I want to say also that in Abak Division it must either be that the Police Constables are inefficient or that the strength of the Police is far below that required.

The Chairman : Order, order. I think the hon. Member must produce some kind of *prima facie* reason for believing that the posts created in the Supplementary Estimates will affect that situation. This is no occasion to discuss every matter connected with the Police in Nigeria, and we cannot rehearse debates on old subjects simply because there is a Police Vote on now ; there must be some probability that we are discussing that matter.

Mr Udom : Mr Chairman, thank you. I was trying to say something about the safety of individuals because I think that is important. What I mean to say is that last week a gang of people known as Amauke brutally massacred a man behind a Police Barracks not up to 20 yards away from the Police Barracks.....

The Chairman : Do all these remarks deal with that or are they really general remarks pertaining to the Police in Nigeria? I think that sort of argument really is not relevant on this Supplementary Estimate.

Mr Udom : Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel that I was correct because "Security Flight" is down here. However, I feel I cannot do otherwise than to support it.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that the Supplementary Estimate is being given far more attention from the House than it really deserves. All that is provided is an officer for the Fire Brigade, and I think myself that the thoughts so far have been rather irrelevant. What I would like to know is this Item 32 (a)—Security Flights. What are they? And what is the purpose of this Security Flight?

Furthermore, under 37 (a) we find that Fire Brigade is incorporated here. At the last Constitutional Conference it was decided that Fire Brigade should be transferred to the Lagos Town Council and I hope that this will be the last time that Fire Brigade appears in our Estimates.

I will then seize this opportunity to pay tribute to the Lagos Fire Brigade for the work they have done while under the Police, and I hope that they will continue to do as much, and even better, under the Lagos Town Council.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, we find that in subhead 1 item (7), we have "Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Cadets". Sir, I cannot understand the implications of this duplication—Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent—what work do they do? We have a Superintendent and somebody assists him and in between this and the other you have got a Deputy. For what?

Some hon. Members : For deputising.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Victor Mukete) : Mr Chairman, the hon. Member from Onitsha, Dr Awduche, made reference to "Security Flights". I would like to explain that. The provision here is to enable the Prime Minister or the Inspector-General of Police to fly to areas where there are disturbances without having to wait for the normal scheduled flights.

£34,570 for Head 25—Police—agreed to.

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HEAD 26—THE PRIME MINISTER

Question proposed, That £1,000 for Head 26—The Prime Minister—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Sub-head 17—Foundation for Mutual Assistance in Africa South of the Sahara—I would like a member of the Council of Ministers to enlighten the House somewhat about this Mutual Assistance in Africa South of the Sahara. It is a new estimate, it seems to me, and if we are making contributions I think we should have an idea of what it is. It is a small item and a member of the Cabinet should explain it to us.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Victor Mukete) : I think it is sufficiently explanatory. It is something similar to, (I suppose, you have heard of it) the C.T.C.A. which is a Council for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara. It is a body which is similar to the Colombo Plan, but not quite the same. It is an organisation comprising European powers interested in the territories of Africa South of the Sahara, and is a means whereby technical assistance can be extended to various territories in Africa South of the Sahara. It does not keep a body of technicians but it helps Governments to obtain technicians from all over the world.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I must confess that I should have thought that the Cabinet would have been very familiar with this item, but after this last explanation I do not think we are any wiser than we were before we started.

They put down "F.A.M.A.", membership of something. We are asked to vote money for this project. We do not know what it is about; no information is given. We are given provision there, "F.A.M.A. technical assistance". Surely we must know what we are voting money for. I must say that personally I do not quite get what the Minister was trying to say.

The Minister of Research and Information : The function of the organisation is clear. If it is the name that the hon. Member is worried about I would refer him to sub-head 17—Foundation for Mutual Assistance in Africa South of the Sahara.

£1,000 for Head 26—The Prime Minister—agreed to.

HEAD 28—NIGERIANISATION OFFICE

Question proposed, That £7,590 for Head 28—Nigerianisation Office—stand part of the Schedule

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) : Mr Chairman, Sir, why do we want to spend more money on this Department? We all agreed in this House that the officers of this Department have not been given any powers. They are being kept there as a figure-head, as a show-piece to satisfy our urge to put our own people in various Departments. They cannot do anything while we keep on voting more money. If we are going to be honest to ourselves, let us give this officer real power to do the work which we want him to do or close down the Department. We all heard what the Prime Minister said the other time on this issue, and I am certain that no one in this House is satisfied with the progress of Nigerianisation in Nigeria to-day. They told us. . . (*Interruption*).

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Point of order. Mr Fani-Kayode is discussing what is not at all in this Estimate. It is not there.

The Chairman : I think that is for me to decide.

Mr Fani-Kayode : I think the Chief is getting too young ! The next time I come to the House I shall wear feathers and I shall satisfy my hon. Friend, Chief Onyia.

I think, speaking for myself, this is a complete waste of money and we should stop it until we have a Department that will really Nigerianise.

It is no use paying this office for this kind of policy. If you look through the establishment you will find temporary expatriates brought out on contract rate to do work that our people can do, and yet the Council of Ministers have the effrontery to come before us again to ask us to put a single penny more into this Department.

I am saying that every Member of this House should be given not only an assurance but a double assurance from the Prime Minister, unfortunately he is not here. The Council of Ministers are even treating us with contempt. The Prime Minister is not here, as well as the Minister of Finance. We are speaking to the Chairman and they should be here in order to hear our views and in order to answer us and let us know what they are doing about this subject. I hope, Mr Chairman, that the Minister of Education can get up and let us

know why he wants us to spend a single penny. He is the only person who can educate us on the matter.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, Sir, I discover that under this Head we have semi-permanent buildings—erection of, sub-head 14, and I take notice that the Emergency Training Scheme is contiguous to the old Queen's College and I see that the old Queen's College has been abandoned and I discover that it has been overtaken by weeds, I do not know whether sanitation at all has anything to do with that side! What I want to know is whether the Emergency Training School could acquire that part of the school to make use of.

The Chairman: It is certainly not under this Estimate.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia: Under semi-permanent buildings, I am discussing about erection of semi-permanent buildings, whether it is reasonable if we could get other buildings without going into the erection of new ones and providing some money for it.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Chairman, I have looked through this Head and it appears we are still talking about this Training Scheme and so much is voted for transport and semi-permanent buildings that I think while I personally would have liked to talk on all those items, I think it might be more useful to offer my congratulations to the new Nigerianisation Officer who has since been appointed. The only thing is that I wish to extend to him my sympathy because he is going to be put in a hole in which he can never move. He will not have the opportunity of doing the job that this House expects of him and I can very well see that there will be certain stages when he might get frustrated. I hope that he will not hesitate to let us know his difficulties so that we will be able to do something in this House to see that he is strengthened in the new endeavour which he has taken upon himself and that he carries out the wishes of this House. I wish to say that it is the desire of all Members of this House that this policy of Nigerianisation should be pursued with vigour.

Mr D. N. Chukwu (Awgu): Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to take this opportunity of thanking the Government for the good work being carried out by this Department of Nigerianisation. Mr Chairman, very many times when we come to this House we complain

of people being brought into the country to fill important posts but we can congratulate this Department on seeing that Nigerians are promoted.

I would seize this opportunity, Sir, to congratulate such firms like Shell D'Arcy, who have given so much to Nigeria. I seize this opportunity also to . . .

The Chairman: Really we cannot talk about Shell D'Arcy now on a Government Supplementary Estimate.

Mr Chukwu: Mr Chairman, Sir, I just want to say these things because it is all about Nigerianisation and the filling of very important posts. Mr Chairman, Sir, I will talk about some other important Departments in the Federation, in fact many Nigerians are now being promoted into Senior Service posts and I do really appreciate this. . . .

An hon. Member: In what service?

Mr Chukwu: Under Nigerianisation Office within the Federal Departments. (*Interruption*). I am coming out of harbour, allow me to say my mind, you cannot shout me down.

The Chairman: Will the hon. Gentleman address his remarks to me and not chat to the hon. Gentleman on his left. It is not easy to hear what he says. He began by talking about a wholly irrelevant subject and I want to be sure that he is trying to make himself relevant now, otherwise I shall ask him to resume his seat.

Mr Chukwu: I think I have said what I wanted to say.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Chairman, there was some suggestion at one time, Sir, to absorb this Emergency Training Scheme into the Department of Education, that suggestion caused some comment from the members of the public and I would like the Minister to assure us whether, at this stage, he has already sealed his mind against this proposal and whether he is not contemplating transferring this scheme into the hands of the Education Department or whether he will leave it under the Nigerianisation Department.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Chairman, the fact that the Nigerianisation Officer works in the Prime Minister's Office does not mean that he is not, to some extent, under the supervision of the

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Minister of Education. The Minister of Education is the man who is responsible for Emergency Training Schemes and the Nigerianisation Officer is the man who is solely responsible for this job and whatever he does he receives instructions from the Minister of Education. It is when it comes to the question of policy in the Prime Minister's Office that he is responsible to the Prime Minister. The job of taking care of the schemes is not taken out from my Ministry, it is still my responsibility.

The point made by Mr Fani-Kayode that there was no efficiency in the Department is not true. He does not need to look very far in order to see that very many Nigerians have been promoted to senior posts, as indicated by the hon. Mr Chukwu. I thought he was not serious when he was making that statement.

£7,590 for Head 28—Nigerianisation Office—*agreed to.*

HEAD 29—MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND AVIATION

£8,950 for Head 29—Ministry of Communications and Aviation—*agreed to.*

HEAD 30—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

Question proposed, That £118,000, for Head 30—Posts and Telegraphs—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr B. A. Obaje (South Igala) : Mr Chairman Sir, I rise to move the Amendment standing in my name on the Order Paper, namely to reduce sub-head 24 of Head 30 by £100. Since the installation of the VHF system in this country it seems to me that in some stations, especially in a station where there is no telecommunications, the VHF system there is not allowed for public use.

Sir, as I have previously stated in this House, Igala Divisional Headquarters has no telecommunications and great difficulty is encountered because of lack of public telephones.

I do not know why Igala Division should not be allowed to share the benefit.

I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin) : Mr Chairman, I rise to support the Amendment to reduce the sub-head. A huge sum of £48,000 has been set aside in the Supplementary Provision for Local Transport and Travelling

only. The small number of post offices we have in this country does not justify this huge sum of money for Local Transport and travelling. If the whole sum is to be approved this transport should be made available to all postal agents to enable them provide more efficient service.

I beg to support.

Mallam Saidu Zango (Central Zaria) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to make some comments on this Head. I tried the day before yesterday during the debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill but unfortunately there was no time for me. I therefore take this opportunity to make these few comments and to draw the attention of the Minister of Communications and Aviation to the colossal sum of £118,000 required as additional expenditure under Head 30—Posts and Telegraphs.

I would like the Minister to take note of this—if he is here—and send a strong warning to the Zaria Posts and Telegraphs supervisor or whoever he is, warning his telephone operators who are not discharging their duties to the satisfaction of the people concerned.

The Chairman : I do not think there is much about telephone operators unless he means VHF telephone service and that is only for equipment maintenance. I do not believe the hon. Gentleman is being relevant.

M. Zango : I would appeal to the Minister to hasten to provide modern telephone services throughout the Federation, similar to the services now operating in Lagos. Being only four months old in this House I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister...

The Chairman : This is the wrong occasion to apply that.

M. Zango : I support the amendment.

Mr J. A. G. Ohiani (Igbirra) : Mr Chairman, I rise to speak on sub-head 24 and to remind the Minister of Communications and Aviation that the installation of VHF at Okene has been completed over a month and a half ago and that we still need more in the districts nearby. I am told that lack of equipment has made this difficult. I am supporting this sub-head on the understanding that he will supply all the districts nearby with telephone services as soon as possible.

I hope the Minister will take note of this. I beg to support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation (Mr A. J. U. Ekong) : Mr Chairman, I would like to reply to a point made by Mr Olarewaju. He complained about the heavy nature of the amount we propose to spend on Local Transport and Travelling. I am surprised that he made this point because he comes from the North where distances are remote. He will probably recall that this House has voted a huge amount of money for telecommunications development and the provision of post offices and expenditure of such a large amount of money would mean moving officers about from station to station and they need money for travelling. Costs are increasing, as indicated in the footnote, and increased activities will also mean increased money on transport and travelling.

As for Members who keep complaining about services not supplied to their areas I would like to say that this House frequently forgets that White Papers were brought here as Sessional Paper No. 4 and Sessional Paper No. 8. All we have been doing has been to try to honour the White Papers concerned. No Member has ever brought in a Motion to this House to ask us to alter the number of post offices to be built between now and 1962, and the amount of telecommunications we need. We have never changed the plan already agreed upon by this House and that is what we are still doing and we are only trying to see that we finish this by the end of 1962.

I am opposing the Amendment to reduce this Head by any amount and asking Members to support this increased expenditure which is only necessary because of the increased activities of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

Mr B. O. Ikeh (Abakaliki) : Mr Chairman, I wish to draw the attention of the Minister to the undertaking given in 1955 that VHF equipment will be installed at Nkalagu. That was when I asked why the trunk line had been removed from Abakaliki to the cement factory at Nkalagu. We had two trunk lines but now we have only one trunk line between Abakaliki and the other areas. Subscribers now find it inconvenient because much time is wasted when anyone wants to call a person outside

Abakaliki. When the question was raised the Minister of Communications and Aviation said the VHF will be installed at Nkalagu cement factory and that the trunk line removed from Abakaliki will be replaced. I wish to know what the Minister is doing about it, whether the undertaking is receiving attention or not.

Mallam Jalo Waziri (Gombe) : Mr Chairman, I just want to express my appreciation to the Minister of Finance who has voted more money under this Head and to expect the speeding up of telephone installations at Gombe contained in the Sessional Paper referred to by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications and Aviation.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question again proposed, That £118,000 for Head 30—Posts and Telegraphs—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu West) : I was going to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation, Mr Chairman, to explain the reason why we need to put down here £10,000 for the maintenance of Radio Distribution Services. The reason for that question is that some of us have an idea that the R.D.S. now are a commercial concern. Wherein comes this £10,000 subsidy?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation (Mr A. J. U. Ekong) : Mr Chairman, Sir, the Department of Posts and Telegraphs still has the responsibility of maintaining loudspeaker boxes in certain places in the Northern Region and in the Eastern Region, and this amount is for that.

Chief Solaru : Mr Chairman, I would like to follow that up. We thought that these services should be self sufficient. Why should we be subsidising radio distribution boxes?

Mr G. O. Ebea (Ishan) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to remind the Minister of Communications and Aviation that during the course of my speech at the opening ceremony of the post office at Ubijaja I humbly requested that telephone services should be extended from Ubijaja to all the Local Government District headquarters of that Division and into all the secondary schools and commercial houses in that Division. The Minister replied that under

the Development Scheme the provision was there to undertake this job, but I am surprised to see now that in this Supplementary Bill no provision has been made to carry on these services. I am humbly asking that attention should be given to this request during the next Budget Session.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Aviation : Mr Chairman, I just want to reply to the point made by the hon. Chief Solaru. All that the users of the Radio Distribution Service pay in the North and in the East is about five shillings, and it is considered that an economic rate for this service would be in the neighbourhood of twelve shillings and sixpence per month which possibly the people will find too difficult to pay.

£118,000 for Head 30—*Posts and Telegraphs*—*agreed to.*

HEAD 32—METEOROLOGY

£500 for Head 32—*Meteorology*—*agreed to.*

HEAD 34—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed, That £11,480 for Head 34—Ministry of Education—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am moving to leave out Item 5 of sub-head 1, Chief Education Officer, Group 7. The only reason assigned for creating this post is contained in the footnote which reads : "A Supernumerary post required to accommodate an officer who is being transferred from the Northern Region, until he takes up his new duties with the Lagos Town Council." Now, Sir, this explanation is embarrassing. One would ask why the officer is being transferred now from the Northern Region if the Lagos Town Council is not yet prepared to have him? Why should Government transfer him from the Northern Region now at its own expense? He is needed by the Lagos Town Council. We do not want him. There is nothing here to show that the officer is required here by the Federal Government and there is no reason for him to leave the service of the Northern Region. If however a cogent reason is given for transferring him here now, perhaps some consideration might be given for sustaining this Item, but as the explanation stands it would follow that Government is pursuing a phantom of financial policy.

Now, Sir, a private businessman will not run his own business in this way. We are the representatives of the people to whom this Government is responsible and we are bound to manage the affairs of the country even better than we would manage our own business. In the absence of any acceptable explanation I will press that this Item be deleted from the Supplementary Estimates.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Mr Chairman, I oppose the Amendment. It is a pity that I do not understand what is meant by "phantom of financial policy," but the Northern Regional Government never opposed the secondment of this officer to the service of the Lagos Town Council. This post was advertised both here and in the United Kingdom and there was no suitable Nigerian who applied. The only Nigerian who was suitable for the post refused to be considered and it was then agreed by the Lagos Town Council that Government should second an officer with local government experience and a man who is versed in the field of education. This man, who had been working in the education department of a local government body in England and who was formerly Director of Education in Barbados, was transferred to the Northern Region and we asked the help of the Northern Regional Government to allow us have this gentleman on secondment.

The sum shown is only for salary for four months and he is already on the staff of the Lagos Town Council although he has not been formally seconded. There is therefore every reason why this man should come to help us and if you look at paragraph 22 (3) of the Report of the recent Constitutional Conference you will see that the Lagos Town Council is assuming responsibility for primary education in the Federal territory of Lagos.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Chairman, while I have no reason to support the Amendment, I wish to make a certain remark in respect of what the Minister of Education has just said. I must emphasise that so far as our local people are concerned, there are people who could have done that job efficiently. They are not given the necessary encouragement, hence their notice is not brought to your advertisement. I know there are men who could do that job but they are not encouraged.

Amendment put and negatived.

Question again proposed.

Mr E. O. Imafidon (Benin East): Mr Chairman, Sir, the point I wanted to make was on the reply of the Minister of Education. It was not quite satisfactory to me. What the mover of the Motion wanted to know was, why should the man be seconded at the expense of the Government of the Federation? If he was in the Northern Regional Government or in another Regional Government and he should be seconded to the Council as they required his services, which was the point raised by the Mover of that Motion, we want to know why was the man seconded at the expense of the Government or otherwise. We want clarification on that point, and the answer given by the Minister of Education did not actually deal with that.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Mr Chairman, Sir, the man on secondment will be paid for four months by the Federal Government and this sum will be reimbursed by the Lagos Town Council.

Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema): Mr Chairman, Sir, what I want to know is, why this man, the local man, refused to accept the offer. I would like to know this from the Minister of Education. We want to know these things so as to know how to work because we want our own people to man our offices wherever possible. But if a local man, a Nigerian, refuses an offer of this kind, then there must be something behind it, and that is just what this House would like to know so that we can speak to these people when we meet them.

Chief J. S. Olayeye (Okitipupa): Mr Chairman, in supporting this Motion I would like to remark that sometime this year I put across an appeal to the Minister of Education to explore the possibility of holding the General Certificate of Education twice in a year as is the case in Britain.

Sir, the reply of the Minister of Education left much to be desired. . . .

The Chairman: I think that is getting irrelevant to these Supplementary Estimates. We are bound to keep strictly to the items concerned. I think that more likely comes in the main Education Estimates next year.

The Minister of Education: I just want to reply briefly to what Chief Yellowe has said, Sir. Government should be asked to say something when a qualified man wants a job and it is refused him. But if you find a qualified man and offer him a job and he refuses it, you need not ask why he has refused the offer. It was not our concern to compel the man to accept.

£11,480 for Head 34—Ministry of Education—agreed to.

Sitting suspended : 11.35 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.55.

HEAD 36.—ANTIQUITIES

£730 for Head 36—Antiquities—agreed to.

HEAD 41.—TREASURY

£10 for Head 41—Treasury—agreed to.

HEAD 42.—STATISTICS

Question proposed, That £10 for Head 42—Statistics—stand part of the Schedule.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw attention to a point which we are apt to overlook owing to the rapidity with which we say "aye" to these Supplementary Estimates under the items for Supernumerary posts. I think we would be doing less than justice to the Ministers concerned if we did not express our appreciation of them. Because, after all, we have asked for these supernumerary posts, and I think we are getting them in dribbles; but I think the number in these Supplementary Estimates shows that the Council of Ministers are at last getting a move on. I think we should support the Head.

£10 for Head 42—Statistics—agreed to.

HEAD 46.—MEDICAL

Question proposed, That £10 for Head 46—Medical—stand part of the schedule.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha): Mr Chairman, Sir, may I seize this opportunity to congratulate the Government for creating quite a number of supernumerary appointments. I would not call them all posts; for instance, that of Senior Specialist, Superintendent Dental Technologist, and quite a number of other posts. But recently, I am quite sure, the Minister of Health received a memorandum sent in by the Medical Guild of Lagos requesting an improvement in the status of medical officers and specialists.

The doctors are requesting that private practice should be removed and that in its place their initial salaries should be increased and improved. That memorandum has, I hope, reached the Ministry of Health and I hope they will give it very careful consideration.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I need not say much more at this stage. I look forward to the Budget Session in March when I hope most of these wishes will have been implemented. With that I support.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Chief V. Duro Phillips): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful for the observations of my good Friend, the hon. Dr Awduche. In this Ministry we are doing our very best to get the best possible services and to give the best possible service to the people of Lagos.

With regard to the superscale posts, I am also grateful to the doctor for the kind observations he has made. I can only assure the House that we will continue to do our very best to get suitable men to fill these posts and to pursue our policy of Nigerianisation.

About the Petition of the Federal Medical Guild, I would assure the doctor that this Petition is receiving our full consideration—I would not say sympathetically—and I can assure the doctor that within a reasonable time the Petition will have to be referred to the Council of Ministers, and the Government will make an appropriate announcement.

Several hon. Members: When! When!

The Parliamentary Secretary: That I cannot say.

£10 for Head 46—*Medical—agreed to.*

HEAD 50—MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND WELFARE

Question proposed, That £1,250 for Head 50, Ministry of Labour and Welfare, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South): Mr Chairman, Sir, this is only a question of simple mathematics. The last part of the explanatory notes reads: "A further sum of £1,250 will be required in 1959-60".

Mr Chairman, Sir, one would naturally infer from this that the total amount required for a full financial year is £1,250. It is, therefore, inconceivable why £1,250 should be inserted for four months, the remaining part

of the financial year 1958-59. It seems to me that if one accepts this one has no knowledge of the rudiments of mathematics. Therefore I move that the provision be reduced by £830 leaving only £420 for the four months which remain in the financial year if only £1,250 is required for a whole financial year. From these notes the work has not yet started, no penny has been expended. Unless the fault lies in insufficiency of notes, I move that the amount be reduced by £830.

Amendment proposed, to reduce sub-head 25 by £830.

The Minister of Research and Information (hon. Victor Mukete): Mr Chairman, I am afraid I do not quite get the point that Mr Sanni was making. I do not know whether he was complaining that this money to be spent is too much. . . . (Mr Sanni: *Too much for four months*). Well, in fact, Sir, this work will require a total of £2,500. The amount here shown is merely this year's contributions. Next year we shall show a similar amount, and I would like to explain that this is, in fact, a minor fraction of what is required for this research.

Other Governments are contributing towards this research, Her Majesty's Government is also contributing quite a big share. The result of this research could contribute tremendously to our economy and I am surprised that there is any Member of this hon. House who would grudge such a very small amount. There is so very little that we know about the factors of production as far as our labour goes. We would like to know something about incentives.

It is generally agreed that our productivity in this country is very much below what obtains in other countries. The value of this research could be of great benefit to the economy of this country.

Mr C. C. E. Onoh (Udi): Mr Chairman, Sir, time was when it was considered the height of learning when people could just, say, interpret figures: "O.B.E., what is it?", "U.N.O., what is it?", and then pass his examinations. If the Minister thinks that he can fool this House by putting figures, C.T.C.A. and then call on us to interpret it, well, we do not know what it means, what its duties are, and what its objects are, and for what it stands. These are the questions that we would like to know. That is the first thing, Mr Chairman.

And secondly, Mr Chairman, I think we put people into the prison yard, not so much to do work but merely to stay there and pass away time. There are many ways in which we can induce them to work if they are to feed on public money, and I think that if we can adopt the system in England and most of the civilised countries by giving them some money and other things, and let them keep it, some incentive to work, that will be a good thing for our prisons. I beg to support.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) : Mr Chairman, Sir, there is only one point I like clarified. I do not know, Sir, whether there is any significance in the amount of £830. Maybe the Mover of the Amendment can expand on the point, because we do not know why. There must be some special reason, knowing Mr Sanni as I do ; he must have very, very good reasons for asking us to reduce it by £830.

Dr E. O. Awduche (Onitsha) : Mr Chairman, Sir, one thing we must appreciate as a budding nation is our duty always to honour international obligations. If this country works hand in hand with other countries to carry out investigations and has pledged itself to make contributions, we have no choice, we are bound to honour those obligations, and that is what this provision here is out to achieve.

I am saying this to oppose very vehemently the Amendment proposed by the Mover of this Amendment. Already this country has been committed to that organisation and, furthermore, it is very important that we should encourage this research into factors of productivity. We know that the level of productivity in this country is very, very low, and as the Minister rightly said we want to find out what factors are responsible and how we can give an incentive to higher productivity, so that we can take our place of pride among other nations of the world. If we want respect as a nation we do not always have to keep on demanding, we must have to command by our activities and by our performances. Mr Chairman, Sir, I fully support this provision and I strongly oppose the amendment made by the Mover.

Mr Sanni : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think if I am not yet understood I should explain my reasons further for standing to move this amendment. My point is this : it is very clear and simple. The notes do not show that £1,250 is required for the whole of 1958-59, nor

do they show that any expense has been incurred in connection with the institution. The purpose for which the money is required has to be set out, and I have said that if no money, no expense has been incurred and we would incur expenditure for four months, December to 31st March, 1959, £420 would be required and not £1,250, as clearly stated in the last part of the notes, Sir, why should £1,250 be spent in four months ?

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, he should explain what is meant by "C.T.C.A." When the Bill for the Queen's Counsel was brought before us we supported it because it has been fully explained. He should, therefore, explain what C.T.C.A. means if he wants us to support it.

The Chairman : That question has already been asked. I heard the question and I also heard the Minister answer it. It will be easy to ascertain it from Hansard tomorrow morning.

Amendment put and negatived.

£1,250 for Head 50—Ministry of Labour and Welfare—agreed to.

HEAD 51—LABOUR

£1,750 for Head 51—agreed to.

HEAD 52.—CO-OPERATIVES

£10 for Head 52—Co-operatives—agreed to.

HEAD 53.—SOCIAL WELFARE

£10 for Head 53—Social Welfare—agreed to.

HEAD 54.—MINISTRY OF LAGOS AFFAIRS, MINES AND POWER

Question proposed that £2,220 for Head 54—Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power stand part of the Schedule.

Mr E. O. Imafidon (Benin East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I only rise to congratulate the Ministry for providing for an Inspectorate within its Corporation. Of recent there have been some arbitrary increases in the rates in this Corporation which is going to cause a lot of alarm in the country. I think that the provision of this Inspectorate will cause them to complete a check and see that fair regional surveys of rates are made in the country, so that nobody will be treated unfairly.

£2,220 for Head 54—Ministry of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power—agreed to.

HEAD 59.—MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Question proposed that £28,650 for Head 59—Ministry of Research and Information stand part of the Schedule.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): My amendment seeks to reduce, by £100, the sum voted for the Broadcasting Corporation, Sir. That is, we are now asked to provide the sum of £9,400 for the service of the Nigerian Corporation.

As I have said earlier, this Corporation has not fulfilled its obligations to the tax-payers of this country. Not only that, Sir. In view of the criticism we have levied for the discriminatory way that broadcasts have been conducted in the broadcasting service, we feel that we would like to know why is it necessary to provide this sum of money. Is it to increase efficiency, again, in broadcasting? Sir, I have said earlier that the News Section of the Broadcasting Corporation is too inefficient and that sometimes people there seek to discriminate in the type of news they put on the air. Of course the Deputy Speaker, who is a member of the Corporation, tried to speak in some way which is very convincing in order to defend this type of discrimination going on in the Broadcasting Corporation. Quite a lot happens that the Minister does not know about in the Broadcasting Corporation.

The other day there was this question of the opening of the Central Bank and the Minister of Finance made some speeches there. What did we get? His speeches were never broadcast. I don't know why. It must be... (*Interruption*)... Here you have the opening of the Central Bank which is very important, and the Minister's speeches should have been put on the air. There are people in the Broadcasting Corporation who play with politics which is not what Civil Servants should do (*Interruption*).

I would like to put this to you, since provision is required, because we have inefficient people who go there to play politics, so I think this money is most unnecessary.

Unless the criticism of this House is taken into account we cannot approve this money, that is my point. If tomorrow they will change their policy and attitude we are prepared to approve any expenditure they want, but we cannot close our eyes to this slander and abuse

of power by such individuals in the Corporation who use the Corporation for their own selfish ends. We want the Minister now to put his foot down and see that these people act as Civil Servants, and if they want to play at politics let them resign. You cannot use your place of office to promote your own ends.

We are not saying these things because we want to do it. What we are saying is, if there are officers there now who want to play at politics let them resign their post and go out and meet politicians. We are not saying that they should not do it. What I am saying is that in the Corporation we do not want these men and we are not satisfied. That is my point, Mr Chairman, Sir. I am making this very serious allegation so that the Minister may take it into account.

Mr Chairman, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce sub-head 31 by £100.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, in opposing this amendment I would like to make the position quite clear. It isn't that the hon. the Mover of the Amendment opposes the vote of money to this Corporation to meet increased rising costs. Costs will rise now whether the gentleman in question is employed by the Corporation or not. Whether or not costs have risen, the Corporation has its commitments and it has to meet them. I think that if any Member present has any grievance to vent against a member of the Corporation, they have heads; they have departments. I think any complaints could be lodged, and if nothing was done you could bring it to the attention of the Minister without making this an occasion to settle political venom. I think the floor of the House is not a fair place to attack an individual Civil Servant just because he hadn't happened to put a particular piece of news over the air. I feel that the Floor of the House is not a fair place to attack a Civil Servant just because he did not happen to be putting a particular piece of news over the air.

I would like to say that the money being asked for here has not proved to be redundant or unnecessary only because somebody probably would be sharing a necessary part of it. I suppose that there is ample machinery provided for discipline of inefficient Civil Servants, and it is sufficient to draw the attention of the Minister

that while we are voting this money, if there are any persons not complying with the policy of the organisation, such persons ought to be made to face the consequence.

I say that far from deserving blame, I think the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation has continued to improve. (*Hear, hear.*) It will be unfair if we continue to attack this institution even though it might fail in one or two respects, but I think in this case we ought to support this Bill here whole-heartedly and to ask them to go on to greater heights.

As a matter of fact, we would be depending upon them. One of the reasons why we should vote more money probably at the next Budget Session would be for this Corporation to prepare for the big events in front of us. The more you enable them to work efficiently the better service we shall get.

Sir, without wasting any more time, I oppose the Amendment and support the appropriation.

The Chairman : I am grateful to Chief Solaru because I think he has answered a point which, as a point of order, I ought to have taken myself. It is true that the mere provision of £9,400 for additional costs cannot be said really to affect a single post in the Corporation, and I do think the next Budget should provide an opportunity to address this to the Minister either on the Adjournment or by correspondence. I think this particular Amendment should be disposed of.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am really quite happy to accept your view, but I will raise the matter again at the appropriate time. In view of what you have just said, I withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Mr F. E. Ngale (Victoria): Mr Chairman, Sir, in my Motion to reduce this Head by £5, I would like to make this statement. It is quite true that the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation at the moment is the medium of understanding throughout this country. There is no doubt that all the Regions have gained equal advantage which is given by this Corporation. The only point I want to stress is that the Nigerians as well are interested to know what the affairs of the Southern Cameroons are, and this can be done efficiently by installing a transmitter which can serve the Southern Cameroons.

At the moment there are two important events which are taking place in the Southern Cameroons: the Victoria Centenary Celebration and the Southern Cameroons election which will be held early next year, in January. I feel that these are occasions where the role of this Corporation should be felt. I feel that this Head should be reduced by £5, but if the Minister of Research and Information who is directly responsible for this department will give me an assurance that they are going to provide a transmitter for the Southern Cameroons, well, I have no quarrel. Sir, I beg to move.

Amendment proposed to reduce the Head by £5.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the House do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question, That the House do report progress and ask leave to sit again, put and agreed to.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Committee report progress; to sit again—Tomorrow.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL BILL

Adjourned debate on Second Reading (24th November).

Question again proposed, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr D. E. Okereke (Owerri): Mr Speaker, this is quite naturally a subject in which I am deeply interested. (*Hear, hear.*) Who is this person called a Q.C.? What is the significance and what is the history behind this wonderful institution?

Mr Speaker and hon. members, in this world everything one undertakes invariably has some incentive which motivates one to work for some glory. In the military service or in the Civil Service there is always some incentive for the young soldier or the young civil servant which arouses his enthusiasm. It may be some honour, some decoration for which he works faithfully, assiduously; no matter what the sacrifice, no matter what the loss, he works towards an end. So there is all that incentive to something. So also in the legal field. There must be some incentive and there is some incentive in the question of a Q.C.

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When as a schoolboy some years ago I studied under what I may call a very great and ideal teacher, I was fascinated by his wonderful ability and therefore I worked to become a teacher. And later again in my college days, the spirit of nationalism was instilled into a group of youths of which I was one by a notable teacher of ours, and when in the old Empire days the band struck "Rule Britannia" I longed for the day when also my country should be free, and by the Grace of Almighty God, October 1st, 1960, we shall borrow from the British and say, "Nigerians shall never be slaves".

Mr Speaker : I think that is going beyond the compass of the Bill.

Mr Okeke : On Sunday morning when the newspaper man came along to my flat and handed me a copy of the *Sunday Times*, I noticed the headline about the "Q.C.'s Battle of the Silk". I said to myself, "The battle of the silk ; is there any battle, should there be any battle at all, is there any question about it?" This is a wonderful thing in the history of Nigeria, and when a man becomes a lawyer he goes into a wonderful profession, it is born of his own good sense. Can he really be a lawyer with success if he hasn't studied in any English court? Has he been brought to the Bar?

This is a very good Bill but some of the arguments against the creation or the introduction of the Q.C. in this country have no reasoning. There is no reasoning against this Bill at all ; there is no case made against this Bill in any way. After all, here when you speak of culture and tradition, all law is natural law basically and fundamentally. Every law is native law so that you cannot treat any law as unnatural law and, therefore, here when you say that the Q.C. is against our tradition or against our Courts, it is wrong.

In the first place, we are Members of the English Bar and it is not a question only of Nigeria but a question of the whole commonwealth. The only quarrel I have with the Bill is that some of us may want to remain barristers. I do not agree with that part of the Bill and the Minister was quite aware of it and he has promised to remedy that part of it which says that a Q.C. can go into partnership with a solicitor. I do not agree with that part of the Bill and I am sure the Minister will amend that part of it. I have many reasons ; when once a

Barrister always a Barrister. Following the custom in England a Solicitor is never a Q.C.

Mr Speaker, hon. Gentlemen, I do not want to talk a long time on the arguments in favour of this Bill ; it is a very good and clear Bill and I suppose every Member of this House will be convinced that the Q.C. is an honourable institution. It will clarify the legal practice in this country, it will enable the practisers of the profession to practise among Barristers ; it will help to work against the principles of legal practice in this country because we want Nigeria to look up to, we want an honour to look up to. You are so clarifying yourself in your heart and in your politics that you will work by day and by night to achieve that goal.

Hon. Members, I appeal to you to support this Bill.

Mr Speaker : May I ask a personal question of Mr Akwiwu? Was Mr Akwiwu speaking on this Bill when we adjourned?

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu) : I was, Sir.

Mr Speaker : I apologise to him ; I hadn't got my copy of Hansard.

Mr Akwiwu : Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that discussions over this Bill must have caused a lot of misunderstanding in the minds of the public as to what this Bill is out to achieve. Sir, without the opportunity of seeing this Bill, considering what amount of controversy has gone on in Lagos, you will find it hard to appreciate that after all this is a Bill of only two paragraphs scarcely covering half the single page on which it appears.

Mr Speaker, Sir, to put it quite briefly, this is nothing other than a permissive Bill. It is a Bill which sets out to make it possible for Members of the English Bar practising in Nigeria to avail themselves of the opportunity otherwise open to Members of the English Bar, to be made Q.C.'s, having acquired the requisite experience and the necessary reputation as well as professional ability.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that debaters on this matter, especially in Lagos, have carried on their debates and disagreements in such a way as to give the impression that like in the good old days, Lagos is synonymous with Nigeria. They are speaking their own minds in Lagos and I am quite sure that if they

are talking for the Nigerian Bar they were merely being carried away by their own vague imaginations and not really meaning to speak for the rest of Nigeria. Mr Speaker, Sir, to put the matter very briefly and very clearly, every Barrister in Nigeria is a Member of the English Bar and to become a Barrister he has got to enrol in one of the Courts and having kept his terms and passed his examinations he is called to the English Bar, he enrolls in the English High Court and, assuming that he does not want to go back to Nigeria, there is nothing to prevent him, having acquired sufficient experience in England and acquiring the necessary high reputation and professional ability, from being made a Q.C.

But when he comes out to practise in Nigeria he finds that he is coming to practise in a country in which he has got to act as his own solicitor. The tradition as practised in England does not permit one who is a solicitor being a Q.C. or a Q.C. acting as his own solicitor, and this is precisely the difficulty that the Nigerian Bar has been confronted with in this matter and the Bill sets out to make sure and guarantee that if a Barrister becomes a Q.C., he no longer practises as a Solicitor. It is an honour to be conferred upon one who wants it.

Even if we pass this law now it will not compel any Member of the Bar to be a Q.C. He has got to make up his mind whether he wants it; if he wants it he has then got to apply and he has got to be considered. They have got to look back into his past to see if he has lived up to the high standards and see if he has been a man of ability and a man of honour as a professional person. If he qualifies in these respects then he can be awarded the honour.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in order that the honour cannot be confused with the situation of the Barrister as we know it to-day, everything considered, it means that anyone who applies to be a Q.C. applies to take a very serious risk. He has got everything to lose while the man who remains a Barrister has very little to lose. In the first place, Sir, there are several courts into which the Q.C. cannot go; he cannot attend a Magistrates Court and much less a Customary Court.

Barring some obvious exceptions, the ordinary barrister can appear in any Court in the

land to which he can carry with him the full confidence of his client. He can appear in the High Court, Magistrates Court, Supreme Court—whichever it pleases his client to instinct him to appear before. The Q.C. cannot for any reason appear in the Magistrate's Court because that is considered below his dignity. Anyone who has a working idea of our Courts in this country knows that by far the majority of cases appear in the Magistrates Courts.

Secondly, the man practising as a barrister practises as a solicitor. The Q.C. has to confine himself to the role of barrister. He is not allowed to have any access to the litigants. He is not allowed to have access to their witnesses; he has to wait to be instructed by the barrister-solicitor. A litigant cannot go direct to a Q.C. The litigant must first go to a barrister and solicitor and if the barrister feels that he might need the services of a Q.C. he has to recommend and approach one on behalf of his client. On the other hand, if he feels that his client has no objection he can advise his client against engaging a Q.C. If this man does not go to the Q.C. he (the Q.C.) will sit there and will not come out himself.

In considering the role of a barrister as we know it to-day, the Q.C. is taking a very grave risk. He must be a man of great ability and must be magnetic to attract clients. The barrister decides whether or not he goes to court.

The Q.C. is forbidden to appear in the Magistrates Court. Even when he appears in the Court he is allowed to appear in, he cannot appear alone. He must take a barrister with him as his junior whose fee must bear a certain proportion to the Q.C.'s.

I very respectfully say that I fail to see the anxiety of certain members of the Bar in this legislation. If one should have any quarrel with it it is that it is too brief. It has taken a few things for granted. For instance, a barrister practising in England has to make his application for appointment as Q.C. through the Lord Chancellor, who will then have the whole matter gone into in the usual way. In this country we have no Lord Chancellor. We have only the Federal Chief Justice. This law does not say whether one would have to apply to the Lord Chancellor in London or to the Regional or Federal Chief Justice, or even the Attorney-General for consideration.

The other point is that one feels that the legal profession is one that is so prone to arguments, doubts and division of opinion that it is not safe to say that he must refrain from doing all such duties as are done in England by solicitors. It is my opinion that legislation should give clear indications to deal with what may be embarrassing arguments and divisions of opinion. The Bill ought to lay down the sort of conditions to be fulfilled. The English law is far from codified: some see this, others see that. It might well be a good opportunity to put down for the guidance of Members what are the necessary conditions to be fulfilled.

One wonders whether in considering the application assuming that the Federal Chief Justice is to consider the application, with whom he is to consider it. There should have been provision for a Board or Committee made up of Federal and Regional Chief Justices and representatives of the Bar who will consider the merits of the case before putting it forward. Unlike other Bills, this Bill as it now stands does not make provision for the Minister or any one else to make rules in respect of other things which have been omitted. I urge the Minister kindly to consider these facts and see if there is any way they can be looked into.

I will end by saying that not only is opposition to this legislation frivolous and meaningless, but I will venture to say that we have in this country people of various political sympathies and people of various brands of learning. We only hope that people who disagree with this Bill have nothing to do with Red politics.

I can well see that some object to it because they feel that it is a sort of 'bourgeois tradition'; if it is agreed to they may well reconsider their association with the English Bar. Some object to it for personal reasons because they find themselves far too young and may not qualify for the appointment in the immediate future. I think it is a most selfish view to take. It is my humble view that some object to it because from past performance they probably have not lived up to the standard that will qualify them for the appointment.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Point of Order, Sir. The last speaker should not impute any improper motives on other members of the Bar. They are all honourable men.

Mr Speaker: I am sure he will not.

Mr Akwuiwu: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Winding up I would say that the Bill commends itself to the House and we have as a nation nothing to fear. If you object to the words "Queen's Counsel" in view of our political advance when we are independent we may call them State Counsel or something else. I beg to support.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): After listening to the Minister of Communications and Aviation I readily agree that there is hardly anything that can be said against this Bill. This is not to say that the criticisms that have been levelled against this Bill are ill thought out. There are certain things which should be looked into and he has said that at the Committee stage he will move an amendment on certain clauses in the Bill.

In the speech of my learned friend Mr Akwuiwu, he said that a man who chooses to take silk stands to take risks. That is so in England where the profession is split. But in Nigeria where the profession is not split and under the present arrangements, certainly the risk that a Nigerian Q.C. takes is reduced as compared with the risk that an English Q.C. takes, because under the present arrangement a Nigerian who takes silk has the option to form a partnership with a Solicitor and that is the relevance of the criticisms of those who are outside this House and it is only fair that their views should be proffered in this House.

When a Nigerian takes silk, he has no right to the duties of a solicitor but he has the right to form a partnership with a solicitor who can carry on under the name of the partnership the work of a solicitor. Well, is that not considerably different from the risk that an English Q.C. takes as compared with a Nigerian Q.C.? We just have to face the truth. But in fairness to the Minister, he has seen the situation and he has agreed, as he said, that the ball is at the feet of the legal practitioners in this country. Any time the Bar Association decides to split the procession, then that option which is open to the Nigerian Q.C. will cease to have effect. Those who are now agitating that a Nigerian Q.C. should be equivalent to an English Q.C. in all respects, that is that he should not himself perform the duties of a solicitor nor should he be in partnership with a solicitor, are perfectly justified in the criticisms

But the point is this, and that is what the Minister has clearly brought out. Those of them outside who are agitating have no right themselves to practise as solicitors because they themselves are not solicitors. They are barristers pure and simple. The two sides of the issue must be put before the House. They cannot eat their cake and have it. They have to make their choice whether to practise as advocates of the Supreme Court or as solicitors. So if they are saying that a Nigerian Q.C. should not form partnership with a solicitor because that would be contrary to the precedents in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, they too should follow the precedents to the last and practise as solicitors or practise as barristers. So that until that situation is clearly settled, one just has to face the Nigerian situation and the Nigerian situation is what the Bill seeks to meet.

A barrister has the right to aspire to be a Q.C. if his standing and legal practice justify it. All he has to do is to make an application for consideration to take silk and if he is well considered by Her Majesty he will take silk. So I think this Bill is welcome as it is and there can be no valid criticisms against it subject to the amendment which the hon. Minister has promised this House he is going to put in the Committee stage.

With that remark, Mr Speaker, I support this Bill to the full.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Chief V. Duro Phillips): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill which is very momentous. The Federation of Nigeria to-day is exceptionally lucky in having the persons who to-day occupy the posts of Chief Justice of the Federation, the hon. the learned Attorney-General in Lagos and the hon. Minister of Communications and Aviation... (*Hear, hear*)... Each of these three persons has in his own official capacity, proffered advice to His Excellency the Governor-General to make the impossibility of 1939 a possibility in 1959.

Sir, we were told by the hon. Minister himself the day before yesterday that in 1939 the Government was advised that it was absolutely impossible to introduce the institution of the appointment of Queen's Counsel into the country, but to-day we all rejoice that that impossibility of 1939 is possible both now

and in the future. Sir, it is the height of ambition in any barrister to become a Queen's Counsel... (*Cheers*). There is nothing more that a practising barrister desires in his own private and personal ambition. We also were told that there is very strong opposition in a section of the country to this Bill.

Sir, I would allay the fears of my learned Friends in this House that this Bill has received the unanimous support of the legal practitioners all over the country... (*Applause*)... Members of the Bar Association in the Eastern Region have endorsed it one hundred per cent. Members of the Nigerian Bar Association in the Western Region with headquarters at Ibadan have received it *in toto*. Members of the Bar Association in the Northern Region, who of course are very few, have also received it with unanimous acclamation. It is only, Sir, in the Federal territory of Lagos where a handful of lawyers very vehemently oppose it. But, Sir, I dare say the reason for the opposition as we find it in Lagos is not so much on any tangible ground but for reasons of jealousy.

If my hon. friend the hon. T. O. S. Benson does not like my language I wish he would excuse me. These lawyers oppose this Bill for reasons of jealousy. They forget of course that the day will come when they themselves will acquire the status of eligibility for appointment as Queen's Counsel... .

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Point of order, Mr Speaker. In order not to bring in ambiguity in this Bill, I understand the two counsel here say they are eligible. Neither of them is competent to decide his own eligibility... .

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health: Sir, lawyers in Lagos who have so very vehemently opposed this Bill fear that they would lose some amount of income, but on the other hand, Sir, following the explanation of the hon. Minister two days ago on this Bill, each and every one of them will be convinced that rather than lose practice they stand the chance of having more practice. It is the person who applies and who is considered fit for the status of Queen's Counsel that stands to lose a little of his practice. He no longer can dabble in Chamber practice. He no longer can draw up mortgages as my learned Friend, Dr Udoma, does all over the

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Eastern Region. All he has to do is to wait for the time when either his partner or some other barrister friends will refer cases to him for handling.

Nevertheless, Sir, we would implore our learned Friends who still oppose this Bill through their representative the hon. Ajibola to withdraw their opposition and not only to withdraw their opposition but also to agree with us that this Bill is right now absolutely necessary

Mr Speaker : It is just one o'clock and under Standing Orders sitting is suspended until three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.03 p.m.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health : Mr Speaker, Sir, continuing my speech of this morning, I observe that there has been a defect in the structure of the Nigerian Bar for a good many years, which prevents the appointment of eminent and good lawyers as Queen's Counsel. The names include such eminent lawyers as the Chief Justice of the Federation himself, the Chief Justice of the Western Region of Nigeria, Mr Justice Louis Mbanefo, Mr Justice J. I. C. Taylor, the hon. Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Mr Justice Charles Onyeama and so on and so forth. This Bill, if it is passed into law will entirely remove that old and out-of-date defect in the structure of the Nigerian Bar.

Sir, lawyers in Nigeria who are Nigerians themselves have suffered greatly by the absence of the type of legislation that the hon. Minister has now introduced. Very often foreign Queen's Counsel, that is, lawyers who are Queen's Counsel from abroad, have been imported into the country to handle cases, and whenever they are so imported, the situation arises whereby the public casts aspersions on the ability of the Nigerian lawyer. Little do they know that it was not their fault that they were not appointed Queen's Counsel when they were considered to be fit and proper for it. The public just thought that the mere fact that they are not so appointed was their own fault. Again, if this Bill is passed into law that grave injustice perhaps on the status of the Nigerian lawyers would be permanently removed.

I cannot, Sir, conclude my speech without offering one or two pieces of advice to the hon. Minister. The first is to say that whoever, both now and in the future, has entrusted to him the portfolio of advising the Council of Ministers, or His Excellency the Governor-General, or the Prime Minister on matters relating to the Legal and Judicial Department should ensure that in matters pertaining to the appointment of Queen's Counsel, considerations of matters political will not be brought into operation.

For instance, the hon. Minister might belong to a political party and the person who applies may not belong to that political party, but assurance must be given on the Floor of this House that no applicant will be denied just consideration, for reasons of party politics or otherwise.

I repeat, it is an assurance we want to have.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, the attention of the hon. Minister should be called to a pertinent portion of the editorial of the *Daily Times* of 24th November, 1958. I will read that portion, with the permission of the Speaker :

"We feel strongly however, that barrister members of Regional and Federal Legislatures should not automatically be given the silk as they generally are in the United Kingdom. Such a practice would give Nigeria far too many artificial silks."

I beg to differ, Mr Speaker, from the opinion expressed in this editorial.

When barrister members of Legislatures are precluded from consideration as Queen's Counsel, I wonder, Sir, who then would qualify, because it is in the Legislatures of the country that we find really deserving lawyers, progressive ones, eminent ones, not always outside but in the Legislature. One cannot deny the fact—of course I need not mention names, the type of lawyer which you see on your right and on your left are the type of lawyers who should not be precluded from taking silk merely for the fact that they are members of the Legislature.

Sir, I would advise the hon. Minister to copy the practice in the United Kingdom 100 per cent in this respect and not to pay any attention to the advice of the *Daily Times*.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have been told that the country in 1960 is shedding the status of being a colonial territory and it will come on its own

into Independence. It is very good, Sir, that when the country attains Independence it should move into Independence with all arms of its existence, not only on the economic, cultural, educational and other aspects but also on the legal as well as judicial fields of Independence, and the day shall be a very great day of joy for all members of the Bar—when Queen's Counsel are appointed in Nigeria, when Nigerian lawyers can hold their own, when Nigerian lawyers can have international recognition, and when Nigerian lawyers can show their own people as well as the people in the outside world that they are also efficient.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this Bill.

Mr C. C. E. Onoh (Udi): Mr Speaker, Sir, one might ask what is in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. We need not be told that the Chief Justice of the Federation, Justice Mbanefo, Justice Taylor and many others including Justice Onyeama are good in their profession, but this Bill goes further. It is not merely the title "Queen's Counsel". There are many other things following it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am supporting this Bill (*hear, hear*) with the greatest reservation. No member of the Bar dare oppose any Bill that will improve the standard and efficiency of members of the profession. Not at all, especially a Bill that has the backing of the Council of Ministers and the Chief Justice. I must remind the House that by this Bill we are introducing an innovation. If we go through we see that right within the Commonwealth we have the British Commonwealth of Nations and the Commonwealth of Nations. We have the British Commonwealth of Nations. The British Commonwealth of Nations includes Canada, New Zealand, Australia, India, Ceylon, etc., and others. But when we separate the British Commonwealth of Nations from the Commonwealth of Nations we see that the Asiatic and African members are not necessarily members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

I am saying, Sir, that in India, Ghana, Ceylon we have no institutions like that. The people that are opposed to this Queen's Counsel are not just opposing it for any selfish ends. Far be it. They are opposing it first because they feel that they have not been consulted. Second, because they feel that there is no separation of functions between the work done by a Barrister-Solicitor and the functions of this Bill which

intends to define the functions of people to take silk. They are opposed to it because it is not really a Queen's Counsel but they know that they have an inferior type of Queen's Counsel. If we must follow the English system it is my intention that the prerequisite should have been provided in the Bill to separate the functions of the Barristers and Solicitors.

But unfortunately there is no provision to check the unscrupulous members of the profession who might be considered for this high honour. All that we want from the Minister is an assurance that the Bill as it stands will cater for the interests of Barristers and that the junior ones of the profession would be protected. When you go to London you find young and ambitious lawyers walking along the streets with an umbrella in hand and a bowler hat on top without anything to do, simply because the legal profession in that country is becoming a closed shop.

The Bill commends itself to members of the honourable profession and I may refer the Minister to a section in the Legislative Council debates of 15th March, 1939, the portion was quoted by the hon. Attorney-General, Mr Cox: "One other point to which I would refer, Sir, is this, I take it that if my honourable and learned Friends wish to become King's Counsel they must be prepared to abandon their practice in the Magistrate's Courts unless there is a King's Counsel on the other side. They must be prepared to appear in a superior Court only if they are accompanied by a junior who must receive two-thirds of the same fees as they themselves receive. They must have a client sufficiently wealthy to pay that; for two men to do the work that at present is done by one. They must also be prepared, Sir, not to take action against the Crown without special permission. In other words, I think they must be prepared to abandon their practice."

With this I would in concluding refer the Minister to one point of separation of powers. Montesquieu in his book "*The Spirit of the Law*" said: "But constant experience shows us that every man invested with power is liable to abuse it, and to carry his authority as far as it goes. To prevent this abuse it is necessary from the nature of things, that one power should be a check on another. There would be an end of every thing if the same person or body, whether of the nobles or of the people, were to excise all powers."

We are introducing a special class in the legal profession and I am saying that these people will respect and honour the dignity of the profession when they are conferred.

With these remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is absolutely welcome and is a very good Bill. All the lawyers have talked, and are jostling with each other to get positions so that they may become Q.C.'s in due course. I hope that when people are anxious to get the honour and privilege they will also accept their obligations. In England, we are told, the lawyers are careful to divide and restrict their activities. The solicitor has to do his own set work, the barrister practises in the Law courts and the Q.C. confines himself to the most prominent cases. If we are agreeable to all this, by all means be Q.C.'s.

I would like to inform my lawyer friends that in Northern Nigeria we have no lawyers. Not that we are in any way inferior to you in intelligence, simply because we have something to be proud of. We have our heritage and we refuse to change it. At the present time in England and America and the other parts of the world, they refuse to be jostled by communist Russia and their new ideas. When the British came we felt that our system was as good as theirs and we have stuck to it.

You talk about fundamental human rights; fundamental human rights that suit you may not suit us. There is one aspect of this matter and that is this. We cannot tolerate any contemptuous references to our Alkali Courts. It is surprising, it is very surprising indeed that honourable men can behave in this way and attack people and institutions which may not be in a position to defend themselves. We refuse to allow any lawyers to speak contemptuously of our Alkali Courts. There are certain lawyers who do not behave in the way that their profession demands and the story leaks out from the professional people themselves, and it will be a good thing if the Attorney-General and the Minister of Communications and Aviation will look into these things and any lawyer not fit should be struck off the Roll.

Now, Sir, that all the lawyers have talked and it is evident that the laymen in the House are not interested in this Bill, I think the question should be put.

Mr Speaker: Let us hear the Debate to its conclusion.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one or two things about this Bill. I must confess that one thing that I have noticed since this debate began is a pleasant surprise in the sense that I was coming here to meet people who were coming here purposely to attack this Bill vehemently, and I wanted to listen to the reasons they would advance in attacking this Bill. But I think those who were supposed to attack this Bill have already developed cold feet. One here even briefed to speak against has spoken in favour! And there is still one left! And he is even afraid to get up!

Sir, I would say this, that this Bill is absolutely welcome. (*Hear, hear*). It is overdue. Indeed I think what has been responsible for the low standard of practice in this country is that it is impossible to distinguish the proper lawyer from the improper lawyer....

Several hon. Members: Withdraw! Withdraw!

Dr Udoma:And it may well be that those who attack this Bill regard themselves as improper lawyers! I am not saying so, because a lawyer is always a lawyer. When one has been called to the Bar we bow to him as a learned friend, even though he may be very unlearned!

Now, Sir, there is widespread argument outside this House as to why this Bill should not be passed by this House. So, Sir, this question of consultation—I do not understand who required to be consulted. In the first place, if these people who discussed this Bill at length have not been consulted, I do not see by what stretch of imagination they were able to assume what the Bill was going to be about and then to beat about the bush in the papers about this Bill. My feeling is this, that there must have been some trouble in Lagos, and thank God it is not throughout Nigeria, because even the Alkalis in the North would support this Bill!

So I say, Sir, that the time has now come. We are on the threshold of Independence and we think that these things ought to be put right. It is only proper that we congratulate the Attorney-General and the Minister who

will not endanger the traditions of the Bar, for if recommendations are made by our Chief Justices or Judges, the danger is there. In the attempt to take silk some of the members of the honourable profession may be unduly influenced in the execution of their duty to their clients thereby jeopardizing the freedom of the Bar before the Bench and thereby endangering the chances of fair trial.

I have another observation that I would like to make and that is that the conferment of this honour on Lawyers of this country should not be automatic as it may be in some other parts of the world.

Finally, I hope this hon. House will now consider this our case as put by the other section of the hon. profession and (*Interruption*) but since the advice of our amendment, the Council of Ministers has deemed it fit to put in an amendment also in order to cure what is incurable, so that in a sense our side of the hon. House has been able to move the conscience of the Federal Government. If you want Queen's Counsel, then have it. What we oppose is the creation of an inferior class of Queen's Counsel. What we want is a legal profession on the same basis, on the same merit and on the same standing and with the same rights as is at present in Great Britain.

Mr Speaker, Sir, those are my views.

Mr J. A. G. Ohiani (Igbirra): I am interested in this, Sir, because it has taken the minds of this country and we have been reading in the papers "Queen's Counsel", "Queen's Counsel" day and night.

Sir, we are on the eve of independence for Nigeria. May I ask the Minister if the application of the position of Queen's Counsel is of necessity to Nigeria at this moment. (*An hon. Member: No*). Well, if it is a necessity, I think hon. Members will welcome it and it will be all right. Of course we have no objection in creating here posts for Barristers, Solicitors and lawyers. Many people in this country do not know the difference between Barristers, Solicitors, Advocates, Queen's Counsel, etc. and to bring in a Bill so as to make room for a few at the top is a matter which I think we shall have to think about before we can go into it. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr Speaker, well this is not the time I think to create posts for the few at the top. We will have to support this Bill on the ground that

we think it is suitable for Nigeria at the moment. Those are my few remarks, Mr Speaker.

Mr J. M. Udochi (Afenmai): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the second reading of this epoch-making Bill. To-day is a great day in the history of the legal profession in Nigeria. In the past it was not possible for a Nigerian lawyer to rise to the high office of Queen's Counsel, because in the past we lacked on our Statute Book a law such as that which is embodied in this Bill. In the past lawyers suffered from a peculiar handicap. Although they could win for themselves honours in other fields, although they could earn for themselves knighthoods, it was impossible for them to rise to the highest possible status given in their own profession. The late Sir Akitoye Ajasa was not a Queen's Counsel, and the late Sir Adeyemo Alakija could not be appointed a Queen's Counsel although on several occasions he was recommended for that office.

To-day we are curing what has been a very painful situation. I notice that the spirit of cheap and puerile nationalism which has characterized the debate of the subject matter of this Bill outside this House has not been endorsed by this House at all, which shows a very great sense of responsibility and a good sense of understanding in the Members of this House.

Mr Speaker, if there is any one respect in which we in this country have got to be very thankful it is that it was the people of the Anglo-Saxon race who have introduced us to the civilization of the Western World. It is a fact that, by so doing, we are inheriting the legal and judicial systems of the Anglo-Saxon people. (*Hear, hear*). There can be no doubt that the British sense of justice is one of the noblest things this world has even known (*Hear, hear*), and the "rule of law"—a peculiar Anglo-Saxon contribution to legal philosophy—has won the approval of the world. We are indeed fortunate if we adopt the legal and judicial systems of a people with such a reputation for justice.

It is to be noted that during the Constitutional Conference our people have agreed to adopt Her Majesty's Privy Council as the highest court in the land. Could any Nigerian wish that Nigerian lawyers should forever practise as juniors in that great world theatre of justice?

It is obvious that we like the British system and we have wholly adopted it. One of the arguments of those who are against the creation of Queen's Counsel is that the Queen's Counsel should not engage or continue in partnership with a Solicitor, but they forget that in Nigeria there is no division of the profession, and one might practise both as a Solicitor and as a Barrister. To make a Queen's Counsel practise only as a Barrister without having partnership with a Solicitor will make it impossible for a Queen's Counsel to earn his livelihood.

I do not think there is any lawyer in Nigeria who regards himself as an inferior Barrister simply because he is not prohibited from practising as a Solicitor. If our Q.Cs' cannot work with Solicitors they will be reduced to the state of paupers.

It is not true to say that there were no consultations with the Bar in this matter, because as far back as last January the Bar was informed about this Bill, and the Bar consulted all its members and branches. It is not true to say that many members of the Bar opposed the Bill. What appeared in the daily paper was only the opposition of a handful of members, but the great bulk of lawyers in Nigeria fully support the Bill. It is only lawyers whose financial status is well established who can apply to take silk; any junior whose practice is good and who does not count the cost, may find himself unable to maintain his position. When you become a Q.C. your earning does not go up at once, only after being a Q.C. and establishing your position can you become great. Those who feel that it is not yet time for us to be Q.C's are very much mistaken.

We have our leaders in this country, they have just been to attend the Constitutional Conference in London, you will see out of that Conference they have set up a pattern in an independent Nigeria. What is the highest court in this country? The highest court in this country is still Her Majesty's Privy Council. Do these people want to perpetuate the fact that a Nigerian lawyer cannot appear in his own right as a senior member of the profession as a Queen's Counsel in that august body? Do they want to keep Nigerians down so that if anyone went to look for a lawyer in the highest court in the land, he would have to look for a foreigner to lead him? Is that what they want the

country to be? It is becoming popular that when men of means need a lawyer they want a Queen's Counsel. Are these people saying therefore, that they want to leave that class of practice only to people who come from abroad, that our own men cannot share in that practice? I know they do not mean that, so you can see how uninformed the opposers to this Bill are.

I just want to say, Sir, before I close that I must correct one mistake. Some Members have been saying that members of the Bar were not consulted. There could never be more consultation on a matter than in this case. As far as last January, the Bar Association was in full knowledge of the facts of this matter and the trouble was taken to consult every single lawyer; not only branches of the Bar Association but all senior lawyers were consulted and all gave their blessing. But a handful of people for one reason or the other chose to refuse this honour. It is only a handful who do not support, 99 per cent of the members of the Bar chose to support the Bill.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Finance (Chief H. Omo Osagie): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill. Following the arguments in the Press, particularly the arguments of those people who oppose the idea of creating Queen's Counsel in Nigeria, as a layman I came to the conclusion that the opposition to this Bill was uninformed. What surprised me most was that a lawyer got up here to say that over 95 per cent of the lawyers in Nigeria opposed the Bill. There is nothing further from the truth. I would say that less than 5 per cent of the members of the Bar are opposed to it. I happen to know many lawyers and I have my own children who are lawyers too.

One argument which was advanced was that the institution of Queen's Counsel was a foreign institution. There is nothing so shortsighted. Queen's Counsel, according to them, is an institution of the United Kingdom. I know that we had our own type of law before the British came, but the present system of the law in Nigeria is not a foreign one to us. If we go to England to qualify as barristers and come here to practise, why not carry all the things that follow such a practice in that profession, an honourable profession at that?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will advise this House to give this Bill their blessing. I support.

indigenous. An institution may be indigenous by reason of its being created in a given area. It may also be indigenous by adoption, and I think the present legal system in which we are has become indigenous by adoption. There are people who may argue that it was forced upon us. Let us assume that originally it was forced upon us, but at the very first opportunity that we had to make a choice round the Conference tables, in England and in this country, we chose, of our own volition, to remain within that legal system. So that it is no longer a foreign institution forced upon us; it is an institution which we have found to be useful, which we have found able to serve our purpose and which we have ourselves voluntarily adopted. The argument of its being foreign does not therefore hold water.

And the law practised in this country, in spite of what some people say, that it is not indigenous, is not the same as the one practised in England. We have our own law in this country made to suit local conditions, made to make allowance for our own tradition and our own indigenous institution and the system of law which we practise is already an indigenous institution. If it is indigenous and we stick to this institution which we have adopted to suit our own purpose, we must not only take a part of it, we must take it as a whole. The office of Queen's Counsel is part of that legal system.

I heard an hon. Member making reference to Ghana, that this thing is not done in Ghana. Well, after all, the Attorney-General of Ghana is a Q.C., and therefore the office is even not foreign to Ghana. The present Attorney-General of Ghana was not a nominee of the Colonial Office. He was not forced upon the Ghanaians by any external authority. He was chosen by an independent Ghana. He was appointed when Ghana became independent. And they knew he was a Q.C. and it may have been that part of the consideration for appointing him was that he had risen to a position of eminence in the Legal profession, and that could only be indicated by his being made a Q.C. by Her Majesty the Queen.

I must also add that the law which we are now passing is not new to Nigeria. I do not want to mention names because it has had one connotation in this House before, but in other parts of Africa where the English legal system is adopted the office of Queen's Counsel exists

and the law in vogue there is in line with the Bill we are passing here to-day. If you will permit me to mention the place, it is Kenya. That is the practice in Kenya and in a few other places that is the practice.

Well, I must clear one point finally so that hon. Members may not be left in the dark as to why at the present moment we cannot tell any Q.C. created not to have anything to do at all with solicitors. The reason is this. When a man is made a Q.C. he can no longer take a case from a client outside. A criminal cannot come directly to him. A man who has a civil action can no longer come directly to him. Anyone who has a case must go straight to a solicitor. It is the solicitor who can listen to the layman. It is the solicitor who can interview witnesses and prepare the case. Having prepared the case, the solicitor cannot go to court. The solicitor would on behalf of the client brief a Queen's Counsel. That is the position.

Now, in the whole of this country there is only one qualified indigenous Nigerian solicitor and that is the Clerk of the Lagos Town Council who is already fully employed. So if you create your Q.C., and you ask him not to have anything to do with any client, he must wait until he is briefed by a solicitor. Where is that solicitor to brief him? The critics of this Bill have never answered that question. So he has not the means through which cases will reach him because of the inadequacy of the number of qualified solicitors in this country. Since that avenue of getting briefs is not available to the Queen's Counsel here now, the only source through which the Queen's Counsel can get his brief will be through those, like hon. Members who are lawyers here, who are solicitors and barristers. That is the only source.

I would like to explain by taking an example. Messrs Thomas, Williams and Kayode are a firm of barristers and solicitors here. Suppose a man who has a case goes to this firm of solicitors and they prepare his case. They get everything ready and they happen to discover that this man who has a case is no less a person than the hon. Dipcharimma with a lot of money to spend. They ask what he would pay, and after they have prepared the case it is up to them to brief a Queen's Counsel. But do not forget that they are also solicitors and barristers. Will they brief the Queen's Counsel who is far away or will they brief only one of

their own men to go to court? That is the point; the solicitors and barristers will only brief one of their own members because they can act as solicitors, do the work in the chamber and having completed that they can also appear in court. Whereas in England a solicitor, however experienced he may be, cannot go to court, he cannot go to the High Court, he cannot go to the Supreme Court, out here both barristers and solicitors can go there. The result is that your Q.C., in his own glorified dignity will be wallowing in the position where he would have practically nothing to do. There will be no solicitors to brief him and the barristers and solicitors who are there to take cases from clients have their own personal interests to serve. The result is that your Q.C., will be starved to death at our present stage of development.

So if we are creating Q.C.'s then we must ensure that they will be able to rise up to the dignity of their office. Therefore what we are proposing in simple form, as I said while introducing this Bill, is that I would request the Attorney-General, who is also the president of the Nigerian Bar Association, to put it to the Bar Association that they should consider the advisability of separating the office of barrister from the office of solicitor. . . .

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): The sooner the better.

Chief Akintola: I repeat that I would request the Attorney-General of the Federation to put it to the Bar Association to consider the advisability of separating the office of barrister from that of solicitor. If they are to be separated they should fix a date. That date may be next year, it may be two years, any given date, but whatever that date is when it arrives whatever partnership exists as a result of this Bill between a solicitor and a Q.C., that partnership must be dissolved so that the partnership which may already be in existence would only be valid until he and his colleagues make up their minds as to the separation of the offices.

Mr C. C. Mojekwu (Onitsha): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would only like to add a few words in support of this Bill. It is not very clearly understood that historically there were three professions known to the English people, the law, medicine and the Church, and the point is that in all these professions you will find that there are some very important requisites.

First is academic training for a period, then follows some practical training, then skill in the exercise and practise of that profession. . . .

Mr Speaker: It is interesting, but I do not honestly think it is relevant to the reading of this Bill.

Mr Mojekwu: Mr Speaker, Sir, what I am trying to say is that since the intention of this Bill is an effort to enhance the prestige of the legal profession, it will be very important for the lay people and for all Members of this House to understand that it is not only a question of academic distinction that is important in a profession. The skill with which a man pursues his profession, the industry, the integrity and the unimpeachable moral character that he must have, these things are the things which this Bill intends to inculcate more into the legal profession.

So far, we know that unless there is something for the members of the legal profession to look to, they are bound to lapse into a certain amount of—if you like—very poor practice, and perhaps to forget to practise the ethics of practice at the Bar.

I think that from the layman's point of view, or the clients' point of view, he will have services for his money if this Bill is passed, and it becomes possible for some people to become Queen's Counsel. They can devote more time in handling cases that are very intricate and complicated. He will have more time to prepare these things, and from the layman's point of view this Bill ought to be welcomed and it does begin to give us a way of dividing the responsibility in the profession. Let those of us who opt to become solicitors become solicitors, and those who wish to become Queen's Counsel become Queen's Counsel and barristers. It will then be possible for them to handle various cases and to have time to do them properly.

The trouble in this country as I see it, is that everyone wants to be important, nobody wants to think anyone is better than he is. Some people now will take any case, murder, divorce, land, they will do them all, and it is not right, they cannot be done properly.

Mr Speaker, I think this Bill is very welcome particularly at this stage of our development, and I support it whole-heartedly.

Question put and agreed to.

seeks to do is to make this Federal Loans Board reflect the nature of this Federation by extending these facilities to all the people in the Regions.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, one thing that we must bear in mind when considering the question of giving out loans to industrialists in this country is this: we must take chances at this stage of our development. We cannot reach the highest standard of morality and integrity and responsibility in a day. I know very well that Government must be very careful in spending public revenue but, at the same time, we must take risks. Certainly if we say that our method of giving loans must be very strict, we will give only to very few people. I am glad that the Minister has realised that in this stage of our development we must give out as much as we can and take risks as much as possible until we are made to do otherwise by practical experience. I am of the opinion that if we restrict this, only very few people will be eligible for these loans. I repeat that I am glad that the Federal Government has realised that in this stage of our development, it is absolutely necessary that we open the door wider so that many more people will be able to benefit by this loan.

Now, I would like to say this also: this is a piece of advice. It has often been the case that when people have applied for these loans and have been given the loans, they have stood a chance to lose. The reason is that they lack the technical know-how, and the technical advice from the experts. I would say this, Sir, that when somebody comes forward with any industrial project which is worth establishing, and which receives the approval of the Government, and for which he gets a loan from the Government, every necessary measure should be taken in order that he should be given the technical know-how or the advice on the technical know-how, so that his industrial project may be properly put on its feet.

Often and again we hear of people getting loans, not only from the Federal Loans Board, but also from the Regional Loans Boards in the Regions, only to spend it somehow, and that loan, in many respects, becomes detrimental to both the industry and the industrialist, and this is all because they lack the technical know-how. So I would suggest to the Government that if anybody comes forward with any industrial

project, care must be taken to see that that industry is properly put on its feet by giving it all the technical advice, or by giving industrialists themselves all the technical advice.

Now, Sir, industry and commerce, I have always maintained, are inseparable. One should not be developed at the expense of the other. They are two things that must go side by side. For quite a long time commerce has suffered in this country a great deal. I know that Government and some other people might tell me that after all there are the banks and there are, perhaps, certain investment corporations that might crop up in the country that will help commercial enterprises, but I am of the opinion, Mr Speaker, Sir, that as far as possible, these loans should be extended to commercial enterprises wherever these commercial enterprises deserve such benefit. It is my conviction, Sir, that if we are not helping these commercial enterprises, certainly the giving out of loans to industrial projects will, in a way, be detrimental to the progress of commerce in this country, and anything that is detrimental to the growth of commerce in the country will in one way or the other, affect the industrialisation of the country too. I would, therefore, urge that Government should extend their loan facilities to commercial enterprises wherever possible.

Here again I would like to say this, that if Government is unable to extend such facilities every effort must be made in order to help, morally and financially, any private investment corporation that may come into existence in the country so that this investment corporation can itself help such commercial enterprises.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope that this Bill will enable the people in the rural areas to get these loan facilities from the Government and we as the watchdogs of the electorate that has sent us here will go back to our respective constituencies and inform them the good news that has been broken by this dynamic Minister, that now they can apply for such loans for industrial projects from the Regions.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr Speaker: There will be a short break before we continue the debate. The sitting will be suspended for ten minutes.

Sitting suspended : 4.45. p.m.

Sitting resumed: 5.00 p.m.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir, when the Ordinance to establish the Industrial Loans (Lagos and Federation) Ordinance was passed in 1956, I did not think that it was the intention of the Government to set up an organisation that is going to rival those existing in the Regions, because, as a matter of fact, in the Regions you have finance corporations with sizeable funds to cater for people in the Regions. In the East you have the Finance Corporation, in the Western Region there exists one and in the North there exists a Finance Corporation that does precisely what this Loans Board of Lagos does for the people of Lagos.

Now, the funds at the disposal of these Regional Finance Corporations were large enough, some of them running into millions. As I said, it was to cater primarily for the people of Lagos that this Loans Board in respect of Lagos was set up. You will notice that when Lagos was part and parcel of the Western Region there was the Western Regional Corporation to cater for both the people of the Western Region and Lagos, but with the separation of Lagos it dawned on the Government that it was only fair to establish a loans Board to cater for the people of Lagos and part of the Federation only came in accidentally.

I do not think it can be the intention of the Government to set up another separate organisation on top of the Regional ones. That is why, if you look at the name of the Bill you will see that it is a Lagos and Federation Loans Board. But the important point that I am making is this, that it is essential to make up for what we Lagosians suffer by not being part and parcel of the West, and I think it is only fair in spite of what people from the Regions feel that the interests of the people of Lagos should be paramount in this matter.

Now there is no opportunity for us who are staying in Lagos to apply for loans in the West, East, or in the North, but it is possible for the inhabitants of the Regions to apply for loans, not only from their own Regional Boards but also to come and bite out of the cake that is being provided by the Federal Minister of Commerce.

It is only fair that the special position of Lagos should be carefully protected in this matter. Now, how is that relevant to the amendment put forward by the Minister? As

a result of this amendment the Minister now seeks to invite more applications from the Regions than at present come from the Regions. And I am speaking because I happen to be a member of the Loans Board, and I know actually what happens there. The effect of this amendment which the Minister seeks to put before the House is that more applications would come from the Regions. The funds available to this Board are limited. With competition coming in from the Regions at the rate which can now be anticipated, as a result of this amendment, certainly the position of Lagos will not look as bright as it was before.

And I made a point that for all other Nigerian nationals there are two boards into which they can dip their hands. They have the Regions to finance them, and that is why it was very necessary that applications from the Regions should be limited to a certain figure, and that was why it was originally limited to £30,000. It is true that this worked some hardship, because it has discouraged applications for less than that figure from the Regions and has given Lagos what Dr Mboadiwe used to call a "leeway". It places us Lagos people in comparatively a favourable position as compared with Regional people, because those of us in Lagos can get from £5,000 up to £10,000 without difficulty, whereas those from the Regions cannot do so.

Now, as I said, the practical effect of the amendment is that the Minister has reduced this figure to £10,000. I humbly submit, Sir, that that figure is too low. It would have been better if he had put it at £20,000. As I said, people from the Regions have a right to apply to their Regional Boards and get money from them, and they are now having to compete with Lagos, from this same Board. I submit, Sir, that the practical result of fixing the figure at £10,000 is to encourage frivolous applications from the Regions, and numerous ones, and the practical result of that is that Lagos people will be in sharp competition, and the amount of funds that would be available to cater for Lagos would be considerably reduced when they would have to compete with people from all over the Federation.

Secondly, the practical result of further reducing the amount from £30,000 to £10,000 is that you are going to devolve more work on your Department that conducts the investigations into this loan application. As a result of

this you are just going to have a shower of applications, many of them coming from those who have already taken loans from the Regions and failed to pay, many of them from those who have failed to get loans from their Regions because their Regions are in a better position to size them up and they are found to be people who are not credit-worthy.

I should have thought, Sir, that with the existence of the Regional Finance Corporations already catering for the needs of people who are in the Regions, East, West or North, it ought not to be so easy for them to enter into sharp competition with us in Lagos as a result of this amendment, and I should have thought that it would have been more reasonable to fix the figure at £20,000.

There is no doubt that the Minister appreciates that a limit must be fixed, otherwise if he says that it should be open to all, why fix a limit at all? Lagos stands in a special position as regards this matter that you did fix a figure at all, but we discovered that £30,000 was too high a figure. But in coming down you have come down too low, and I should have thought that a reasonable amount would have been £20,000 in view of what I have said. That, nevertheless, brings us to the general intention behind this Bill. It is to encourage Regional applicants who perhaps have failed to pay the loans they took from the West. That is what happens when people fail to repay what they took from the East; now the same people will apply to the Lagos Loans Board. Anyway, we members of the Loans Board can jolly well take care of that.

With these observations, I support the Second Reading of the Bill.

M. Jalo Waziri (Gombe): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government on introducing this Bill, which will undoubtedly be very helpful to industrialists who need Government's financial help. But it is not sufficient to grant a loan to individuals or companies wishing to develop industries. The Government has to go to the extent of establishing national industries. I do not mean that we should take the line of making our industries national, but it would be the intention to have them denationalized later on when companies might have been formed that would be able to cope with industrial development.

With these remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support this Bill. My reason for saying this is that it reflects, as the hon. Maitama Sule has said, the Federation of this country. But, Mr Speaker, I am afraid that as the hon. Dosunmu is a member of this Loans Board and has very strongly said that the loans should not be so made that the Regional people can apply for them, it means that as a member of that Board he is going to stand against any Regional person who applies for a loan. So, I sincerely ask the Minister to look into that and make sure that the Action Group member does not carry his policy there.

Mr Speaker, the loan is to reinforce the attempts of the people in this country to spread industrialisation. I do not understand why such an hon. Gentleman should come and state that it should not be available to people from the Regions. After all, Mr Speaker, the people from Lagos who are industrialists are not prevented from applying to the Regional Boards for loans; if they have spread their industries to the Regions they can apply for loans. So, I sincerely ask the Minister to guard against the influence of the Action Group on the Loans Board.

Mr Speaker, I support the Bill.

Mr G. O. Ebea (Ishan): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is one of the most progressive Bills that has ever been brought before the House. It is so because it affects the people in the rural areas. Whenever we come here we say something on behalf of the people in the rural areas and what can be done to help them, and I know that giving them loans will help most of them to establish their industries. In the Regions we have much difficulty in getting these loans from the Regional Governments, more especially if one is not a supporter of the party of the Government in power; we are glad that, in the Federation, we shall be free to get these loans.

Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like it explained whether this kind of loan will be given to farmers, because in the rural areas many people are farmers. We have much land and the manpower to cultivate our farmland. I do not know whether this kind of loans will be extended to farmers. I do not know also whether legislators are free to raise loans from the Federal Government. (*Hear, hear.*)

With these remarks, Sir, I support the Bill.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola-Afolu II (Ijebu Remo): Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Mr Abii, I think, went off the rails when he started to accuse the hon. Mr Dosunmu, being a member of the Action Group, of an improper attitude in giving loans to members of the public. I can well understand, Sir, what the hon. Mr Dosunmu meant, and that is, that since those who were born and bred in Lagos do not have the opportunity of going to the Regions to obtain loans, they should be given first consideration. I agree with him, Sir.

But, Mr Speaker, when I was speaking here a few days ago, I said that Lagos was congested and some hon. Members misunderstood me for advocating for the extension of the boundaries of Lagos. Sir, I want to make it quite clear that what I was saying that day was that I was blaming the Federal Government for its refusal to join with the Western Regional Government to have a Planning Committee for the areas very close to Lagos. (*Interruption*).

Mr Abii: Point of Order, Sir. I think the hon. Member is irrelevant. We are discussing loans and he is talking about the extension of Lagos.

Oba Aiyeola: Mr Speaker, Sir, this is one of the few examples whereby the Federal Government is in a position to help those people around the Federal territory of Lagos. That is, by giving them facilities of getting loans from the Federal Government. I have always advocated for the fishermen and the farmers around Lagos to be given loans by the Government but, unfortunately, the Federal Government has not done anything in this respect. What we have before us now is an Industrial Loans Bill. It is not a loan to encourage farmers and fishermen along the coastal territory of Lagos.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this has been done in the Western Region where farmers are being given loans to plant cash crops and economic crops and things of that kind, and I think, Sir, that the Federal Government should be up and doing in establishing a Loans Board from where the farmers and fishermen around Lagos would be able to obtain loans.

Mr Speaker, I find that this Loans Board is operating on the paltry capital of about £500,000. I think this is paltry because it is a poor sum of money when one considers

the new industrial projects which the people of Nigeria are having before them before we have our independence in 1960. I appeal to the Minister responsible for this project to see what he can do to increase this capital to as much as one million pounds.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the Bill.

M. Shehu Kazaure (Kano North): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill wholeheartedly. I am very surprised to learn that there are people here who are reluctant to agree with the Government if the Government proposes to do anything to help the rural areas. (*Interruption*) May I also draw the Government's attention to the fact that in the functions of the existing Board, as much as possible, party politics should be avoided, because an hon. Member is now suggesting that he will try to use his influence when applications come from rural areas to reject them and only approve those from Lagos.

Lagos will be very grateful to the Federal Government for having enjoyed this privilege for years and now that the Government has extended this privilege to the rural areas I think every Member of this hon. House should give their support wholeheartedly.

Mr H. O. Chuku (Bende): Mr Speaker, Sir, there is nobody here who would like this opportunity to pass without contributing to this debate. In the past there were applications from the rural areas, particularly from the Eastern Region. I know of many people who started in their own respective industries and when the time came for them to apply for a loan they were advised to put their resources together to form companies. This they did, but it was still not possible for them to have loans because their capital did not come up to the £30,000 required. Now that it is possible for them to apply and get the loan I am very grateful to the Minister who has brought forward this Bill. We do hope that it is going to be welcome news to those who have suffered in the past and that we shall be able to tell them when we get home that they can simply apply and get the loan.

M. Malachias Bawa, Wakilin Ayuka (Pankshin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support this Bill. It is an indication, Sir, that people from outside the Lagos area should understand that Lagos is the Federal Territory not only for those who live in Lagos. Furthermore, Sir, before I give this Bill my support I should like the Minister to attain more by

like that are submitted for their scrutiny, if they do not understand them they should endeavour to find experts who will advise them on the scheme or otherwise find some way of examining them and giving fair comments on the scheme rather than merely throwing it back and saying they know nothing about it.

Where they find it difficult to investigate they must really say so and not merely treat the scheme which may have taken a lot of time to think out as poor, irrelevant and unnecessary and not come up at all. It is very demoralising and it defeats the object of the law.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Uyo): Mr Speaker, I support the Third Reading of this Bill, but I would like to say one word in the form of advice to the Minister which I hope he will pass to the Board responsible for administering this law. I was happy to hear him say in the course of his speech that there can be no question of playing politics with the administration of loans and that his party has made it very clear that they are going to administer these loans impartially. Although I was quite happy to hear that, unfortunately, from information imparted to us, this Board is not dominated by the N.P.C. It is dominated by another party which might not be prepared to accept that policy enunciated by the Minister.

I understand it is the N.C.N.C. party which dominates that Board. We know what the N.C.N.C. is capable of. I would have been happier if the N.P.C. had dominated that Board. In the Eastern Region where there are similar boards dominated by the N.C.N.C.—and they are always clever to say it is a policy board—they excel others in the demonstration of their impartiality in the administration of loans.

I hope the Minister will warn that this is not an N.C.N.C. Board. It is a Nigerian Board and therefore every Nigerian, as has been very well said in this House by many speakers, who is qualified is entitled to get a loan from this Board irrespective of his political affiliation. I hope that this word will be passed on to the members of this Board.

It is of course true that investigations have to be conducted in the normal circumstances, and I hope that all businessmen in the Regions, in the North, in the East, in the West and particularly in the C.O.R. area will be given the opportunity of benefiting by this Board.

The Minister of Research and Information rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

Question, That the Bill be now read the Third Time, put accordingly and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and question proposed, That this House do now adjourn (The Minister of Research and Information).

Mr J. I. Izah (Aboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, on this Motion for the Adjournment, I am raising a most urgent matter. It is in connection with our young Central Bank. This House would require the Minister to make a statement on the staff recruitment policy of this young institution. Alarming information has reached us that there is a gross discriminatory policy in this institution. This policy is discriminatory not only between Nigerians and expatriates but also between Nigerians and their fellow Nigerians. It is a shame indeed. We hear, Sir, that in the higher section of this young institution there is an internal force responsible for this evil and this is an opportunity for the Minister to make a statement to this House on that.

Secondly, Sir, it seems to us that this young institution is inheriting some of those odious things in the main civil service. It is revealed, Sir, that Nigerians who have acquired previous experience in foreign banks in the country and have added to it further training in banking in the United Kingdom have found it extremely difficult to find a place in this new institution. One or two who have been taken have come across initial difficulties and it is likely that on account of this difficulty they might have to make their exit, because the bank has not quite decided on policies relating to car advances, to house accommodation and those things which surely must attract any indigenous or foreign staff who would wish to work under this young institution. It is my view that everything must be done to ensure the healthy growth of this institution and that is why I have brought up this matter.

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Mr Speaker, I beg to support the motion for the adjournment.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Victor Mukete): Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Minister of Finance I rise to say that the Central Bank appreciates the interest shown by hon. Members in the affairs of the Bank. The Bank does not maintain any official records of the tribal origin of its staff and limits itself to recording only the Region of origin. Out of a total establishment of sixty-eight there are four expatriates, and of the sixty indigenous staff twenty-three are from Lagos, nineteen are from the West, thirteen from the East and five are from the North. In all cases appointments have been made on the basis of the standards laid down by the Staff Committee.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Central Bank is a national institution and it is its duty to reflect the character of the nation in its staff position. But as a premier financial institution in this country it also owes it as a duty to the country to base its recruitment of staff not on tribal origin but on merit. I am happy to say that these two requirements are not incompatible and the Bank will do its best to reflect the national character in its staff position while preserving the golden canon that merit will remain the primary consideration in its recruitment of staff.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes to 6 o'clock until 10 a.m. on Thursday the 27th of November.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Thursday, 27th November, 1958

The House met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Reports from Committees. I have to inform the House that a further report as to the allocation of time for the Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure has been received from the Business Committee and will be considered under the relevant item on to-day's Order Paper. It has been printed and circulated to Members.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*O.278. **Mr A. E. Ukattah** asked the Prime Minister, what was the total cost to the Federal Government of repatriating Muslim pilgrims to Nigeria during the period January 1955 to October 1958; and how many of the pilgrims were repatriated to each of the three Regions, the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister : In July of this year, in answer to questions Nos. O.206 and O.241 by the Hon. R. T. Alege, I gave particulars of expenditure on repatriation in 1957 and the first half of 1958, and explained that existing records are not designed to show to which Region any person may proceed after repatriation to Nigeria. In the financial year 1955-56, £655-2s-8d was spent in repatriating Nigerians from the Sudan and Saudi Arabia; in the financial year 1956-57 the figure was £996-7s-1d. It may be assumed that the great majority of the persons thus repatriated were Moslem pilgrims.

*O.291. **Mr C. C. E. Onoh** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, what is the attitude of the Government towards the recommendations of Powell Duffryn Technical Services Ltd., and what arrangements are being made to exploit the by-products of coal.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Lagos Affairs Mines and Power : Powell Duffryn Technical Services Limited reported in 1951 on an investigation

they had carried out on behalf of the Nigerian Government into the production of liquid fuels and other chemicals from Nigerian lignite.

Although the capital cost of setting up such an industry was in 1953 calculated as being in the region of £11 million pounds, the possibility of establishing an industry for the production of liquid fuels and chemicals by distillation from coal on an economic basis has been kept in view. However, a recent review made by the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for the Coal Corporation concluded that the present commercial evidence relating to this type of industry in other countries was not sufficiently favourable to justify consideration of a large scheme in Nigeria. In accordance with the conclusions of this report the question will be reviewed at intervals of 10 years.

Supplementary to O.291—

Mr Onoh : Will the Minister consider lending money from the five-year Development Plan to implement this?

The Parliamentary Secretary : No, Sir.

*O.292. **M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Education, what percentage of the women were literate in the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos in the years 1937, 1947 and 1957; and what percentage of girls of school age were actually attending schools in the Southern Cameroons and Lagos during the same years.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : Sir, I must confine my reply to the Federal Territory of Lagos as the Minister is not responsible for this matter in the Southern Cameroons.

I regret that there are no figures available of the total number of women in Lagos in the years 1937, 1947 and 1957 nor of the number of women in Lagos in those years who were literate. Similarly, there are no figures of the number of girls of school age resident in Lagos during those years or, in respect of the years 1937 and 1947, of the number of such girls who were actually attending school. The only figure I can give is of the number of girls at schools in Lagos in the year 1957. That figure was 23,888.

*O.293. **M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Education, what percentage of the female population in each of the territories

attended schools in the Southern Cameroons and the Federal Territory of Lagos in the years 1937, 1947 and 1957.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : As I said in my reply to the last question, Sir, it is not possible to give the percentages required since figures of the female population in the Federal Territory of Lagos (for which the Minister is responsible) for the years 1937, 1947 and 1957 are not available and figures of the number of girls attending schools are available for 1957 only.

*O.294. **M. Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Education, whether he will make a statement on the use made of the money generously donated to the Federal Government by Shell-BP for purposes of scholarship.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education : Mr Speaker, I am assuming that the hon. Member is referring to the gift of £500,000 made by the Shell Petroleum Company and the British Petroleum Company for the purpose of extending our facilities for training Nigerian technicians. The gift was not related to the award of scholarships.

Honourable Members will recollect that the Prime Minister announced this gift to the House at the last session. His statement is to be found in Hansard of the 6th of August.

In his statement the Prime Minister said that one of the most urgent of the preparations to be made for the expenditure of the money must be investigation of the country's needs over the next few years of the various grades of professional and technical manpower. The investigation would be designed principally to ensure that the Yaba Technical Institute (which trains pupils from all over Nigeria) was expanded in such directions as would best meet the country's needs and fit it in with the course provided by the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology and by Regional technical institutions.

The companies agreed that the cost of this investigation should be met from their gift.

The Federal Advisory Committee on Technical Education, strengthened to include a representative from each of the two oil companies, the Economic Secretary from the Prime Minister's Office and a representative of

the Ministry of Finance, has been invited in the first place to recommend who should carry out the initial survey of our needs of trained manpower over the next few years and what should be his terms of reference. The Committee has met for this purpose. It has drawn up terms of reference and it has approached a number of well-known industrial consultants with a view to securing their services in carrying out the survey.

It is hoped that the survey will be commenced early in the new year.

Once the survey is completed the Federal Advisory Committee on Technical Education will make recommendations in the light of the survey as to how the Federal Government's facilities for sub-professional technical training can best be expanded. In doing this it will give careful consideration to the need for proper co-ordination of the Government's facilities for Technical Education and those of the statutory corporations and industry.

I would like to assure the House that the Government attaches the very greatest importance to the expansion of its facilities for Technical Education and that there will be no avoidable delay in implementing the developments which have been made possible by the generous gift from the oil companies.

Supplementary to O.294.

M. Abubakar Garba : How long will it take to investigate ?

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Speaker, Sir, perhaps I should put it another way. How long will this survey take, and then how soon will this money be expended for the purpose.

The Parliamentary Secretary : As soon as possible. It is expected that the survey will take four months and when the survey is finished the Government will have to deal with the report.

CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr Speaker : The report from the Business Committee (Supplementary Appropriation (1958-59) (No. 2) Bill (Allocation of Time) to be now considered.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon Victor Mukete) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, that this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Report.

Question put and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Order (22nd November) be amended by inserting at the end of line 12 the words "Heads 603 and 605."

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THE SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(1958-59) (No. 2) BILL (SECOND
ALLOTTED DAY)

(In the Committee)

HEAD 59, MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND
INFORMATION

The Chairman : An amendment was put by Mr Ngale to reduce the head by £5.

Question again proposed, That Head 59, Ministry of Research and Information be reduced by £5.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. Victor Mukete): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to assure the hon. Member for Victoria that the proposals submitted by the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation for the development programme include provision for the erection of a transmitter in the Southern Cameroons. This provision will be considered along with other proposals, during the review of the economic programme.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (North East Kano): Mr Chairman, in view of what the Minister has just said, I am still of the opinion, Sir, that the amendment motion should be supported by me, in order to express the fact that we in the North do not at all appreciate the services of the North Regional Transmitter of the N.B.C. Sir, the transmitter is not strong enough to serve the purpose at all, and there are continuing failures. This Sir, is a disgrace to the N.B.C. in particular, and also to the Minister of Research and Information, and unless this can be remedied I think I must support the amendment.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Sir, I do not know whether at this stage I should speak on the Head as a whole.

The Chairman : Yes. We are on the Head as a whole.

Dr Udoma : Mr Chairman, there are very many queer figures under this Head. For instance, Item 52 talks about £1,100 to be spent on the Headquarters of the Inter African Bureau of Epizootic Diseases. I do not know how many Members of this House know what

that means, and there is nothing to explain what all this is about, and whether we have been maintaining something called Epizootic Diseases. I think the Minister should assist Members of this House by giving some information on this item.

And then, Sir, there is an item of £17,100 for the winding up of W.A.F.R.I. We do not know how we have incurred this cost, and why W.A.F.R.I. is being wound up. If it is something for the good of West African Union, why should we begin to wind up such an institution. This does not seem very wise. If it is not serving any useful purpose perhaps the Minister would explain and let us know why it is being wound up.

The Minister of Research and Information : Mr Chairman the term W.A.F.R.I. stands for West African Fisheries Research Institute; that is an organisation which was set up some time ago for fisheries research along with the other West African territories including Ghana which was then known as Gold Coast. (*An hon. Member : Where is the headquarters ?*) The headquarters was in Sierra Leone.

Not so long ago, about two years, our Government felt very dissatisfied with the progress of the work being conducted by the Institute and made very strong representations that it should be wound up, with the object of setting up our own fisheries research organisation. That was agreed and the machinery for winding-up the Institute was set in motion. Well, Sir, it has taken some time to complete that work. In fact, when that decision was taken the Institute had just completed the term of 5 years for which money was voted by this Government. The winding up process has dragged on for another two years and in the meantime expenses have accrued because it could not just dismiss everybody or lay everybody off like that, without going through the normal process. This has taken two years, quite a long time and we are now being called upon to bear our share of this expense.

The hon. Member mentioned the long term Inter African Bureau of Epizootic Diseases. Well, Sir, it is a scientific term (*hear, hear*). This Bureau is concerned with animal diseases, and research in animal diseases as in other cases is really international. We know, we have learnt from experience, that our research organisations have been drawing quite a bit on

research work going on in other countries. The Veterinary Research Department has particularly developed a very strong connection with research organisations outside. This research organisation has been in existence for some time and I am assured by the Director that it is of great value. We draw on the experience of other countries as it applies to tropical diseases—(An hon. Member : Cattle). I do not think I can improve much on what I have said already. I hope I have made myself quite clear.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, on Item 50, Head 59—R.S.P.C.A. (Nigeria Branch): Federal Government's share of expenditure—£1,000. Now nobody, I am sure, would say he does not know what R.S.P.C.A. stands for but we would like to know why money is being voted for the activities of this organisation year by year. We know what they do in other countries but whether they are doing anything like this here remains to be seen. We do not seem to hear of it except when we are voting money. What is happening?

Mr G. O. D. Eneh (Udi): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am still on Sub-head 53—W.A.F.R.I. The West African Fisheries Research Institute has been in operation for the last five years according to the Minister and we want to know what contribution that Institution has made to the general nutrition of this country. It appears to me that Members do not realise what this Institute is all about, because as it is far away from Nigeria we would like to know the effect of that Institute on Nigerian economy.

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma): Whilst I support the hon. Member who has just spoken, it is my opinion very much that there is dissatisfaction about the duties of fisheries in this country. I am suggesting very strongly that this money voted for this Head be withdrawn with a view to being distributed to our Nigerian fisheries.

The Minister of Research and Information: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would say this, that even the Government was not very satisfied with the work that was going on in the Institute. So that is why we took a decision to wind up, but on the question of fisheries research I would say that this Government attaches the greatest importance to research generally—and also to this fisheries in particular.

Now we have found it very difficult to get hold of a suitable person who would take charge of fisheries research. This is a very specialised line of learning and it is not too easy to find people of the right calibre. There is no point in proceeding with its work unless it is being conducted by somebody who knows something about it. I would like to assure the House, however, that Government is right now waiting to get somebody. I think we have at last found somebody and within the next few months we hope that our fisheries research will be getting along.

Before I sit, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Member from Victoria, Ngale, to withdraw his amendment in view of the explanation I made earlier on. As I said the Government attaches much importance to the erection of a transmitter in the Southern Cameroons.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very surprised at the Minister telling us that he has not been able to find a suitable man to look after Fisheries Research. There are lots and lots of people from areas where fishing is done. (An hon. Member : Rev. Bens.) Exactly, Sir, the hon. Rev. Bens!

Mr F. E. Ngale (Victoria): Mr Chairman, Sir, the explanation given by the Minister to an extent is satisfactory, and in view of the fact that the Minister has given an assurance that the Government attaches some great importance to our project for a transmitter for the Southern Cameroons, I withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Question again proposed, That £28,650 for Head 59—Ministry of Research and Information stand part of the schedule.

Mr O. Bademosi (Ondo South): Mr Chairman, Sir, what the Minister of Research and Information has just said about difficulty in obtaining a suitable expert reminds me of the perfunctory attitude of our Government to the training of suitable Nigerians. I know the excuse is that men do not come forward. Well my experience is that the encouragement that is being given to our boys to come forward for training is not sufficient.

The social structure of this country has got to be taken into consideration when designing training schemes for our boys. A boy leaves school at the age of 21 or 23, perhaps he has

gone through the university. His people will want him to come back and earn money and help to support his uncle's brothers, or uncle's daughters, or uncle's sons. This is true of this country and it has to be reckoned with, and unless our Government takes cognisance of this and makes sufficient provision to allow the boys to pursue their specialist studies, and then to come back and work in this country, we are not going to get very far.

The £130 allowed in the Estimates for someone who is taking a course or for someone, perhaps, who is given a scholarship, is nothing but chicken-feed, it will not do. I think that the Council of Ministers should consider the social structure in this country and arrange all our training schemes to fall in line with it. It is an investment; if we spend £400 or even £500, or even £1,000 on a Nigerian for a space of time to get him properly trained, that money is invested, it is not lost.

Mr Chairman, I think the training schemes in this country are perfunctory and what is more, they are entrusted to the hands of people whom we want to get rid of. Here, Mr Chairman, I would implore the Council of Ministers to go into this and see what they can do and do it quickly. (*Applause*).

£28,650, for Head 59—*Ministry of Research and Information*—*agreed to*.

HEAD 60.—AGRICULTURE (RESEARCH)

£20,010, for Head 60—*Agriculture (Research)*—*agreed to*.

HEAD 63.—VETERINARY (RESEARCH)

£1,000, for Head 63—*Veterinary (Research)*—*agreed to*.

HEAD 68.—MARKETING AND EXPORTS

Question proposed, That £10 for Head 68—Marketing and Exports—stand part of the schedule.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, I merely wish to say this even though the amount of money to be expended under this particular Head is so small. I would like to remind the Minister in charge of this particular Head that all capable and competent hands employed in this Marketing Board must now begin to engage their minds on the very serious question of the fall in the price of the crop on which our lives and economy in the Northern Region of Nigeria depends, and that is groundnuts. Last year, there was

a fall in the price of groundnuts and the North Regional Marketing Board had had to subsidise up to the tune of about £6,000,000. This year it is exactly the same thing; there has been a similar fall in the price of groundnuts and about the same amount of money has got to be subsidised. I feel that to subsidise a crop with a total of about twelve to thirteen million pounds is something really very serious.

This Marketing and Exports Department, therefore, must take the greatest care and concern, and must be very careful in designing ways and means of bringing about something that will help the North Regional Marketing Board in these subsidies. £12 million of £13 million is no joke. I do beg that the people concerned will exercise the greatest concern.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Following up what my hon. friend M. Maitama Sule has said about fall in prices, I think one of the things that the Marketing and Exports Department could help the country to do is not merely to market our exports, but also, I feel that the Council of Ministers ought to apply their minds very seriously to this question of our produce at home being held to ransom due to circumstances which probably nobody could help, but I am thinking very seriously of circumstances which could be invented or which could be brought about to bring a pressure on this country. If our produce could not be used at least partially for home consumption, it means that the whole lot of it could rot on our door step. Nothing could be done about it.

There is a lot of cattle in the North, and I understand that groundnut cake is good for cattle feeding, but I am not quite sure how much of groundnuts, the oil being extracted from them, and the by-products of it, are being processed for cattle feeding in the North. I am just not quite sure.

These are things which I think we ought to apply our minds to. Whether it is in groundnuts, or it is in cake, or it is in palm oil, we should set about to process some of these things at home, so that even if the outside market is very low, at least we can have some internal market for our commodities. I commend that, Sir, to the Council of Ministers.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have been prompted to bring something to light before the Council of

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Ministers, as a result of what my hon. friend has just said. Last year, about 6,000,000 tons of groundnuts was produced by Japan, and as you know, 6,000,000 tons is no joke. Certainly these groundnuts will go to the same market as our own groundnuts. Perhaps that might have caused the fall in the price of our groundnuts. So something has got to be done in this country in order to utilise our own groundnuts here if the price in the world market is not so favourable.

The Minister of Commerce and Industries (Hon. Zana Bukar Dipcharima): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am as much worried as hon. Members here about our economic position in respect of prices of our produce. In this country I know, always if there is a war or a threat of war, our produce commands high prices, but if there is peace then it becomes quite low, with the result that, in Nigeria at least, people are praying for war rather than for peace! We have made the position very clear to our friends in Britain and America and the matter is actively engaging their attention. The war in aid of good prices here is as great as the battle to win a war, and very soon you shall be, I hope, more prosperous.

But the point is this the development of this country depends upon self-discipline. Germany was ruined; the Germans were proud people and they got themselves together and worked and got their country on its feet.....

The Chairman: I must point out that the debate is getting more and more interesting and wider and wider.

The Minister of Commerce and Industries: I am very grateful to the Chairman for his guidance.

I am very grateful that you know the trend in which my mind is working, and you can rest assured that I am looking into the matter and that my Ministry will discharge its functions most efficiently.

Chief I. S. Popoola (Owo North): Mr Chairman, on the question of our produce, there is only one factor at work, and that is the factor of supply and demand. If there is no war, we can create war inside the movement of our produce.

In this country, as hon. Chief Solaru has said, there is nothing wrong with the expression of oil from all the oil bearing fruits in this country.

The trouble is that the country is so rich and we who are in it appreciate the potentialities of this country and decide to go to sleep. We are starving in the midst of plenty. Why does your cocoa not command high price? Because you are raw producers, you do not consume this cocoa yourselves, you do not know what to do with it. It has about fifty per cent of oil and this oil is one of the most valuable oils in the world market. What have you done about the cocoa? The Agricultural Department has been extracting oil for the past twenty years. What advantage have we taken of this oil?

We fold our arms until Unilever came and set up a soap factory at Apapa, and use our own oil and when it pays Unilever to import whale oil they will by-pass your palm oil. What do you do with it? Well, Council of Ministers, you all have to wake up. That is the emergency that we mean.

The Chairman: This is a small vote in a small branch of the Ministry's activities, but I really think we are making or rehearsing speeches for next March. I think we ought to take these supplementary estimates now and decide upon it.

£10 for Head 68—Marketing and Exports—agreed to.

HEAD 69.—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Question proposed, That £27,200 for Head 69, Ministry of Transport, stand part of the Schedule.

Mr J. C. Obande (South Idoma): Mr Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to the Minister of Transport for his keen interest on the maintenance of the Makurdi Bridge and also the installation of light there, for which we have been clamouring. I seize this chance to suggest to the Minister, Sir, that in so doing he should use his good offices to widen the road approaching the south end of the bridge, as it is very narrow and it is also very dangerous to the traffic. With this, I support the vote.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Chairman, while I very much appreciate the ferry service between Asaba and Onitsha, I must confess that the public is over anxious to know when the next ferry boat is due in Asaba to do its work. . . (An hon. Member: That is not in the Estimates.) I am talking about the Ministry of Transport.

The Chairman: But the particular items in the Supplementary Estimates are Colliers: maintenance and operating costs and Makurdi Bridge, and those should not take the whole of the morning.

Chief Onyia : What about personal emoluments, Sir ?

The Chairman : About personal emoluments ? There is no special money for that.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Chairman, I have noticed here that under Item 12, or sub-head 12, we have Colliers : Maintenance and operating costs, £20,000. And that it is shown in the footnotes as under estimate. I think that is rather ridiculous, that the operating costs and the maintenance of colliers should have been underestimated to the tune of £20,000. Surely, does it mean that these colliers have not been operating for many, many years and no figures were available at the time ?

I say that this is evidence of inefficiency on the part of the man who did it. Because to go on to the tune of £20,000 is disgraceful, and I hope that these estimates that are generally put before us always have the scrutiny of experienced men in the Department, because I cannot imagine an experienced man who has been doing this job estimating the cost of maintenance and operating of colliers making a mistake up to the tune of £20,000.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, I can understand the plight of the hon. Dr Udoma, having come late to the sitting of this House, wasting the whole of his precious time finding money in the Courts. I said so, Sir, because if he was here when I was moving the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill he would have understood that the purpose of bringing these supplementary estimates is to find money for such in which Government is financially deficient in the interim. If there were still the Finance Committee, naturally such under estimation which occurs from time to time would have gone to the Committee of Finance. And it is obvious that even Dr Udoma cannot correctly estimate what it will cost him to pay his stewards and cooks and clerks in his legal profession from time to time.

And if one knows that the costs of maintenance of things like motor cars increase from time to time, the Members of this House will agree with me that in servicing their cars these days they cannot correctly estimate such costs. The cost of maintaining and servicing a car

cannot be correctly estimated. Are you suggesting that we can, as magicians, correctly assess how much it will cost Government to run the colliers even though the cost of maintenance rises from day to day ?

M. Usman Angulu Ahmed (Kwara Division) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I want to take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Minister of Transport all the bad practice taking place in that Ministry, that is Inland Waterways Department.

The Chairman : I do not think there is any money for that in the Estimates.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is all very well that the sum of £20,000 should be supplemented for the maintenance and operational costs of collieries but what I am thinking is of the future of these collieries. What is their future ? What is going to happen to them ? I have heard that all the engines between here and Kano are going to be dieselized. I have heard also, I think it was during the last Session of this House, that an attempt was made to buy coal not from Nigeria but from South Africa, in which case this industry is gradually being killed. What are we doing, therefore, in order to encourage this industry ? Now money is being voted because work is going to be increased.

The Chairman : They are Marine engines.

Mr H. O. Abaagu (Kwande) : Mr Speaker, the approach to the northern side of Makurdi Bridge is too steep. In 1955, a lorry which would have crossed the bridge had to wait because a train was on the bridge. This lorry parked by the side. Suddenly the lorry rolled backwards, and hit a culvert because of the steepness of the embankment. I suggest that the Minister of Transport tries his best to fill up the embankment.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, one of the purposes of bringing this supplementary estimate before the House and for which we praise the Minister of Finance was that it enables a higher Committee than that of Finance to scrutinize the estimates. I am surprised, therefore, that the Minister has tried to throw dust in our eyes by pleading

what is not here. He pleaded rising costs, whereas here it is "under estimates". Instead of putting in the footnote "Rising Costs" he had put it "under estimates". It means somebody has been grossly careless. If he would merely admit that I think we would not mind very much because collieries have to be run and if somebody has omitted something instead of saying this the Minister went on to plead rising costs. That is not what is here, and we still demand an explanation from the Minister on how an omission of a sum of £20,000 could be done by an efficient Civil Service. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) : Mr Chairman, Sir, speaking on Sub-head 12 Colliers, I do not think I would be wrong when I say to the Ministry about the supply of Transport Services in my area, that transport has been supplied to run from Lagos to Warri and from Warri to the Western Ijaw, stopping at Torofani and then when the Minister was undertaking the project he informed us that the launch will go further, that is to Eleniebiri and Odoni, and at the moment we have not seen that the transport is going anywhere further.

Not only that, Sir, the launch that has been supplied in that area. . . . (*An hon. Member : "It comes under Waterways"*). It comes under this Head. The underneath part of the transport supplied for that area goes too deep into the river. I mean during the shallow draught the vessels cannot go. What we want is a special launch which will go round the area even though the river is dry. (*An hon. Member : A small one ?*). No, not a small one, a big one, but with a flat bottom which will go round the whole area.

The Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport (Mr F. E. Offor) : Mr Chairman, I thought it most appropriate to throw some light on this Head. The hon. Minister of Finance has ably explained certain things about Colliers and I am not going to say something about that.

Sub-head 28. Hon. Members have long complained that the closing of the Railway Bridge over the Benue near Makurdi during the night causes delays to motor traffic. Electric lights have now been installed by the Railway Corporation and came into use on the 1st of May, 1958. So the bridge now remains open 24 hours a day. The cost was met from Railway funds in the first instance, but

Government must now pay the bill, which is £1,500.

Mr J. C. Obande (South East Idoma) : I wish to thank the Minister for the lighting and for the maintenance of the bridge during twenty-four hours of the day, and would ask him to use his good offices to see that the road at the south-end of the approach to the bridge be widened as it is very narrow and it is on the edge of a very big pit.

Mr C. C. Onoh (Udi) : Mr Chairman, Sir, we are very appreciative of the Minister's statement regarding the installation of electric lights at the Makurdi Bridge, but what we want to ask the Minister is for this to be extended to the railway stations along the Eastern Region.

The Chairman : The estimate specified Makurdi Bridge, it is not really for the railway lines.

Mr Onoh : I am very grateful, Mr Chairman, for your explanation. I would now refer to the ferry terminals, sub-head 29, £5,700. Although this provision is made for the Apapa Ferry we want to relate this to the terminal at Onitsha.

The Chairman : It will be related next February/March.

£27,200, for Head 69—Ministry of Transport—agreed to.

HEAD 70—INLAND WATERWAYS

Question proposed, That £350 for Head 70—Inland Waterways—stand part of the schedule.

Alhaji Aliyu Bissala, Ma'ajin Abuja (Abuja) : Mr Chairman, Sir, in support of the supplementary expenditure on Head 70, Inland Waterways, I wish to speak on Sub-head 16A, Surveys and Examinations. I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister concerned that River Gurara, which runs through fertile country, requires to be surveyed by experts to help the people of the Abuja Division in evacuating their produce from the Division to the main ports on the River Niger.

Mr O. Bademosi (Ondo South) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the maintenance of creeks and I would like to ask if an examination of the silt of sand flowing to block the Creek in my division has been completed, and if the Ministry will be kind enough to let us know what the results of the examination are. (*Interruption*). I beg their pardon, because quite a lot of our produce, timber and so on depend on this creek, and as we are already

enjoying the help given by the Ministry we will ask for further examination which is appropriate to this particular creek.

M. Usman Angulu Ahmed (Kwara): Mr Chairman, Sir, as I had been saying before, there is a practice going on in the Inland Waterways Department, with particular reference to Lokoja. There are some Northerners who have been in that Department for very many years and they have good knowledge of their work, but they are being denied promotion. They know their job well, they have been acting for high posts, but instead of Government encouraging them by promoting these people, they go to another part of Nigeria and get people to come and take up senior posts. It is causing a lot of anxiety to the people in that Department. So I want the Minister to investigate this matter because our people are not at all happy in that Department. I want the Government to do something now to encourage Northerners in that Department.

Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema): Mr Chairman, Sir, I wish to make some observations. It seems to me that our Ministers are not serious about the Estimates they give us. Whenever we come to some very important items we do not have the appropriate Minister to give us an explanation. Here we are dealing with this Department of Inland Waterways, but the Minister of Transport is not here to tell us what we want to know about it.

An hon Member : The Minister of Finance is here.

Chief Yellowe : The Minister of Finance is not the man to tell us about every item in this Estimate. It is the appropriate Minister whose Ministry is affected that is to tell this House what we ask about.

Now, Mr Chairman, Sir, I do not know what work the Inland Waterways Department of Nigeria is doing. I want to know something about it and it is only the Minister of Transport who can enlighten me. What is that Department doing? They say they want £350 for surveys and examinations. Have they surveyed the Ikukri Rock? I want to know. (*Laughter.*) It is all very well to laugh about it but it is costing the lives of the people there. For five years now nothing has been done and they come here and ask for a supplementary vote for surveys and examinations. I would

like to know what these surveys and examinations are? What are they doing and what have they done? If this Department is what we call Inland Waterways Department, Mr Chairman, I ask that we scrap it. Mr Chairman, that is my remark.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I trust that hon. Chief Yellowe will agree with me that we all come from the Creeks, so it is appropriate that I should reply to him. Hon. Members realise the fact that we have collective responsibility for these matters: that is why it is appropriate . . . (*Interruption.*)

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Collective indolence.

The Minister of Finance : I am sure my respected Friend, Chief T. T. Solaru will be the last man to charge Ministers sitting on this Bench of indolence. Certainly we are not indolent. We must give allowance for Ministers to attend to some other duties which may be urgent at the same time.

Now, Sir, the question about the work of the Inland Waterways Department, I am sure hon. Chief Yellowe will not be misled by the change in the nomenclature of this Government Department. It is the former Marine Department that is changed to Inland Waterways. I am sure that but for their services the hon. Member's boat might have capsized on that rock when he was coming here, and certainly he would not have been able to cross the Niger to this place. Also Dr Udoma could not have been here to-day. So I want to say, Mr Speaker, that the Inland Waterways Department is doing very good work.

The data that the hon. Chief Yellowe is asking for can be supplied him if he could be kind enough to call at the Department or the Ministry of Transport.

Chief N. G. Yellowe (Degema): I had been invited before by the Minister of Transport to see the Director of Inland Waterways. I had talks with him and he promised that they would do everything to allay the fears of the people in my area, but up till now nothing has been done, and the Minister of Finance is now, without the authority of the Inland Waterways, inviting me again. Mr Chairman, Sir, I would ask him to be quite definite about this invitation—what time he wants me and where.

£350, for Head 70—Inland Waterways—agreed to.

House of Representatives Debates

2727

[Supply : Committee]

27 NOVEMBER 1958

[Supply : Committee]

2728

HEAD 71—COASTAL AGENCY

Question proposed, That £10 for Head 71—Coastal Agency—stand part of the Schedule.

Mr H. O. Abaagu (Kwande) : Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a Department I do not understand its function. What is it and what is its function? I just want the Minister of Transport to explain to us what are its functions to the people of this country.

£10, for Head 71—Coastal Agency—agreed to.

Postponed Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bill reported without Amendment.

In pursuance of Standing Order 63, the Minister of Finance moved, That the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

And Mr Speaker put the Question thereupon to the House without amendment or debate.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee)

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES OF CAPITAL
EXPENDITURE (NO. 2) 1958-59

HEAD 603—PUBLIC WORKS EXTRAORDINARY

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, That the further expenditure from the Development Fund of £25,000 for the purpose set out in the Draft Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59 (November) under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. V. Mukete) : Sir, I beg to second.
Question proposed.

M. Ibrahim Gusau (Sokoto West) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I am glad to note the building up of Nigerian Embassies abroad that is going on at the moment. Independent Nigeria will, therefore, find it easy to carry out its foreign policy in about a year's time. This, Sir, takes me to the point of Nigerian foreign policy. Under this scheme, particularly in Africa, a new era has recently been formed in integration which is part of the foreign policy. This era could be a very good thing for countries if this integration is made in good faith, with good intentions and made up by the people of the

countries. This, of course, is the most effective cause in the field of unity and common understanding but, Sir, if countries or leaders of such countries do not bear in mind common objectives for which the people of such countries will benefit, there are bound to be disastrous consequences if such integration fails.

The Chairman : I am a little uneasy about the exact matter of this speech. I think the object that the hon. Member is talking about could be obtained without the particular reference of buildings to which this Estimate relates. I think he is talking more about the work of the External Relations Department of the Foreign Office than of the buildings which we are now voting money to buy.

Question again proposed.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Mr Chairman, Sir, office accommodation outside Nigeria, Embassies, etc., overseas. What I want to know and which we have not heard in this House is what has happened to the old house where Nigeria Office was housed before the present one? What has happened to that building? Has that building been sold and has the money come back to Nigeria? How was that building disposed of, what happened to the furniture?

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, my information is that the whole house was not owned by the Government, it was a rented house and so if you quit a rented house you do not take the furniture away with you, do you? Usually you rent furnished houses in London but if there was any furniture there bought by the Government, I can assure you that they must have carried it away to the new building.

M. Usman Angulu Ahmed (Kwara) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I only want to know from the Minister where outside Nigeria these Embassies are going to be built. (*Interruption*). I know what I am talking about, I should like to tell my people.

The Minister of Finance : I thank the hon. Gentleman for knowing what he is talking about but he does not know what is written down in the blue book. I refer him, Sir, to the blue book, if he would care to read the memorandum at page 603 under Public Works Extraordinary, the last four lines, "£25,000 is now required to enable the Federal Government to purchase at a very reasonable price a house in Khartoum which will be suitable, in due course, as the

Ambassadors' residence in the Sudan." Is the hon. Member satisfied ?

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the further expenditure from the Development Fund of Twenty-Five Thousand Pounds for the purpose set out in the Draft Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59 (November) under Head 603—Public Works Extraordinary, be approved.

HEAD 605—OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move, That the further expenditure from the Development Fund of £546,090 for the purposes set out in the Draft Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59 (November) under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

The Minister of Research and Information (Hon. V. Mukete) : Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr S. J. Una (Uyo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like the Minister of Finance to explain why Sub-head 40 comes under this Economic Programme, should it not be included in some other sub-head instead of bringing it under the Economic Programme ? I do not see how the Economic Programme has anything to do with it.

The Minister of Finance : It is Capital Expenditure ; I did not say that that amount was part of the Economic Programme.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba) : Under this Head, Item 40, Electoral Commission. Under the memorandum it is clear that a further sum of money will be required to provide for the remuneration of the staff and so on. Mr Chairman, this question of the Electoral Commission, it is this Commission that is going to be responsible for the return of Members to this House.

The Commission may be vicariously responsible all the same because it is the set up of the Commission that is going to operate the machinery. If the Commission that is set up is not such Commission that can be trusted then the people are done for. What we are saying is that a neutral commission should be appointed and the Federal Commission to be appointed should not accept Regional commissioners already operating in the Regions.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : It is in order to appoint neutral officers that this

Commission has been set up. If the Member is not satisfied he should wait till we go to the moon and get impartial people to come here and conduct elections.

Chief Onyia : If any Minister can get to the moon and bring impartial people the sooner the better so that we may have a neutral commissioner. But what we want is that the Federal Commissioner. . . .

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. M. Ribadu) : The Commissioner has already been appointed by the Governor-General. I think it is out of place for any Member of this House to bring that in here.

Chief Onyia : Let me say that when I mention Commission I refer particularly to the staff. You require some staff to work in the Regions and we are praying that the staff to be employed should be as neutral as possible. The staff to work in the Regions should not be the returning officers that are employed in the Regions during the Local Council elections or during Regional Parliamentary elections.

Mallam Maitama Sule (Kano City) : Much as I respect the last hon. speaker I would still hesitate to say anything about the Electoral Commission. I think there is a limit to what we can say in this honourable Legislature and I urge that we should not say too much about this Electoral Commission.

Mr H. O. Abaagu (Kwande) : The conduct of elections is a very important matter and I am advising that the Electoral Commission should be as independent as possible and all returning officers should be independent persons. They should have no political inclinations as in the Western Region.

Mr E. O. Imafidon (Benin East) : This is an important subject in the Estimates because we from the Western Region know what we experienced during the local elections. If you appoint Local Government officials inclined to the Action Group that is no election. We do not like that and we are sounding a note of warning before it is late. I do not want these Secretaries appointed as Electoral Officers in the Western Region to be appointed. We want that to be noted.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw) : I do not know why the House will not take this matter very seriously. The return to this House of most of us here depends on the

neutrality of the Electoral Commission so that if we are not serious over this matter we are going to experience what we have been experiencing previously in the Western Region. Elections in the Western Region are not free and fair and therefore we must warn the Electoral Commission that his task must be to pick people who have no political bias, who are neutral and sincere people.

In the Western Region it is possible for one man to put 100 ballot papers in one box at once. This should be guarded against. Local Council Members in the various Divisions should not be appointed. The Electoral Commissioner should appoint people from different Regions. For the Western Region get people from other parts of the country. If you appoint Western Region Local Government election officers to conduct the Federal elections most of us are done for. I can assure you most of us have got the confidence of the people and if elections are free and fair we are sure to come back to this House.

It is very very disgraceful that when you have the confidence of the people you go to Local Council elections and fail. It means that there is something behind the elections. There is some intrigue. The Electoral Commissioner must take our warning very seriously and appoint people who are independent to go into the elections so that the people truly elected by the people should come to this House. Without this we will not get good representation in this House.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I think my hon. Colleague the Minister of Lagos Affairs has already informed hon. Members that the Federal Electoral Commissioner has been appointed by His Excellency the Governor-General and they have begun work in earnest. I do not think that it is right to criticise something that has just commenced and has not even been assessed in the light of day.

I take it that Members are speaking from past experience and are sounding a note of warning which I think will be conveyed to the Electoral Commission for their advice. I think the hon. Chief Onyia actually meant—if I am wrong please correct me—that because it is a Federal election this election should have a Federal character and it should be divorced from Regional interposition. That is

a wise saying and I think the Electoral Commission will certainly make it a Federal election with a Federal face and a Federal character.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola) : I want to draw the attention of this hon. House to the statement already made by the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, and also to the decision of the London Conference. The decision of the London Conference taken last year was to the effect that it is the Governor-General who would in his own discretion appoint the Electoral Commission. His discretion has been exercised and it is open to the Electoral Commission to devise ways and means of discharging its own duties impartially. It would appoint its own staff. It would appoint anybody it feels would perform these duties impartially.

But I do not want people to go away from this House creating the impression that the only election that is fair is the one won by the N.C.N.C. That is the impression you always create in this House. I am very happy that the proper Minister of Research and Information is here. In my own constituency, during the local elections there were fifty-one seats to be contested. Out of the fifty-one seats to be contested for, the N.C.N.C. put up only four candidates at Ogbomosho.

Now, hon. Members will know that a party which could put up only four candidates to contest fifty-one seats has failed *ab initio*

The Chairman : Order, order. In my opinion, that is not really relevant to this Head. . . . (An hon. Member : Shame.) Order. I do not expect that kind of interruption when I am speaking. The Minister, I think, was not really being relevant to this Head of capital expenditure. I think he would agree with me.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : I am very sorry for being dragged into this realm of irrelevancy, but I think the point has already been made. Let us leave the Electoral Commissioner free to do his own duty in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East) : Mr Chairman, Sir, it is a pity that people who choose to be irrelevant cannot even be relevant in their irrelevancy. The point that we ought

to draw our attention to, quite apart from the Electoral Commission which is only one item out of this capital expenditure, is in the line-up of that part of sub-head 4 (1), (2) and (6) and (7) —“Warships : purchase, Naval Force : base facilities, Naval Force : armament and magazine, Naval Force : Ratings Quarters, Apapa and Victoria”. I think that item deserves better consideration than I suppose raking up the spectre of 1959-60.

I think, Sir, this is a thing that will remain whoever wins the elections and whoever loses, and I think the country that we are trying to create and to defend will be very much interested in our Naval Force.

What I would like some light upon, quite apart from the notes here, is the item for warships : purchase, and under that head we have £340,000. It is not quite clear whether ships that could be bought for £340,000 can be called warships. In the note I notice of course that they talk about minesweeping motor launches. Are those described as warships? Two seaward defence boats. Are those warships? Let us face facts; if we have not got money yet to buy warships let us say so; let us say we are buying two motor launches in order to use them for training people for minesweeping.

But to come here and tell us we are going to purchase warships, the whole thing is ridiculous. We take this thing seriously. We know we have not got the money to buy H.M.S. this and H.M.S. that of so many tons and so on now, but whatever we want to buy do not let us be too euphemistic about it and say we are purchasing warships for the paltry sum of £340,000....

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : £600,000.

Chief Solaru : Will that buy a warship? Not even one. I think, Sir, that the Minister responsible for this Department ought to explain to us what progress has been made and what they are doing rather than to come here and tell us we are going to buy warships even for £600,000 because I think warships is plural and plural means more than one. You cannot purchase one gunboat for £600,000, how much less to buy warships with £340,000. We would like further information on that, Sir.

And further it would be a good thing if the Minister could enlighten us as to what progress has been made in this connection.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, Sir, with very great respect to the hon. Chief T. T. Solaru, I must say that under sub-head 4 (1)—warships, what we require the money for is clearly stated. It does not require any elaborate explanation....

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Why do you call them warships?

The Minister of Finance : They are warships. What are they? Are they boats to be used in Opobo boatyard? Mr Chairman, Sir, it is stated clearly that the original provision of £285,000 is inadequate for the purchase of the warships required in accordance with Sessional Paper No. 1 of 1958, and it is now necessary to increase this amount to £600,000 which my hon. Colleague the Minister of Communications and Aviation—an advocate of Action Groupism—pointed out....

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : I am not an advocate. I am Action Group.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, the sum of £315,000 is required to purchase during the next twelve months two minesweeping motor launches. Mine-sweeping launches are something akin to warships. You do not require minesweepers in normal circumstances. Certainly not. And you do not want to say that a minesweeper is not a warship? It is a warship....

Chief Solaru : Have you seen one?

The Minister of Finance : Yes, I have seen one. Then, two sea-ward defence boats and then stores for these vessels and the money is also to provide for the equipping and bringing to Nigeria of two vessels which are being given to Nigeria by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

I would have thought that my respected and hon. friend, Chief T. T. Solaru, should have come here to express appreciation for these two vessels, warships full size, able to blow up Ijebu waterside. Instead of doing that he is arguing whether the warships will be gigantic ones that can shell Ogbomosho from Lagos

harbour. Mr Chairman, the reasons are clear and the ships are warships. We are not concerned with the size and the power of the warships. That would be a matter for the Minister of Power if that were so.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Chairman, I am very sorry that the Minister of Finance, who is now Minister plenipotentiary, should undertake to deal with a matter not within his own competence. This is a matter for the Minister of Finance. . . . (Laughter) . . . This is not a matter for the Minister of Finance. It is a matter for the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence, unless he is saying he is now the Deputy Prime Minister. That office brought trouble in London.

That, Sir, is the point which was being made by Chief Solaru. What we wanted to know is what progress has been made since the Navy was created. It is no use blindfolding the people by putting down in the Estimates an item as "warships" as if we were buying warships in fact, whereas what has happened is that the only warships that can properly be so called, have been donated to us by other people. We are *not* buying warships, we are buying naval vessels.

Those who are military and naval minded understand these things and such words as "warship" have a special significance to them. What I am saying is this, that there is no warship that can be bought with the sum of £600,000 shown in these Estimates. Indeed, I think from the Minister's point of view he would want to buy a warship that will only cost £10, and that type of warship would be one that could only operate in his own area in the Benin River.

But surely such a warship cannot be of any use to Nigeria as a nation on the brink of independence. We would like to know the position in regard to acquisition of naval vessels so that we may know that this country is well equipped to face the future with confidence. These things ought to be done now and properly.

Now, we have two warships donated to us by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. Surely a country at the brink of independence cannot always expect gifts from a fairy Godmother. We must do these things for ourselves.

I think also we would like to know what amount is being provided for the purpose of

buying real warships rather than toy war vessels, and we must begin to think seriously in terms of buying warships rather than buying launches merely for the purpose of training naval officers and misrepresenting them to this House as if they were real warships. These launches are merely for minesweeping in our waters, and also for training recruits and they should therefore not be called warships as has been done in these Estimates.

The Minister of Finance: Warships cost over £1 million.

Dr Udoma: Over £1 million you say but you put down in your Estimates that we are buying warships for £600,000. I think you will find that a proper warship might cost more than £1 million indeed £15 million depending upon how well equipped such a warship is. It is only when you have ships of that kind that we can begin to believe we are building up a real navy. It is not enough to get a few vessels for training and to say that these training vessels are warships. In any case, the estimate shows that we are purchasing minesweeping launches. There is nobody sowing mines in our rivers now and therefore it is superfluous to have minesweeper, and I believe the proper expression should be minesweepers for training purposes.

We must train our naval men so that they can gain experience in handling these vessels in times of war. Our present quarrel is that the Department of Defence does not appear to take a serious view of its responsibility in this matter. This House takes a serious view over the slackness which has been shown by this Department.

The Minister of Finance: I would like to remind the House that the Bill is to make a start with anti-submarine and mine-sweeping ships. These ships can be fitted as well with anti-submarine and mine-sweeping equipment. The long-term policy is to acquire some warships of a different kind. This is something that is necessary. One of this type of ship will be visiting Lagos on the 6th December and I invite the hon. Gentlemen to go and see for themselves and they will know what we are talking about.

The Chairman: In my humble opinion we could do well, I think, to come to a decision on this matter. I believe that there are important items of business before this House.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the further expenditure from the Development Fund of Five Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand and Ninety Pounds for the purposes set out in the Draft Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure, 1958-59 (November) under Head 605—Other Capital Expenditure, be approved.

Resolutions to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to report that the Committee have agreed to two resolutions and move that this House doth agree with the Committee in the said resolutions.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.

STANDING ORDERS

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): I have to report that the Amendment to Standing Order No. 67 which I support, has been referred to the Standing Orders Committee, and has been approved by the Standing Orders Committee.

Question proposed, That Standing Order 67 be amended by leaving out from "not" in line 2 to end of the Standing Order and adding the words—"except upon the recommendation of the Governor-General, proceed upon any bill, motion, amendment or petition which, in the opinion of the Speaker or other person presiding, makes provision or requests that provision should be made for imposing or increasing any tax, or for imposing or increasing any charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund or other public funds of the Federation, or for altering any such charge otherwise than by reducing it or for compounding or remitting any debt due to the Federation. The recommendation of the Governor-General shall be signified by a member of the Council of Ministers rising in his place and stating that he has it in command from the Governor-General to give his recommendation to the consideration of any such bill, motion, amendment or petition and the signification of such recommendation and the name of the member of the Council of Ministers signifying it shall be entered upon the Votes and Proceedings."—instead thereof.

Question put and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Standing Orders, as amended, be printed.

Sitting suspended : 11.47 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 12.05.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT BILL

Order for second reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance entitled "The Customs and Excise Management Ordinance 1958," be read a second time. I do not need to emphasize in this House the importance of Customs and Excise Legislation, nor the need to ensure that a Department which is responsible for the collection of more than two-thirds of the national revenue is administered in the most up-to-date and efficient manner possible. For this to be achieved it is vital that the legislation governing the assessment and collection of such revenues should itself be as modern and as easily understood as possible.

The present Customs and Excise Legislation stems from United Kingdom Customs laws dating back to the early part of the 19th Century. There have, of course, been many amendments since the legislation was originally enacted, designed to introduce more modern procedures, but constant amendment has in some cases tended to make the present Ordinance confusing. The Federal Government therefore decided some two years ago that a complete review and revision of the Customs and Excise Legislation was essential. For the work of drafting the new legislation, we were fortunate to obtain the services of Mr Jabez-Smith, a lawyer, who is an expert in this field and who incidentally was Secretary to a very distinguished Committee which advised the United Kingdom Government on the revision of the United Kingdom Customs Legislation in 1952. Mr Jabez-Smith was also Joint Secretary-General of the Constitutional Conference which sat in London and Lagos in 1953-54 and therefore also has an intimate knowledge of Nigeria's problems.

Before the new Customs and Excise Legislation now before the House was drafted, Mr Jabez-Smith had extensive consultations with

officials of my Ministry and the Comptroller of Customs and Excise and his senior officers. As a result it was considered that the Customs and Excise legislation should take the form of three Ordinances—a Management Ordinance and two separate Ordinances, one covering the Customs Tariff and the other the Excise Tariff. When Mr Jabez-Smith has prepared the first drafts of the Bills for these Ordinances, I caused them to be examined by a Committee which I set up for the purpose. This Committee consisted of lawyers, representatives of commercial interests, and officials of my Ministry and the Department of Customs and Excise, all closely concerned in the day-to-day application of the Customs and Excise laws.

This Commission gave consideration to the first drafts not only in the light of their own knowledge but also in the light of comments made upon the drafts by a number of organisations such as Chambers of Commerce and by commercial firms directly affected by the proposed new legislation. My intention, Sir, was to ensure that the legislation to be submitted to this hon. House should have been as thoroughly examined as possible and thanks to the prolonged and careful work of the Advisory Committee, I can say that this Bill and the two Tariff Bills were finalised only after the most mature and careful consideration of all views expressed about the contents of the Bills.

I cannot pretend that the legislation now before the House is in a form that will please everybody. It would be almost impossible to design Customs and Excise legislation which would do that, but I can give an assurance that it reflects the carefully considered views of those most qualified to advise.

The Advisory Committee spent long hours in very careful consideration of all three Bills and I would like to have this opportunity, Sir, of expressing my gratitude to them for the excellent work which they have done.

Members will have noticed that clause 3 of the Bill provides for the establishment of a Board of Customs and Excise. This follows the precedent set by the creation of a Board of Inland Revenue under the provisions of the Income Tax Administration Ordinance which the House considered at its last Meeting. The Board of Customs and Excise will, generally

speaking, assume the responsibilities and duties at present borne by the Comptroller of Customs and Excise, and all the powers which are vested in the Comptroller under the existing Customs and Excise Ordinances will be vested in the Board. Some slight differences in the composition of the Board of Customs and Excise are proposed as compared with the composition of the Board of Inland Revenue. The Board of Inland Revenue will be assisted in its work by Appeal Commissioners and Scrutineer Committees, which will consist of non-officials. With a view to providing for a similar non-official point of view, the Bill now before the House provides for one non-official Member of the Board of Customs and Excise.

I need hardly emphasize that the choice of this non-official Member will be made with very great care since he must be a person of the greatest integrity and with sufficient time at his disposal to fulfil his duties and obligations as a Member of the Board. I have it in mind that it might be possible to find a suitable person who has in the past served as an Officer in the Department of Customs and Excise and who will therefore be fully conversant with the Department's affairs as well as having the other necessary qualifications.

The official Members of the Board will, of course, be in day-to-day consultation and be able to deal with the routine administration of the Ordinances, but regular formal meetings will also be necessary, and it is important that at such meetings of the Board, at which matters of major importance will be discussed, the non-official Member should be available in order that advice given to me by the Board may include the non-official as well as the official view point.

Part III of the Management Bill deals among other things with the control of Airports insofar as Customs matters are concerned. The existing Customs Ordinance contains no such provisions because these matters, as they affect Nigeria, are at present covered within the terms of the United Kingdom Colonial Air Navigation Order of 1955. I am glad to be able to announce that the Government has received notification from the Secretary of State that he is agreeable that the provisions formerly included in the Colonial Office Air Navigation Order may now be reflected in the new Nigerian legislation. It follows therefore that the United Kingdom Order will be amended so that it no longer applies to Nigeria,

the new Board that is about to be set up, to the necessity of having stricter control on people who import goods into this country.

You may remember, Sir, that one of the infant industries in this country is the making of singlets and, you know, Sir, we have been trying to get them encouraged by excusing—that is, by granting relief on Customs paid on yarns imported for these things. Well, the only reason for that, of course, is that these singlets might be able to compete on equal terms with those that are coming from outside. We know that it is impossible for an infant industry, or for any other industry whatever, to compete fairly with any subsidized industry and we know, Sir, that some of these singlets come from Germany. Now, we know we are on good terms with Western Germany and any goods coming from Western Germany under the signature of their Chambers of Commerce there will be welcomed here. We know that we let them come here.

But, Sir, this has been the point; it is that goods have come to us as if from Western Germany but are obviously from Eastern Germany. Now why do we discriminate between Eastern and Western Germany? It is only because Eastern Germany is under a different regime, and when they want sterling—when that regime wants sterling it will not stop at anything, and so all those singlets that are passing from Eastern Germany into Western Germany are being given certificates quite indiscriminately and then passed as if they came from Western Germany.

This is not just a wild cat argument because not only people who are concerned in the industry but also people who know what ruin it must bring to this country have gone to the expense and trouble of verifying this thing. I am quite sure, the Minister of Finance himself realizes what I am talking about. They went there. These singlets have their numbers and naturally you can trace where they come from.

If you think it is only our people in this industry who are concerned you would be mistaken. Even the U.A.C. are finding to their consternation that these singlets that are purported to be coming from Western Germany are really coming from Eastern Germany. The numbers are identical, so what other proof do you want to see? And when they

went to Western Germany, these experts who know how to distinguish one yarn from another, they found that the two main yarns that are used in making these singlets have come, one of them from the Republic of Egypt and another from Russian yarns, and when these two are mixed together in Eastern Germany they are then passed over the border into Western Germany and sent to us here, as if they have come from Western Germany, from the sterling area. The result is that we are losing very heavily and our industry here is being ruined.

You may say, how does this happen; how does it elude the authorities or the eyes of the people who ought to be keeping a check on it over there? Well you see that brings us to the main reason for this Bill. Where you allow power to remain in the hands of one individual it is impossible for him to exercise all the vigilance himself. If one Comptroller has to be responsible for everything, it is humanly impossible for him to do so, and in Germany it is the same and the Body there who is supposed to be looking out for these things does not see it all. A lot has escaped through the meshes of their net and the net ought to be drawn together much more tightly.

I would suggest a few ways in which that net could be drawn together more tightly, and I am suggesting, Sir, that first of all the net could be tightened up by Government regulations about these goods coming from abroad. Sir, it is suggested that when these goods are coming their declarations should be on oath. We say "on oath" so that if anybody is caught making false entries on oath, well, of course, the penalty is already there, and I am suggesting, Sir, in the Government Notice No. 1712 for singlets and underwear supplied during the last twelve months, they say these things are of Western origin, but we would like the certificate to read in the following way. This is the wording we suggest the department should use: "We hereby declare on oath that the statements made in these invoices are correct in every respect and that the prices given in these invoices are in accordance with the actual prices to be paid." (You know all sorts of cookery are being done in some departments there.) "Moreover, we declare

that no agreement exists which may lead to alteration of these prices, and furthermore that the goods are of Western German origin”.

You see these are all holes that have to be plugged, and unless they are plugged, clever rogues are finding ways and means of leakages in our review of those unscrupulous methods.

Sir, the time has arrived for the Government—and that is my second suggestion—the time has arrived for Government to license every expatriate firm; give them license to operate freely but provided that if they are caught committing any major offence against our Customs and Excise Regulations that licence will be withdrawn. You will find that it will bring to heel those unscrupulous firms who are now taking advantage of our past; because we are colonial peoples, they think they can cheat us with impunity.

Let us now assert ourselves by showing that we are wide awake. They would not allow us to cheat them, why should we fall to them an easy prey? I am advocating the licensing of every expatriate firm and let them operate freely provided that if they are caught committing offences against our Customs and Excise Regulations the licence will be withdrawn.

And thirdly, in connection with Government decision to provide manufacturers with invoices, I would say, Sir, that it is understood that these exporting houses in Hamburg at one time pointed out a difficulty when they saw that we are drawing the net tightly; they approached our Minister and said, “Don’t you see you will be ruining us, we should be losing our trade”. But that is not true. Everybody knows in this country that if you saw a piece of machinery in the manufacturer’s catalogue, if you wrote to them they would refer you to an exporting house. These people are saying that if you allow people to get directly in touch with manufacturers they lose their trade and they urge that the Minister should relax the regulations in order that these people may get in touch with the manufacturers. This argument is invalidated, because in the United Kingdom nobody can buy direct except from the exporting house. Let these people do the same. Why cannot these German exporting houses follow this? In this country that is what we follow. Let the German people do the same.

Now, Sir, we would suggest that the Government—and that is my fourth point—the Government should appeal to the West German Consul here, if he thinks that we are maligning his country, let him find out. I know these things, that these things are not manufactured in Western Germany, and if he is not sure, let the West German Consul investigate in his own country and he will find that what we are saying is true. In fact, some of us are prepared to swear an affidavit that everything we are saying is quite true.

Sir, I have said that we should plead with the Western German Consul to use his good offices to investigate these houses in Hamburg, and he will see that every word of what we are saying is true and that we are not merely crying “wolf, wolf” when there is none. I have spent a lot of time in saying this, Sir, because we are all crying, “Industrialise, industrialise”, but this is one of the ways in which our industrialisation is being spoiled and our economy is being ruined. I will not press much further because I know the hon. Minister of Finance and the entire Council of Ministers know very well that the ground will be cut from under them if in this way our own industries are being sent to rack and ruin.

It only remains for me, Sir, to say that the local industries do sincerely appreciate the Government relief afforded them by way of relief of duty on imported yarn and other things like that for manufacturing locally. But what I would like to ask, Sir, is that the relief is granted rather more promptly. Government works by committee; there is no doubt about that. But committees are slow things, and in the competitive world, time means money and when committees are meeting and considering, the manufacturer is losing good money. So I would plead that the facts and figures which these committees need to enable them to work out the amount of relief to be granted, those figures are with the Customs and they should be furnished quickly to these committees so that the relief might be granted in good time.

Finally, Sir, I will end by merely reminding the House and the Council of Ministers that we need not over-emphasise that the Government should not set a precedence on indolence. In granting this relief from customs duty, it is assumed that if a business is not making a

profit, surely that business does not need any relief. But if an industry is making a profit that is all the more reason why it should be enabled to go on making more and more profit. The man losing money may be losing money because of the difficulties put in his way. He also needs to be helped. But where a person has made a success of his business in spite of these disabilities, I think he should be helped quite promptly.

I would say that in the past there have been some delays in these things. It may be that machinery, when it is new, does not work smoothly; it needs to work itself in. I think the machinery has now worked itself in and the law should be oiling it so that our manufacturing houses may feel that they now have the support of the National Government in boosting up a national economy.

I beg to support.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, for some time now Government has come to the Floor of this House with progressive Bills, Bills that affect the economy of this country and Bills that go a long way towards a sound economy and financial policy of the Federation of Nigeria. That is welcome because anything that goes to establish a sound economy for this country and makes the financial policy of Nigeria sound is something that will receive the wholehearted support of every hon. Member of this Legislature; and not only that, it will receive the support of all people outside this Legislature.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have always said before this hon. House that the aim of every responsible and progressive person after independence, and even now, is to see that Nigeria's economy is sound, Nigeria has got a financial policy that is sound, and to this end we have got to direct our attention and we must do everything possible. Legislations are made to effect this, and these laws are made in order to be followed. We do not pass Bills in this Legislature to be passed into law in order that they may be there for the sake of being in the Statute Book; we pass them so that they may be executed and followed.

This, Sir, brings me to what the last hon. Member has just said. Laws are made, as I have said, to be obeyed and every effort has to be made to see that there is no collaboration on the part of those people executing the laws in taking advantage of them. Certainly, a

bill or legislation, however good it may be, will be defeating its purpose if it is not executed. The question of dumping singlets from Eastern Germany is something that must engage the minds of people in this hon. Legislature.

The irony of it is this, that when these things are imported into this country as Western German goods, there are no invoices to show their country of origin and no effort is being made by the Customs, I am led to understand, to find out the country of origin. You can understand, Mr Speaker, that if effort was made to find out the country of origin, certainly it would be detected that these singlets must have come from Eastern Germany.

Another thing which happened that made us feel very disappointed; at one time one of the firms, or somebody connected with them, discovered something in a packet in one of the singlets which showed that these singlets must have come from Eastern Germany and not from Western Germany.

Another thing also is this; in Eastern Germany if they want money what they normally do is to go to the manufacturing houses and tell them that they want so and so and the manufacturers just produce them and then these things are sent abroad for resale. These singlets are coming into Nigeria at 5s less than those which are manufactured here, so you can see, therefore, that we are importing singlets from a country which does not deal with us directly and which is not in any way a sterling area. At the same time we are also doing things which will go a long way to undermine our own manufacturing houses in this country because they are 5s cheaper than our own.

Another thing which has been mentioned in this hon. House time and time again is that we must encourage our local industries. All the Government can do is to make a Bill and pass a law but then it is left to some people to execute these laws. If these people will not see that these laws are properly executed then I do not see how these laws will be of any benefit to Nigeria.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to say that the Customs and Excise Department is a Department that is dear to our hearts and it is a Department that we cannot afford to play with. We cannot afford to play with this Department because it is the source from which we derive

our revenue. We have been crying out in this hon. Legislature for roads, communications, post offices and all sorts of things and we have just been told by the last hon. speaker that more than two-thirds of our revenue is derived from the Customs duties. How can we afford to play with this Department? We have even heard, quite apart from the question of singlets, of people bringing in goods into this country without paying the proper Customs duties to the Customs.

We know that something must be going wrong somewhere and I entirely agree that what two people will be able to do certainly one man cannot do properly. I know the whole responsibility used to be that of the Controller alone and I am saying this, that the Controller has done very well indeed, he has carried out his work creditably well and I have no grudge against him; but I believe that two people in a matter like this, which is very important and which is very delicate, a matter that deals with the collection of Customs, a matter that deals with the detection of people who are trying to bring into the country certain goods that should be condemned, a matter that affects some unscrupulous people who are very clever in trying to evade Customs duties, in trying to evade paying money that should have come into the pocket of the public of this country, more than one man should be employed in order to be responsible for the discharging of this responsibility.

I, therefore, endorse the views of the Government and support wholeheartedly the idea that a board should be instituted or established instead of the Controller having the responsibility alone. I repeat that I am not saying that the Controller has not been doing his work, but I do say that human nature being what it is, I am of the opinion that what two people can do effectively one man certainly cannot do.

Sir, for a long time we have lost a good deal of money that should have accrued to the public of this country as a result of some unscrupulous, undesirable, irresponsible waste products of humanity that are always trying to get away from paying Customs. Let us not have mercy on those people who have no mercy for Nigeria; let us try to see to it that every encouragement is given to the Department of Customs and Excise to deal properly with these people who are trying to evade Customs.

Sir, I beg to support this Bill wholeheartedly and to say to the Minister that every effort should be made to see that money is coming into our pockets and not being allowed to drain as a result of some unscrupulous, irresponsible businessmen who have no interest of the country at heart. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr E. C. W. Howard (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister has always concerned himself with the good legislation of this hon. House and should be congratulated on producing such complex law in such a comparatively short time. I should like also to thank the Minister for having ensured that every Member of this House has had an opportunity of expressing his views. This, happily, has enabled me to confine my remarks to a very few items.

The first item on which I would like to make some comment is in connection with the establishing of the Board. The Minister has made quite clear his reasons for suggesting that there should be a non-official member of this Board. All I wish to do is to point out that some people are not at all happy that that should be so. However much members of the Civil Service may have been criticised in this House, there has never at any time been any suggestion whatever or any intimation against their personal integrity, and I am quite sure that we have every reason to hope and believe that the tradition will be carried out in the future. We are confident that so long as the present Minister is the man to make the choice we have nothing to fear; but this legislation may remain unchanged for many years and, therefore, some people have some fears for the future.

The only other point on which I would like to comment is in connection with penalties. I have no quarrel with penalties being severe against those who invite trouble, the only point I have to make is that in one of the clauses there is a provision for a penalty for "other cases other than those of attempt to defraud". It is difficult to realise what other cases other than genuine mistakes could occur and, therefore, it is perhaps rather hard that a very severe penalty should be imposed for a simple mistake.

The Clause to which I refer is 125B. I hope that consideration can be given to this point, and apart from that, Sir, I beg to support the Bill wholeheartedly.

Chief S. J. Mariere (Urhobo East): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. When the Minister of Finance presented to this House this year the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, he made it abundantly clear that measures were being taken to revise the existing Customs and Excise Department by forming a Board. I note he has kept his promise and we now have before the House this Bill for debate.

The Minister of Finance has earned quite a lot of congratulations from members of this House for his activities and it will not be too much for him if I add just one more word of congratulation for his good work. It is interesting that the Minister's effort to frustrate those who believe they can defy the law and cheat this country of its revenue has brought fruitful results. Recently I read of a heavy fine imposed as penalty on a businessman in Lagos for declaring false invoices. It is hoped that the application of these stern measures will go all out to eradicate all evil practices arising from false declaration and other forms of fraud in connection with invoices of goods imported into this country.

Chief the hon. T. T. Solaru has already referred to the racket in underwear from East Germany. The matter is so important that no amount of emphasis is too much. In pursuance of Government policy to stimulate local industry and to protect it against ruinous competition it was decided to stop issuing licences for the importation of singlets manufactured and subsidized in East Germany and which were dumped on Nigerian markets. I am informed that certain firms in Germany are exporting these singlets to this country by falsely claiming that they come from West Germany. It is understood that invoices do not show the country of origin. This is a grave violation of Customs laws and I would urge the Minister to investigate the matter so that the officers responsible should be dealt with. Unless we have Customs Officials who are prepared to co-operate and make the Ordinance effective, the purpose of the new Ordinance will be defeated.

The Government has decided to grant import duty relief on some locally made materials. If this is so, the duty relief should be paid back to the industries without delay. We must speed up the machinery of working the relief out to allow the industries concerned

to enjoy the relief at once. I am sure that the dynamic Minister of Finance will look into this and see that it is remedied. The Bill is most welcome and I give it my wholehearted support.

I beg to support.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Second Reading of this Bill. In so doing I would confine my remarks to a few points. I would start by drawing the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to the conditions now prevailing at Port Harcourt. The Customs House there is far too small for the purpose for which it is intended. I am sure, and I think it is an obvious fact, that for every £100 revenue we make from Customs duty on imports at least £40 of it comes from Port Harcourt. The accommodation is far too small and out of date. It has completely failed to serve the purpose it is now called upon to serve.

It is understaffed and the importers are expected to pay rents and handling charges and so forth to the Nigerian Ports Authority. It is a very unfortunate thing for any trader not to have his goods cleared three days after the cargo boat sails off. It is unfortunate that due to shortage of Customs staff importers do not have their documents pass through Customs in time so as to avoid paying rents. This is a very important point. The importers have always paid their duties willingly. I do not think they rank among the highest defaulters on duties amongst the importers.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Are they among the lowest?

Mr Akwivu: I believe the hon. Minister has been thinking more seriously on the Bill than on what I was saying. I said they were not among the highest defaulters in the payment of Customs duties. That being the case it is my humble duty to urge that the facilities should be improved and made commensurate with the importance of the part they play and the large amount of revenue raised from them.

Serious thought should be given to the production of manufacturer's invoice because our revenue is defrauded by fictitious invoices showing incorrect prices and the general public of this country run a grave risk of exploitation when invoices that are far from correct are in circulation and are being widely made use of.

Car owners and transporters know exactly how this works out. Prices soar high day after day and it may be said with respect that car dealers in this country take very serious and perhaps unnecessary advantage of the fact that duty is being paid on spares. I am sure that if this matter is gone into the Minister might find a way of saving the people of this country from paying unduly high prices merely because people pay duty the amount of which is not known by members of the public and which is out of all proportion to the prices they have to pay.

The question of singlet manufacturers has been raised over and over again in the course of this debate. I do not think it is improper to say one word that has not been mentioned in this connection. It has been said that there is negligence in checking entries in respect of certain articles. It is a matter of experience that some of these entries do not even contain the name of the country of origin. This is unfortunate because if the name of the country of origin had been disclosed the evil might have been avoided. As has already been pointed out our Government has been compelled to check the nefarious practices of the importers from Eastern Germany. . . .

Mr Speaker : Order, order. It is now 1 o'clock and I must suspend the sitting until 3 o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3.08 p.m.

Mr E. C. Akwivu (Orlu) : Mr Speaker, I believe I was talking about the difficulty arising from the unfair competition from Eastern Germany in the line of industry in which this country feels that the interest of its manufacturers is at stake. Sir, the seriousness of that matter is not only that it neutralises the effect of the amount of money to be refunded or the rebate to be made to singlet manufacturers in this country as a result of unfair competition from Eastern Germany, but also that it places us in the difficult and undesirable position of dancing to the tune of a foreign economic policy contrary to the best interests of this country. We seize this opportunity to bring this matter once more to the notice of the Government with a view to the Government taking all possible steps within its reach to make sure that the manufacturers and exporters of Eastern Germany do not compete with our

people to the disadvantage of the people and the economy of this country in a very unfair way.

Sir, looking at the Bill generally, it is my humble view that as this is a penal law, more opportunity should be granted to the citizen in matters of defence. Looking at the section of the law which deals with the penalty clauses and particularly the aspect of the law which provides for defence in cases of prosecutions or claims in Courts, it does seem, I think, that any man who is dragged up to the Court by the Customs has really got an uphill task. All that the Customs need do is to say what they think is so, and the Court must accept it as true, unlike what happens in other cases under the Criminal Code, I think, like the Criminal Code where the prosecution got to allege facts and prove them, and then it is for the defence to answer and try to prove a man's innocence before the Court by challenging the facts proved by the prosecution.

In this particular case, it does seem to me that in such a case as that envisaged under section 166 of this Bill, any man who has been brought to Court either by way of criminal proceedings or by civil proceedings, has got to prove everything from beginning to end, while the representative of the Customs, all he needs to do is to get up in Court and say, "I am so and so, a Customs Officer." That is enough. He can say, "I saw Mr X the other day endeavour to evade tax". That is accepted, but is not proof in accordance with the usual provision of our law, I feel, Sir, that the penal aspect should be further considered. In considering it, the seriousness of the penalties and the frequency with which the penalty of forfeiture occurs in the Bill, there should be further considered some more onus of proof on the officers of the Customs than that envisaged in the Bill should be provided for.

I will also go further to say, Sir, that I do think that in our anxiety to protect the revenue of this country, we must not encroach too much upon the liberty of the subject.

Now, Sir, in this particular respect, we have an aspect of the Bill which empowers its officers as well as policemen, upon suspicion, to break into houses or to use such other ways as they themselves may consider necessary in order to get answers or proof of their suspicions. I feel, Sir, that that is indeed a very serious step that under no circumstances should have been allowed to be taken without the officer making

an application to a Magistrate, and satisfying the Magistrate of the reasonableness of his suspicions. He will swear to it and the Magistrate will issue a warrant and the search can be carried out without any hindrance or obstruction. In this case, Sir, I am particularly referring to section 131 (1) of the Bill, I think, Sir, that that should be reconsidered; perhaps in the Committee stage it will be considered in greater detail.

But I think the policy there is a very dangerous one; in fact that has been acknowledged under section 133 (3) where the question of personal search is provided for. But I feel, Sir, in this case it is a very dangerous thing to mandate any officer of the Customs *only* on the suspicions he may have for his purpose to go into houses to get the answer by any means which he himself considers necessary I think it is grossly unfair to the liberty of the citizens of this country.

Finally, Sir, I would also say, that the way in which penalties have been provided for in this law, leaves very little discretion to the Court in deciding what penalty to inflict in particular cases after considering the particular circumstances of the case. It is always forfeiture or very heavy fine, or both, and I feel, Sir, particularly on the question of forfeiture, there must be some discretion in some cases—I am not saying in all cases—the same should in cases where the Minister is talking about £600. Heavy penalties may be given, but should be co-related to the very serious circumstances of the case. In this law it does seem as if the anxiety to protect the revenue has been allowed to go a bit too far, and a lot of very serious penalties are provided for without much onus of proof on the part of the Customs.

I feel, Sir, it is a very serious and dangerous encroachment on the liberty of the individual. Also, Sir, I do not know what attempt has been made here or what distinctions have been made between the general public, the Nigerian Ports Authority and those responsible for the handling, receiving, clearing or otherwise of the cargoes at the various customs wharves. It does seem, Sir, that in a case where there is an officer in control or something like that, he must submit certain returns within 15 days or pay penalty. We must know whether the penalties that have been provided for are intended to be paid by the Nigerian Ports Authority, the

Customs Officer or the Shipping Co. I think, Sir, it is another aspect of the Bill which should be re-examined and clarified.

As I have already said, Sir, I support the Bill, but the Bill is so comprehensive, that it ought to be looked through again, and ought to be reconsidered and modified, some further thought should be given to it. I feel in its present form when it reaches the Committee stage it will be looked at again and a lot of amendments will be put in, and this could only be avoided if the Bill is withdrawn and gone through again before reaching that stage.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the Bill.

M. Abubakar Garba (North Bauchi): Mr Speaker, Sir, when one realises the amount of money derived from Customs and Excise duties, one will not hesitate to congratulate the Minister of Finance for introducing this timely Bill. In less than two years from to-day, Mr Speaker, Nigeria will be politically independent so the economic stability of this country must be the concern of all those who have the interests of Nigeria at heart. The Federal Minister is in the forefront of this picture. Hon. Members will observe that the Minister is moving some amendments in order to make the punishment of improper importation and/or exportation of goods more severe.

I agree with the Minister *in toto*. Mr Speaker, Sir, any move or any effective and active measure taken by the Minister to secure revenue will have the unanimous support of this honourable House.

Finally, Sir, I hope the new Board of Customs and Excise when established will give the Minister of Finance the necessary co-operation in order to increase efficiency in this Department, just as does the present Comptroller. Sir, I beg to support.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill. This is one of the most important and progressive Bills ever brought before the Floor of this House. It is so important and progressive because it is here that the sources of our revenue lie. It is important because, if it is enforced in keeping with the aims and objects of this Bill it will go a long way to secure the economic stability of this country.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is one thing to introduce a good Bill like this, it is another thing to enforce it and give it interpretation in the real sense of it. The Minister is not expected to implement or enforce a law when passed, but it is the officers of the appropriate Department who are expected to give the law its correct interpretation and enforce it accordingly. It is in this light, Sir, that I appeal to the Minister of Finance with the greatest respect, that when considering appointments in respect of the members of the Preventive Service priority should be given to young men of very high moral standard of character, men who will not accept bribe and connive at smuggling.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I say this because this usually happens several times. If not, how could people go to Fernando Po and return with a ship full of revolvers and guns? These people go through all the series of inspection conducted by the Customs. Also the secret society disturbing peace in Calabar Province go about with revolvers and guns. How do these people get at them? From where do they get all these unlawful articles? I have several instances but I feel other Members have observed what I am saying now.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to say that our success in such an important Bill like this really depends on the staff of the Customs and Excise Department. As I said before, Sir, this Bill is a very good one and I thank the Minister of Finance for bringing it before this House at this time. I give it my wholehearted support.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun South): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill. The lifestream of any Government is undoubtedly its finance. No law is therefore too severe for safeguarding finance.

Sir, I wish to associate myself with the views of the previous speakers. I wish to thank them for their valuable information which they have imparted to this House. Their action shows that they are zealously interested in the financial administration of their country.

I wish also to congratulate the Minister of Finance. He works with zeal and superfluous energy. We are glad to see that the Ministry has come to stay.

Mr Speaker : Will the hon. Member confine himself to the Customs Bill?

Mr Sanni : Thank you Mr Speaker. I was only trying to develop my points. Sir, the Bill aims at checking widespread fraud on the Customs, minimising smuggling, and increasing the revenue of the exchequer. Sir, there are only two *musts* which I want to propound for Government. The Government *must* see that commodities are cheapened for the consumers, that shipping tonnage increases enormously and that collusion between the functionaries of the Customs Department and importers and exporters is as much as possible prevented.

Mr C. C. Mojekwu (Onitsha) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill entitled "Customs and Excise, Management Ordinance, 1958". In supporting it, I would like to say that the Minister of Finance has fulfilled his promise to co-ordinate all these Customs Ordinances and all the various amendments and so on, into one comprehensive Bill.

But, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to one, perhaps very simple, but actually quite important, point. I think perhaps in his attempt to make this one omnibus instrument, he has perhaps given too much power, given a very wide definition to what he calls an officer, and from the definition of an officer in this it might include anybody practically. So it might be necessary for him to look into it again and see that "an officer" in respect of this is limited to only people who have reached certain grades in the Customs Department. As it stands it may even include a messenger or anybody who is working in the Department, and he will be empowered by this Bill to act or break into anybody's house with or without, in fact without, any warrant, and make a search.

My learned Friend, Mr Akwivu, has already touched on some other legal intricacies in respect of this fact.

I would also like to ask that the Minister would look very closely under these various sections beginning from section 128 and so on, because I do think that perhaps at the next stage, a number of people might raise questions, so I am saying this to warn the Minister that he may expect some in respect of this.

Sir, with these few remarks, I support the Bill.

M. Shehu Kazaure Wakilin Sana'a Okano (Kano North) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise

to support this Bill. With self-government for Nigeria at the threshold, I am sure the Government will do all it can to get all the revenue it can and put it into proper use. The introduction of this Bill is one step to ensure that, and for this I very much congratulate the Minister concerned.

May I also draw to the attention of the Minister concerned that there is another way which probably the Minister might have overlooked, of getting revenue from Customs and Excise from the Northern Region. In the Northern Region there is heavy traffic of things coming into or going out of the country. There is another point, the currency business, the French currency coming into or going out of Nigeria. I am sure the Government probably may have done something about this. They may have some ruling as regards how this should be transacted, and the measures to be taken to tap any resources that could be obtained there, but I am afraid the measure should be further looked into. There is this currency (most of it is French money) coming in or going out of Nigeria, and there are a lot of French goods and parcels coming into Nigeria. Some of them could prove very valuable channels of revenue, and if the Government would do something it would raise the sum of the revenue so badly required for the improvement of the wealth of the country.

With this, Mr Speaker, I wish to support.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the Members who have contributed to this debate and at the same time I think it is right for me to explain some of the points which they have made.

Sir, it is a pity that the hon. Colleague of Dr Udoma is not present this afternoon. I would have thought that he would want to hear from me. . . .

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Say what you want to say.

The Minister of Finance: You will convey it to him? O.K.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have met the case of singlets supposed to have been manufactured in Eastern Germany and imported into this country declared as being of Western German origin. I want to say, Sir, that this complaint

has reached the Department of Customs and Excise, but there has not been a proven case. Further, in view of the points made by Members of this House, and in view of the reports that are still coming in I can assure the House that very critical investigation will be made and if we are able to track down such people they can be sure that they will be prosecuted in accordance with the present law and not in accordance with the law that is going to be passed to-day. There is no doubt that we are all concerned with this type of practice, and that was why we had to put the recent notices in the *Gazette* to enable people to declare the country of origin of their goods and, at the same time, to make sure that the price quoted on the face of the invoice is, as a matter of fact, the true price paid for these goods from where they are imported.

As you have read from the local newspapers many dishonest importers have been prosecuted in recent times and we have got our investigation branch which is manned by honest, both expatriate and indigenous officers, and they are doing everything to protect honest importers as against dishonest ones. We hope that with the passing of this Bill and bringing it into operation, we can be assured that this will be more rigidly looked into in order to safeguard the revenues of the country.

Mr Howard, our respected friend, has made some points which I feel I must reply to. One of the points is a criticism of the unofficial representative on the Board of Customs and Excise. He is not the only one that has raised this point, but the Council of Ministers had given it very great thought and we felt that despite the criticism, if this is an innovation it may well be a good one, and if we put it into practice and that single individual selected from amongst thirty-five million people of this country, and entrusted with such responsibility, if he is such a character that will not realise that responsibility, I think, honourable gentlemen, that will be a calamity indeed for himself, because I feel, Sir, that one man so selected and entrusted with the statistics of the Department certainly will take very great care in giving out information. If he does, naturally there is nothing to stop me from removing him or from seeing to it that such a person does not continue to enjoy the privileges of the responsibilities which are entrusted to his care. If another Minister of Finance steps into my shoes, I am

sure that he will be responsible enough to see that the man he is going to appoint will be somebody that is worthy of such confidence.

Now, Sir, Mr Howard has also made the very significant point as regards the punishment. He made the point that under section 125 (a) the punishment proposed there is to be six months or £200 and that this is for an offence which is supposed to be known and not make in mistakes, and that in the same paragraph the punishment for supposed error or mistake on the part of the offender is equal here.

All I would draw my hon. Friend's attention to is that while it is true that under 125 (1) (a) the punishment referred to is £200, the fine of (b) will be £100. The difference, therefore, is to give room to someone who makes honest mistakes, but in matters of this nature, if honest or dishonest mistake is going to be reckoned with to such a large degree, I think it would be the easiest way out—the line of least resistance—"Oh, it is an honest mistake, and I can even take an oath on that". I am sure that Mr Howard would be the last person to allow the Government to give such room for every person to be dishonest and to come forward and plead that it is an honest mistake.

Well now, Sir, Chief Mariere also spoke about protection of industries. With very great respect I would say that that does not come within my portfolio. The gentleman who is responsible for giving more assistance and tax relief to industries is my hon. Gentleman the hon. Zana Dipcharima. I am sure that if the hon. Member gets in touch with him he will give him more facts about that.

Now, Sir, one hon. Gentleman has protested about his clients in Port Harcourt, and wanted to plead their case in a way which could not be hidden. The hon. Mr Akwivu has protested against the severe punishment that is put up here, and said that the law proposes to put the responsibility of proof of offence on the offenders, and not on the Government, and he says at the same time that the punishment is too severe. I want to say that I am happy that some hon. Members have said that no punishment in this instance would be too severe. All I want to say is that I agree with hon. Members who hold the view that this punishment, six times the value of the goods, is certainly not too severe for someone who obviously not only committed an offence by

defrauding the Government, but at the same time makes it impossible for honest people to sell their goods. That is a very important fact, for the man will continue to quote wrong prices and thereby is able to import goods at a cheaper rate by the backdoor, while the honest trader who puts his prices out honestly will find it impossible to put his goods on the same market with the same man. That is one of the reasons why you have the famous market, "Jankara". I hope Mr Akwivu is not trying to put another "Jankara" market in Port Harcourt.

Now, Sir, the type of freedom that my hon. Friend was asking for, for the offenders, is certainly freedom to cheat, and I am sure no Members of this House will agree that we should give any one licence or freedom to cheat the Government.

Then Mr Akwivu mentioned the question of the Customs House at Port Harcourt. I agree perfectly with him that the present Customs Office there is of no more use to the Department but I want to say this, Sir, that the contract for a new Customs House has been awarded inclusively in the contract of the Development of the Port Harcourt Quays which is already in progress and in a short time simultaneously with the completion of the development of the port I am sure that Members will be happy to find a very nice Customs House there well-staffed to catch up with the development of customs facilities in Port Harcourt.

Now, Sir, Members have already criticised the question of officers mentioned in the Bill. My hon. Friend Mr Mojekwu is very serious on that. Here again is another lawyer who is perhaps thinking about his clients—I am not imputing improper motives. I would like to refer my hon. Friend Mr Mojekwu to the definition of *Officer*, even in the present Ordinance. It says that an officer includes any person employed in the Department of Customs and Excise, and all members of the Police Force as well as any person acting in their aid, and any person acting in the aid of an officer acting in the execution of his office or duty, shall be deemed to be an officer acting in the execution of his office or duty. Are members suggesting that if even a messenger finds someone carrying some goods from say, Fernando Po, into Port Harcourt, the messenger should run to the Magistrate and ask for a warrant to

be given to him? By the time he comes back the man would be already in Uyo with the goods and with the Amauke's would have manipulated something!

In any case, I think the law is essential to make the definition so wide to cover all officers. We are not trying to get people to do evil work. We want people to prevent evil work, and I am sure that my hon. Friend will not suggest for a moment that if the smallest person in any situation in life is able to prevent crime, such a person should not do so.

Now, Sir, the Bill as it is, I think, commends itself to all Sides of this House, and it is designed to protect our revenue, which, I am sure, is of primary importance to the people of this country, and I hope that Members will pass it and we shall put it into execution, and by the grace of God we shall be able to increase the revenue of the country.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Speaker, I think the Minister has not, in fact, answered the point which was made by Mr Howard when he spoke. If the Minister would refer to Section 3 of the Bill, the membership of the board is set out there. But there is one individual who appears to be completely an unwanted person, and that person is supposed to be the nominee of the Minister. Why should an extraneous individual be a member of a board which is composed essentially of officials? What peculiar position will this individual keep in the community that he should be considered fit and proper to go and share official secrets? How are we going to decide that? Why should the Minister be free to nominate one man throughout the whole of Nigeria to be a member of this Board? That is the question.

And the Minister has side-tracked that question, and has never made any effort to answer that point. I think it is a very important point. Here is a Customs Board being set up, an official board, it is a board, an executive board, executing the policy of Government and to take very serious step in very serious circumstances. And the Board is abundantly to be official, and special provisions are made for Nigerians to specifically be represented on the Board, Nigerians who are serving officers.

Why should there be one special provision enabling the Minister to nominate one man of his own accord to serve on this Board, one

man only? (*An hon. Member: He wants a secret man*). I think so. So that, Sir, that is a point which has not been answered and we expected that the Minister was going to tell us what the circumstances are that make it absolutely essential that an individual, not a Government official, one individual out of 35 million people must come and serve on this Board. That is what we want the Minister to deal with and tell us why.

Now the next point, Sir, is I must say, that this Bill is very much in advance of the Custom laws we have had in this country for many years in one particular respect. I have looked through the Bill and have found that it is very, very progressive in the sense that it has shifted the onus of proof from the person suspected or charged, upon the Crown, which is the right thing. You see, in the old law whenever any person was charged before the Court the onus was upon him to discharge and to show he was innocent, otherwise he was presumed guilty. That, of course, was not a proper concept within the legal system which we know in the British world. It was something, no doubt, from elsewhere (*An hon. Member: From France*). It probably must have been that this country was supposed to have been inhabited by backward people who could never know how to tell the truth and, therefore, you assumed that once a man is suspected and taken to Court he is a criminal; whereas the conception known to the British world is that a person is always presumed to be innocent until the contrary is proved.

Now I am very happy that that situation has been remedied, and it is in accord with one of the principles of fundamental human rights agreed upon at the London Conference. To that extent we would say that this Bill is very much in advance of what we have had in this country.

Now, Sir, it is all very well having the law in the Statute Book, but I think a good deal will depend upon how the law is put into effect. It is the putting of the law into effect that is so important, and must be carefully considered, and, Mr Speaker, that is why it is very important that the Minister should clearly act and remove this suspicion that he has something up his sleeve and that is why there is special provision for one individual out of 35 million people who should represent him on this particular Board.

Sir, the other point I would wish to mention is that I hope the Minister has done something—as I have said, what is most important is how this law is going to be put into effect—and I hope the Minister has done something to encourage senior officials in the Customs Department, and I think, Sir, that it is a very good augury to see [that even in section 3 there is a provision to say that in the event of officers appointed to serve on this Board being non-Nigerian, that it must be seen to that Nigerians are appointed on to that Board. That is a very good augury, but I wish that this situation would not arise where everybody on the top of the ladder will be non-Nigerian and it will necessitate going down the ladder to bring somebody from the lower rank to serve on this Board. I think that is what should be guarded against.

Now, Sir, one other point, which is a small point I would like to wind up with. It is, of course, true to say that it appears this Bill is dealing with a very complicated matter. In other words, all manner of things are provided for. For instance, licences for brewing of beer and for importation of goods, but I think it is always better that the law should be known where it is; that it should be compact and I have no doubt that many merchants would find this book very handy and very useful in that you would have to refer only to one source, you would not have to ransack all the law books in order to get what you wanted. There is, of course, one point which the Minister also never dealt with—this one of licences to be issued to importers.

Licences. That point was made by the hon. Chief Solaru, so that when I say so-called reputable firms—I do not want to say “reputable firms”, as a reputable firm would not be expected to smuggle—that so-called reputable firms who smuggle into the country and they are discovered, their licences should be forfeited and withdrawn forthwith and that would be a deterrent to any person or importing firm in this country trying to cheat. We know the class of importing firm that cheats—we know that class—and I have no doubt that it would have a tremendous deterring effect if that system was introduced; and I repeat what has been said already by Chief Solaru, that the Minister should take this into very serious consideration when devising means of issuing licences to importers, not to obstruct

them importing goods into Nigeria, but as a means of checking importers to see that they are honest, especially some of the expatriate firms who are competing with Nigerians.

So, I think it is necessary that the Department should think along these lines, because once a firm has lost its licence it will be impossible for it to regain it, and that will be a sufficient deterrent to prevent any firm that has ever wanted to cheat the country from doing so.

With these observations I support this Bill.

Mr E. C. Ealey (Special Member): Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to raise two very small points on this Bill.

I notice throughout that all offences are described as offences against the “Customs or Excise” laws. But in Clause 147 the words “or Excise” are left out. There is no amendment published so I assume there must be a reason for this omission?

The other small point is on the Second Schedule, Sir. There is a very excellent definition of the value of imported goods. It is factual, but the words “in the opinion of the Board” have been inserted. It seems to me that opinions and facts may be at variance. I would ask the Minister if he could explain to us the reason for the words “in the opinion of the Board” in this definition of value.

I support the Bill, Sir.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I wish to comment only on two relevant points made by the last speaker which refers to the question of the appointment of one unofficial member to the proposed Customs Board. Mr Speaker, Sir, I say that the point raised by the hon. Member is actually doubting the integrity of the Minister. We must give certain confidence to the Minister that he will appoint only somebody with high integrity. The Minister will not do it because he feels, as somebody said earlier, that he is going to appoint some friend of his. Such allegations to a Minister should not be made and I think we should rely on him and have confidence in our Minister that whenever he appoints anybody to any place of office he does so with the best intentions and motives.

The other point, Sir, which I would like to emphasise more is on the question of goods imported into this country from Germany.

The Minister actually answered this that the Department of Customs and Excise will do their possible best to track down those types of goods that come from Eastern parts of Germany. As some people have said earlier, Sir, not everybody knows the distinction between Eastern and Western Germany. We all here know quite well that Western Germany is part of the Western block and if somebody imports goods from Germany it is impossible for any Customs officer, if the importers do not give the country of origin, to detect where the goods have come from. What I am trying to tell the Minister is to make sure that the Department of Customs and Excise whenever goods come in must be able to track down the place of origin so that goods coming from Eastern Germany may not have easy flow to this country without adequate safeguards.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support.

Mr C. C. E. Onoh (Udi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in view of the definition of the officer concerned in this part of the Ordinance and the wide power given to such an officer under section 133, it is my contention, Sir, that the ordinary person has no protection whatsoever. It might be that a messenger might stop me and decide to search me. I have got to abide by that, but under the Criminal Code it is provided that a Police Constable must tell the person of his rights under the Ordinance. If an Officer can search me for having some reasonable doubt or reasonable suspicion, then it befits him to tell me of my right as a citizen. Can I stop him? I have the right under this to go to any member of the Board or to a Magistrate. It is important that the Minister should include there that the officer conducting the search must inform the person to be arrested of his right to refuse to be searched and that he has a right to go to a Magistrate. Perhaps that might be a protection instead of including it here and the person might be arrested without even being told of his rights. I think it will be an additional protection for the citizen.

With this Sir, I beg to support.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu) : Mr Speaker, Sir, some hon. Members criticised the appointment of a member to be appointed under subsection C of section 3 but they fail

to give reasons why they criticise the appointment. Is it because the appointment is going to be made by the Minister, or is it because it is only one additional man to be appointed? This is what we fail to understand, Sir, on this side of the House. As the House is aware all members of the Board are appointed by the Ministers concerned and the members of this Board are appointed under this Ordinance in order to discharge what duties the Comptroller of Customs used to do himself. All the functions now assigned to this Board were previously discharged by the Comptroller of Customs. In other words the Board is now being appointed to replace the Comptroller who as a single individual used to exercise all the powers.

You will see from the Bill that four of the members of the Board are members of the Customs Department and the fifth member is a member of the Civil Service from the Ministry of Finance. The Board is therefore entirely composed of Civil Servants and it is only right that an additional man should be put there. (*An hon. Member : Why?*) There is no question why, it is a question of public confidence because they themselves would like to have an outside opinion from someone who would be able to advise them on such matters about which they may not be knowledgeable and the intention of the Minister is to appoint a person who has worked in the Customs Department before, somebody who is conversant with Customs matters. The Board will make good use of him. Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope the Members will be satisfied with my explanation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the question be now put.

Question, That the Question be now put, put and agreed to.

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.

Clause 3.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Chairman, Sir, my Amendment is this, that Clause 3, (4) (c) should be deleted. This Clause says that "Not more than one person nominated by the Minister who is not", and this is very

important, "who is *not* a member of the Public Service of the Federation". Sir, I feel that it does make the Bill look rather odd and awkward and I would like to clear the air about this matter. The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power got the impression that I thought the Minister was the person to appoint. I never thought any such thing at all; indeed the law is explicit that it is the Governor-General who appoints. It is rather odd that throughout the provision all the members to be on this Board are supposed to be officials, serving officers, but under Clause (4) (c) the Minister is to have a nominee to be appointed by the Governor-General.

The Chairman : I hope the hon. Member will not labour the point too much because we had it all on the Second Reading.

Dr Udoma : I would just like to explain because the Amendment had not been circulated, so I want to take time to explain a little. The point is this, I am saying that that should be deleted because it is extraordinary that the Minister should be in a position to nominate any person who is not a serving officer to serve on this Board.

Sir, I think it is very necessary that it should be understood within the context which has been made by the Minister of Mines and Power that this man should be a retired Customs official. I suppose if that were so I would be qualified because I have been in the Customs Department myself and, therefore, I am putting aside private and personal interests. I say that that particular Clause should be deleted from that section.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Amendment. As the Chairman has rightly said, when I was moving the Second Reading of this Bill, I gave the reasons quite clearly as to why that single individual who is not an official should be appointed. I think that it would be wrong for any hon. Member of this House to impute an improper motive that the Minister in appointing that single individual was going to favour one individual. What would it matter to me? I am not suggesting that I will appoint three or four people so that you can charge me that it is for a political purpose, but one person out of 35 million people, it is nothing that you should quarrel with. It

is no use in a serious matter like this which affects the revenue of this country, to view it only from the official point of view. Somebody from outside who knows every procedure of Customs should be there to give advice to the other members of the Board. What is wrong with that?

Chief Kolawole Balogun (Oshun): Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that probably the main point that Dr Udoma stressed in opposing this provision is on a question of probity. I think that can be answered right away by saying that probity is not the monopoly of serving officers alone. I think that once you have said that we cannot be far from the truth. If it is a question of probity I think he should be fair to the Minister; if that is what is in his mind he should say so. If that is the main point that is troubling him I think the answer is that probity is not the monopoly of serving officers alone.

I would like to say further regarding the point which was made about sharing of official secrets. I think that at one stage or the other in our lives we are called upon in one form or another to share official secrets. People are appointed Ministers not because they possess special qualifications and they share secrets in so doing. People are appointed to public boards and corporations and they serve with the officials and when they are doing so they are sharing official secrets. Any responsible member of this Federation would regard it as a great opportunity to have the chance of serving. I do not think that we should impute that any responsible Nigerian will not know how to keep official secrets.

I want to wind up by saying that I see a great merit in this provision, that whereas in the past it was only one individual who held the responsibilities involved in this affair, now the Minister has gone forward to share these responsibilities between eight people; eight people are now carrying the load which one man was carrying and I think that if there was any fear at all that fear should be obliterated. I do not think that out of these eight people it is only the one person who is going to be a bad egg. I think it would be unfair to press the matter.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am opposed to the Amendment.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I heartily agree with the Minister of Finance and the last speaker about not imputing motives. That does not enter into this at all; what we want is to appoint a man, he has got to come from somewhere, so that is beside the point. When I first saw it I thought it was a very good thing, until I heard from people whose opinion the Minister himself respects, drawing attention to it and saying that it was very good in every way but they—expatriate firms and the like who are experts in this thing and whom you will be consulting—are a little worried about this provision.

It was then that I looked at it and said, "Well, if you respect their opinion all along the line you might as well respect their opinion in this one". After all, the officials who are appointed to this Board are not going to be expatriates, they are going to be Nigerians and therefore, it does not enter into it.

You tell us not to impute motives and then all along it is you who have been imputing motives. If you think that there is something wrong you should have asked him and told him why you objected. I myself would have thought "Oh well, here is Customs at last sharing secrets with a non-official", but when they say that they viewed it with suspicion I think they ought to state why they object. The Ministers nominee will raise eyebrows, but that is about all.

Question, That paragraph (c) of subsection (4) be left out, put and negatived.

Clause agreed to.

The Chairman: There are 100 and something clauses on this Bill and it would take an intolerable time to put each one individually. I have power to put them in groups under a Standing Order. I will ask hon. Members to stop me when I reach a clause on which they wish to speak.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5.

Alhaji Baba Danbappa (North East Central Kano): Mr Chairman, Sir, this is a very good clause and I want to take this opportunity of congratulating the Chamber of Commerce in performing the important task of importing and exporting because the fact is that our goods which are being sold in Nigeria are always fluctuating.

Very often people have to suffer because of wrong tariff. It will be very good if the Government will act on the advice of the people concerned when it wants to reduce the tariff derived from customs and excise. I beg to support.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 40 agreed to.

Clause 41.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move in Clause 41 page C230, line 31, to leave out "three times the value of the goods or one hundred pounds" and insert "six times the value of the goods or two hundred pounds" instead thereof.

Amendment proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, may I ask the Minister why he stressed this point so much when he left the other things. I understood him to say this morning when he was speaking on the second reading that this part of the Bill was taken from the United Kingdom Ordinance on Customs and Excise and that this Ordinance came into being in the 19th century. If he thought that values of money had depreciated three times the value of the goods in question why does he not increase the punishment in the same proportion. Why do you leave the punishment undoubled?

The Minister of Finance: In the second reading I said these offences are peculiar to Nigeria.

Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That those words to be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 41, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 42 and 43 agreed to.

Clause 44.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, I beg to move in Clause 44, page C231, line 32 and also line 40, to leave out "three times the value of the goods or one hundred pounds" and insert "six times the value of the goods or two hundred pounds" instead thereof.

Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That those words to be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 44, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 45 to 57 agreed to.

Clause 58.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, I beg to move in Clause 58, page C235, line 27, line 41 and page C236 line 2 to leave out "three times the value of the goods or one hundred pounds" and insert "six times the value of the goods or two hundred pounds" instead thereof.

Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That those words be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 58, as amended agreed to.

Clauses 59 to 64 agreed to.

Clause 65.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, I move that Clause 65, page C238, line 17 leave out "three times the value of the goods or one hundred pounds" and insert "six times the value of the goods or two hundred pounds" instead thereof.

Question proposed.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo) : Mr Chairman, we see all these amendments are more or less identical. Does it mean the former fixed by the law was being readily and willingly paid. Is that why these things are being doubled?

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, the fact is that the punishment in the previous law was not sufficient deterrent to people committing offences.

Question, proposed, That the words to be left out, be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That those words be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 65, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 66.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : Mr Chairman, I beg to move in Clause 66, page C238, line 34 to leave out "three times the value of the baggage or article in respect of which the offence is committed or one hundred pounds" and insert "six times the value of the baggage or article in respect of which the offence is committed or two hundred pounds" instead thereof.

Question, That the words proposed to be left out be left out, put and agreed to.

Question, That those words be there inserted, put and agreed to.

Clause 66, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 67 to 72 agreed to.

Clause 73.

Alhaji Baba Danbappa (North East Central Kano) : Mr Chairman, Sir, Government Warehouses : this is a very important institution which this country needs and it is very important that at this stage of our growth we should encourage the people of this country to form a company that will cater for the interests of the indigenous traders of the country or to ask the Government to set aside some fund that will be sufficient to run these warehouses in a proper commercial way not in the Government way that spends money without looking into what it does.

There are two or three forwarding agents or other expatriate banks that do the business but they are doing this to the detriment of the country. I will explain further. If one goes to the Customs sheds he always finds a lot of boxes and goods because a lot of people try to import so many things when they are not in a position to pay for them. When they go to some of the banks, the banks are reluctant to give them overdrafts and even if they give them overdrafts it strangles their neck because it is not the same overdraft enjoyed by most of other businessmen.

My point is that there are a lot of losses in the country because of the lack of warehouses. The Ports Authority is imposing a great deal of penalty for not clearing goods within a short time and so many ships are coming in and going out of the country and the Ports Authority has not got a place where some of the traders may keep their goods before they can pay the necessary customs duty to the Government. If the Government now or some private concern can form a company that will cater for the interests of these people a lot of good will be done to the indigenous traders.

Mr Chairman, my point is quite clear. The industrialists who are exporting from abroad are given a bad impression by Nigerians who have made a very bad record because a lot of people import the goods and are unable to pay the bill. By taking this step the Government

will clear this very bad name that Nigeria has got. So with these few remarks, I hope the Minister concerned will do something to that effect. I am sure the people will be very anxious to get this thing they have been waiting for done.

Clause 73 agreed to.

Clauses 74 to 88 agreed to.

Clause 89.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Chairman, Sir, I beg to move in Clause 89, page C245, line 33, to leave out "three times the value of the goods or one hundred pounds" and insert "six times the value of the goods or two hundred pounds", and also in Clause 89, page C245, line 44, leave out "three times the value of the goods or one hundred pounds" and insert "six times the value of the goods or two hundred pounds" instead thereof.

Amendment proposed.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, Clause 89, subsection (1) where it says: "Any person who, except with the authority of the proper officer, opens any of the doors or locks of a warehouse or Government warehouse or makes or obtains access to any such warehouse or Government warehouse or to any goods warehoused therein shall be liable to a fine of five hundred pounds". My question is this. It just says £500. What if he fails to pay the fine? What is the alternative? In subsections (1) and (2) there is no alternative as in all the others.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not a lawyer, but I expect that when a maximum punishment is fixed for any offence naturally the court is not bound to inflict the maximum punishment and if the court reduces that to say £10 or £20 as the case may be it is in their discretion, if Dr Udoma will agree with me that the courts should exercise their discretion. And naturally if one cannot pay the fine one goes to prison.

Dr E. U. Udoma: For how long?

The Minister of Finance: That could also be discretionary to the court, but if lawyers say object I will hide under the views expressed by the Chairman, that that is how the law is drafted.

Dr Udoma: Mr Chairman, it may well be that there may be something in what he says. But do you not see the inconsistency of it? For one Bill gives an alternative of imprisonment but the one that says £100 or £60 fine the Bill does not give any alternative for it. If the Minister were so sure that the Magistrate or the Judge must use his discretion, why does he give an alternative in one and does not give in the other? That is the only point, Sir, the inconsistency which is evident in this Bill.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 89, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 90 and 91 agreed to.

The Chairman: There is another of these identical amendments for Clause 92.

Clause 92.

The Minister of Finance: Sir, I beg to move the Amendment, in Clause 92, page C246, line 31, to leave out "three times the value of the goods or one hundred pounds" and insert "six times the value of the goods or two hundred pounds" instead thereof.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 92, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 93 to 100 agreed to.

Sitting suspended : 4.41 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 5.00 p.m.

Clauses 101 to 105 agreed to.

Clause 106.

The Minister of Finance: I beg to move in Clause 106, page C250, line 22, after "section" that these words be inserted: "and such difference cannot be accounted for to the satisfaction of the Board".

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 106, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 107 to 117 agreed to.

Clause 118.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, subsection 2. What I have said here will apply to wherever we find a fine of £50 and no alternative. I feel, Sir, that for large sums of money, where a group of people or a

company is concerned, I suppose it might be easy to get the money, or if the money was not paid and there was no alternative but to distrain on property. Well then we should not have spent more in distraining for the debt than we are intending to recover, but for a fine of £50, if we cannot recover it by ordinary processes and we have to distrain on property, I think it is too much trouble, Sir. I think they ought to provide an alternative wherever a fine comes so low that there is no point in going through the ordinary processes of the law to recover such a small sum.

The Minister of Finance: I am very grateful to hon. Solaru and I have now got an answer for him. I am informed, Sir, that under the Criminal Procedure Ordinance there is coverage for alternate sentence and so for a £500 fine a Magistrate or a Judge could impose a two years imprisonment as alternative.

Clause 118 agreed to.

Clauses 119 to 124 agreed to.

Clause 125.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, I beg to move in Clause 125, pages C256 and 257, lines 48, and one, that the word "three" be left out and the word "six" be inserted therein.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 125, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 126 to 128 agreed to.

Clause 129.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, I beg to move in Clause 129, page C258, line 43, that "three times the value of the goods or one hundred pounds" be left out and "six times the value of the goods or two hundred pounds" be inserted therein.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 129, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 130 to 133 agreed to.

Clause 134.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, the second paragraph of Clause 134 says, "Provided that such approval need not be obtained for a reward not exceeding twenty pounds to a person not being a member of one of the public services of Nigeria". I

suppose this is put in order to secure the help and co-operation of the public in detecting fraud.

Well now, Sir, we know that fraud, as far as customs are concerned, moves in large lines, and large sums of money are involved and I think that the words "not exceeding twenty pounds" may probably not be an incentive for some people who might not think it worth their while. I think, Sir, that "not exceeding" is really putting a strain on the co-operation that one could get from the people who detect frauds. I wonder, Sir, whether the Minister would consider sometime amending that.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Chairman, Sir, I must say that I am very grateful to Chief Solaru. I am in sympathy with him because it looks as if, if somebody wants to report something that would bring about £500, then you are going to give him only £20, he might as well go to the other man and say "look, give me £100 or I will report you".

However, I think you will agree with me, that it is not such an Amendment that I can make off my own bat, but I will consider it and if I have the concurrence of my colleagues, we might consider an amendment on those lines.

Clause 134 agreed to.

Clauses 135 to 144 agreed to.

Clause 145.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I beg to move in Clause 145, page C263, line 26, to leave out "three times the value of the goods or one hundred pounds" and insert "six times the value of the goods or two hundred pounds" instead thereof.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 145, as amended agreed to.

Clause 146.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): I think, for this purpose, Sir, I should take both Clauses 146 and 147 because my objection on both Clauses is the same. Here, Sir, in sub-clause 1, the last line, we say that a person who contravenes shall be liable to imprisonment for ten years. Here it is the other way round. We do not want money now, now we just want to send the man to jail, and as different from

all the other sections, it just deals sentence and nothing more. I thought that we are out to collect revenue as well.

The Minister of Finance : I think that my hon. Friend will appreciate the clause he is referring to. The point there is the question of commission of crime, somebody who is armed with the intention to kill, and you might as well know that those who go to Fernando Po, if one or two waterguards meet them they will do the worst type of thing in order to get away, and I suppose that the hon. Member would be the last man to suggest that we should impose fines when people are armed to destroy life.

Chief Solaru : But sub-clause 2, Sir, deals with a person who is smuggling, anybody so disguised and found in possession of any goods liable to forfeiture. I am drawing attention to that one. I should have thought that here the Minister may want to quadruple his fine, and say six or eight times and forfeiture and imprisonment. I am not talking of the man who is armed to kill, but the man who is hiding something on his person, or hiding in some nook and thereby trying to escape customs. Why should that man not be fined as well? Why should he just be sent to jail? He will be feeding on the Exchequer, rather than his feeding the Exchequer.

The Minister of Finance : I suppose that this is a point that deals with punishment for evasion of payment of duty. He could be charged in any other section of the Ordinance additional to this or for another and then it will be one, two or three charges, and then Dr Udoma will try to knock out counts one and two, and his client would go in for the other counts.

Clause 146 agreed to.

Clauses 148 to 170 agreed to.

Clause 171.

Mr J. U. Udom (Abak): Mr Chairman, this is the clause I was referring to when I spoke during the Second Reading of this Bill, and I have nothing to quarrel with in this clause but what I mean is that it should be made attractive to men of good character. It is not a thing where messengers on the roads or people who have no work will be picked and then made members of the preventive service.

Because this is where it is open to temptation. The people who actually go to Fernando Po meet these people, perhaps these people known as Waterguards are among these people in the preventive service. When somebody returns from Fernando Po with over £1,000 worth of Spanish Gin, and a person is offered so much amount of money, he may be tempted to accept, and the person goes away, and perhaps where a person returns with a ship full of revolvers and guns and he may be tempted to connive and all the rest of it, and he goes away. Therefore if this particular section of the service is made attractive to attract men of the best character, I think these things will be checked. I do not say it will be checked altogether, but at least it will be checked. Mr Chairman, I beg to support.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Well, I notice in this particular clause that when any preventive officer—that is a customs officer—is sent to the Police Department for instruction, or for training, by way of secondment, he is treated as an ordinary police recruit. I do not know how this will find favour with officers in the Customs Department. Under section 171, subsection 3, it says rank and training in accordance with the Police Ordinance, and the Police Regulation, he is made to hold the rank of recruit in the Nigeria Police Force.

The Minister of Finance : Dr Udoma, read further please. Read further.

Dr Udoma : Well, I can read further: "or such other ranks as may be agreed with the Inspector-General of Police and specified in the order of the Board as aforesaid." What I am afraid of is that if you employ a Customs Officer and call him a Customs Officer, and then after about some six months or a year, or even if you select some people you feel will be very good as preventive officers, and you second them for training to the Police Department, and they have got to be treated as recruits. I do not suppose the Minister knows what recruits do in the Police Force, but I think it will not be a very healthy thing, because some of these officers might threaten to resign, and I hope that it will be as the Minister seems to think, that is, that it will be applied very warily and these people will carry the rank befitting them in their respective departments and not be sent there as ordinary recruits.

The Minister of Finance : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think that the point is clear that a preventive officer is really, if he is newly recruited, a recruit and as such if he goes to the Police Department he will be a recruit. But there is provision there that in the case of a senior officer the type of officer that Dr Udoma has in mind, if such an officer is required to be trained, and he is sent to the Police Department, naturally his rank there will not be that of a recruit, it will be agreed with the Inspector-General of Police as to the appropriate rank in which he should be placed.

Clause 171 agreed to.

Clause 172 agreed to.

First, Second, Third and Fourth Schedules agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bill reported with amendments.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Sir, I beg to move, That the Bill be now read the Third Time.

The Minister of Health (Hon. Ayo Rosiji): I second that, Sir.

Question proposed.

Dr E. U. Udoma (Opobo): Mr Speaker, Sir, while congratulating the Minister on the easy passage of this Bill, I would like to more or less repeat what I have said and perhaps advance my views further for the, I hope, future consideration of the Minister and for his guidance.

Now, Sir, we have passed in this House that the Minister should have a nominee on the Customs Board. That may be a very good thing in itself, and may even serve the purpose for which the Minister intends it to serve, but it may not. On the other hand, I would like to point out the difficult position in which a man who is pitchforked into such a situation might find himself.

It might well be, Sir, that when one single person out of 35 million people is put on this Board as a nominee of the Minister, I submit that such a person will be exposed to all sorts of temptation. He will be one individual, and it cannot even be foreseen the sort of temptation that will stand in his way. Apart from that, Sir, this is going to be a Board composed of

high officials who are liable under the Secrecy Act or Secrecy Law of this country. Now an individual brought from outside—an extraneous individual brought from the outside—is not and will not be liable under the Secrecy Act, and for him to be let into Government secrets without being properly sworn, without being an officer of Government, that, I think, is a very grave risk which is being run.

It should not be considered that a Customs Board is the same thing as a Corporation because it is not, nor could it be said that it is something like a Scholarship Board. This is a Board that is going to handle some very secret official documents and will deal with high official matters of policy and, therefore, I hope, perhaps, if the thing is put into operation, it may well be that the Minister may be able in future to change his mind and to find, perhaps, that this does not work in the way he thought it might work now.

I hope the Minister will keep the situation under view from time to time because an individual who finds himself in such a situation, I can well imagine, at a certain stage might find that he has exposed himself to all sorts of temptation, and I hope that the Minister will review the matter from time to time, as I have said, and that if he thinks there is something in what we say, he might bring an amendment to the floor of this House.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Sir, there is just one observation I would like to make on the point which the hon. Dr Udoma mentioned. He spoke of temptations, but perhaps if he had given us one or two examples of the temptations he had in mind it might weigh with the Minister for future consideration.

Sir, the one member is going to be a Nigerian. It will be very difficult for this Nigerian, especially if he happens to have business interests himself. After all, we are not told that this Nigerian would not have any business interests, and there you are in the Customs Board. It is very difficult for a human being to divorce himself entirely from any business interests which he might have as an ordinary individual in Nigeria. And, secondly, Sir, talking about temptations again, he will be, by virtue of his position as a non-official of the Board, well, his word will carry authority as if he were representing the 35 million people of Nigeria who are non-officials. It means, Sir,

that if he objected to any particular application of the law observers of the situation would think: "Here is a member representing the public objecting to this; I wonder if that is what public opinion wishes".

Now that looks very simple on the surface; one man addressing others might be giving their point of view, but the fact is it goes further than that, especially with some of these unscrupulous firms. I say, Sir, that the man you will be nominating will be carrying a very heavy burden. Indeed, as a matter of fact there will be traps set for him in many other directions and I think it will take more than an ordinary person not to fall.

Well, if you want to save people of probity you are talking about in Nigeria, I think the best thing is not to put them in harm's way but to keep them out of harm's way. As regards officials, there are ways of dealing with them, but not with other individuals. We say that we do not want foreign governments to cheat our Government. Well, we don't want to spread this by making tools for foreign firms, such as this individual, either inside this country or outside the country, who will offer tempting bribes which it is very difficult to resist. It might be a matter of do or die, if you let these things go. (*Interruption*). Well, this is quite true and we know it to be true. We have known—I won't cite names—high officials in this country who have fallen to the machinations of these people when it comes to official duties and it is a matter of getting rich overnight.

Sir, I hope you will think over this and let us have another idea.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to my two honourable friends for making the House so lively this afternoon. The debate to my mind is only for the purpose of cheering the House up, otherwise I think it has been stressed and overstressed, and I have made explanations and my hon. Colleague, the Minister for Power has come to my aid, and yet these two excellent but stubborn gentlemen continue.

Mr Speaker, I want to say that if it is a question of secrecy naturally (1) no Government secrets will be given out to any person without the person taking the Secrecy Oath and (2) if it is a question of interests. Well,

we must have confidence in people in important places. Even the Minister of Finance has got interests in business. Are you suggesting that because I have some business interests which I have declared, therefore I should allow my business interests to outweigh my sense of responsibility officially?

I have declared my business interests on my appointment as a Minister. I have to. (*Interruptions*)

Mr Speaker, I would refer hon. Members to section 7 of the Bill, and with your permission, Sir, I shall read it. Surely my hon. friends are aware of it. Perhaps they have overlooked it:—

"Without prejudice to the provisions of any other ordinances concerning official secrets any information or documents supplied or produced in pursuance of any requirement of the Customs or Excise laws shall be treated as confidential and if a person who is, or who has been, a member of the Board, or who is, or who has been, employed in the Department of Customs and Excise communicates or attempts to communicate any such information or the contents of any such documents to any person except:

(a) for the purposes of the Customs or Excise laws, or as required by any other enactment or

(b) as authorised by the Minister, he shall be liable to a fine of £100 or to imprisonment for six months, or to both.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to say that this man will be closely watched by me as well as by the Chairman of the Board, and also by members of the public or interested persons. Surely this man cannot communicate any secret to all the firms at one and the same time. If he communicates it to one firm, it will leak out and naturally he will be punished under a section of the Ordinance.

Question, That the Bill be now read the Third Time, put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third Time and passed.

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill entitled the Customs Tariff

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Ordinance, 1958 be read a Second Time. Sir, I signify that the Governor-General has given his recommendation for the introduction of the Bill in the House in accordance with the Standing Orders of this House section 61 (a).

I have already explained to Members of the House in introducing the Customs and Excise Management Bill, the circumstances in which it was decided to revise the Customs and Excise Legislation and the way in which this has been done. Members will have observed that under the new legislation all the administrative provisions with regard to both Customs and Excise are contained in the one Management Bill and that we then have two short Tariff Bills, one Bill making provision for the levying of Customs duty, and the other making similar provisions for Excise.

The Customs Tariff Bill which is now before us retains in principle the existing system for levying duty, and the only point to which I have to draw the attention of Members is that the three schedules to the Bill have been inserted only as a temporary arrangement and in fact reproduce the existing tariff.

The intention is that a new tariff will be prepared and this work is already in hand. The new tariff will fit in with the provisions of the new Ordinances, and although it is not intended to use the new legislation for the extensive revision of the tariff, it is probable that certain small adjustments will have to be made in order to bring the tariff into line with the general provisions of the new legislation. Members will appreciate that in view of this, it would have been out of the question to publish the schedules at the present stage even if we had been in a position to do so. On the other hand, the Law Officers have advised me that in view of the terms of clause 6 of the Bill it is essential that some items be included in the schedules since clause 6 makes no provision for the creation of new schedules.

I have already explained to the House that it is hoped to implement all the new legislation early next year. By that time a fully revised tariff will have been prepared and this will be inserted into the schedules to the Bill in place of those which are there at present. It follows that the schedules in the Bill as published need not concern Members, since they will in fact be completely replaced before the legislation is implemented.

I have already emphasised to the House the very careful consideration which has been given to this new legislation, and I have no hesitation in recommending the Bill as now drafted.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Hon. Ayo Rosiji): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed.

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. In doing so, Sir, I am not quarrelling with this present Schedule, but I am telling the Minister that certain things warrant inclusion in the list of materials for exemption from duty, especially bicycles. The Minister will agree with me that most of our people use bicycles as their easy means of communication. I have several times advocated the inclusion of bicycles for exemption—I see here “£1-5s”. But then I thought the Minister would have considered it because it might be that people use motor cars more in the townships whereas these bicycles are used in rural areas. People use auto-cycles and bicycles as their means of transport. I know we do these things to increase our revenue, but we should also take into serious consideration the interests of the taxpayers who cannot afford to buy cars and the only means of their transport is bicycles.

Those are my only remarks. Mr Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill.

M. Jalo Waziri (Gombe): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Bill, I would like to make one comment. I am just asking the Government to charge more customs duty on articles of luxury than on articles of necessity. There should be more duty on articles like alcohol, jewelry, perfumery, tobacco, and less on textiles, machinery and building materials.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Speaker, Sir, one would have expected that the Minister would give priority to the exemption of building materials. I think that we have put it forward to the Minister in this House before that we would like to give encouragement to the building trade by exempting a number of articles used for building trade. I think that is a matter which concerns everyone in this House, and it concerns the Government itself.

Secondly, I find that while you exempt lawyers' and judges' robes and what not, nothing is said about the ordinary student's academical. I find that some professors and lecturers do have to pay quite high customs duty on their academical. If lawyers' robes are exempt, why cannot lecturers' academicals?

The Minister of Finance: They belong to the honourable profession.

Chief Solaru: Do you mean that the lecturers do not belong to the honourable profession? (*Laughter*). Really I am serious, Sir. I am not suggesting that the lecturers are not paid a high salary but these things should be included for exemption.

Lastly, Sir, I am not quite sure whether I am rightly interpreting what is put down under "Church equipment." It says—section 12: "Church equipment, altar vestments". I take that to mean all the paraphernalia for priests. But if it is not, I do not understand it. The Minister should also exempt the ordinary religious robes worn by the officers of the church. If that is not exempted, then I do not see how he is keeping the tradition that was inherited from Western Europe. The pillars of Western civilization are religion and law. The Minister is exempting everything concerning the law and leaving out the church. I do not want this Government to be a Godless Government. I think that this ought to be on for first consideration and these church materials ought to be included for exemption.

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think my hon. Friend will agree with me that this is not a Godless Government. We are all God-fearing people. But it was Jesus Christ who said that one must give to God what is God's and to Caesar what is Caesar's. And furthermore, I must say, as I said earlier on, that this Bill does not require the comments of the House as such because if members want to lead me into making any further statement they will be pushing me into breaking my oath of secrecy as regards the standing Ordinance.

As Members know, it is not my place to tell them in advance that I am going to remove duty from or impose on such and such a thing at such and such a time. All I can say is that I thank the hon. Member for his comments and I can say no more.

Mr H. O. Abaagu (Kwande): Mr Speaker, Sir, I just want to ask the assurance of the

Minister that the vestment worn by the Priests in the country will be off duty. Mr Speaker, it is true that it will be very expensive for certain church denominations to pay duty. For example, the Roman Catholic Mission Priests do not receive salaries. If they are asked to pay import duty on their vestments, it means that the Government is trying to make things very difficult for them, and for that reason, I would oppose the Minister and ask that he should look into the matter. I want some sort of assurance that there will be no duty on the vestment worn by the Priests.

I would also like to have an assurance that the Minister would remove duty on educational materials, because this is the time that we are approaching independence and we want Nigerians, at least 75 per cent of the population of the country to be literate, and therefore if we impose duty on educational materials it means that we are making things impossible for our people who are yearning to be educated. For that reason, Mr Speaker, I would very humbly beg the Minister to see that educational materials are off duty.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to make only one observation, and even that one observation is merely a question of stressing a point that has been raised on the Floor of this House by the first speaker on this particular Bill, and that is Chief Solaru. I am not asking that religious materials should be exempt from duty. Not that I am not religious, but those like Chief T. T. Solaru know more than I do on the matter and he has made the position clear.

That building materials should be exempt from duty is very very important indeed. After all I have said several times here, and many hon. Members have also said it time and again that the aim of a responsible Government is to help the people that they serve. These building materials should be taken into consideration in this question of exemption from duty. I am not asking for an assurance because the Minister has said that he is under an oath of secrecy. I am merely urging that the Government should take the matter into serious consideration.

Mr Speaker: It is now a quarter to six o'clock and I am bound to interrupt the debate under the Standing Orders.

Debate to be resumed—Tomorrow.

Adjournment

Motion made and question proposed, That this House do now adjourn: (The Minister of Finance).

Mr Speaker: I have here two matters to be raised on the Adjournment. The first is by Oba Aiyeola.

Oba Adetunji Aiyeola-Afolu II (Ijebu Remo): Mr Speaker, Sir, on this Motion for the Adjournment I wish to bring before this House a matter which is of very great importance to the health of our school children.

Mr Speaker, there is today a common practice amongst school children in Lagos, especially those of them who are in top classes preparing for their school leaving certificate examinations. The practice is that these school children do go to our local drug companies and buy certain poisonous drugs merely for the asking without a doctor's prescription. These drugs they take at night in order to keep them awake during which time they study or cram their lessons as the case may be.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these drugs have the effect of making the dosers delirious and at times they cause mental derangement. In the end, Sir, you find these people do go to asylum and at times they die.

I have it on good authority that a few cases are about in Lagos. Mr Speaker, the rate at which drugs which come under the category of poison are being sold in this country is alarming. You merely go into the local drug stores and ask for these drugs without a medical certificate, and then you have them sold to you. This may be excusable in the case of a careful patient who goes with a doctor's prescription and follows the doctor's order very rigidly. But in the case of school children, there is no extent to which they cannot go in this matter. I hope the hon. Minister of Health will go into this matter and introduce very strict measures in order to prevent this practice amongst our school children.

The Minister of Health (Hon. Ayo Rosiji): Mr Speaker, the matter which has been raised by the hon. Member raises the issue of dangerous drugs and poisons in general. I want to assure the hon. Member that the dangerous drugs and poisons Ordinance takes very great care of the circumstances which the Member has outlined.

The Clauses in that Ordinance make it impossible for dangerous drugs or poison to get into unauthorised hands. The real difficulty is the enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance. I must say that I am fully aware of abuses in respect of this Ordinance and as a result of that we have just set up in the Federal territory an inspectorate which will enforce the provision of the Ordinance.

It is a great pity to hear that school children in their zeal to do well in their studies have fallen prey to the abuse of these drugs. The Ordinance to which I have just referred applies not only to the Federal Territory but also to the Regions. I have no doubt that Regional Governments are also aware of this abuse and I know that they are doing all that is possible and all that is within their power to check this abuse.

Recently I understand there was a check in the Eastern Region market at Onitsha. This is a sign that the Eastern Regional Government is awake to its responsibility in this respect. I cannot tell how many cases there are in the Regions the type of which the hon. Member has referred to. I know from investigations which have been made that there has been one case in Lagos of a student who drugged himself in this way and this case was treated successfully. We shall look further into the matter and see how much more we can tighten the regulation.

Mr E. C. Akwiwu (Orlu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw attention to the unfair practice being carried on in the timber trade in the Eastern Region. Sir, in the timber trade which is largely carried on in the Delta areas of the Rivers Province between Port Harcourt and Degema area we have indigenous as well as expatriate timber exporters. The practice is for exporters to find contractors who can go into the remoter parts of the mangrove swamps to contract for the requisite timber to be felled and brought to the exporter for export. It has been the experience in this field that there has been an element of unfair competition between the expatriate exporters and the indigenous exporters. The indigenous exporter have had the experience that when they advance money to contractors to go into the remoter parts of the Rivers to get these logs out they are intercepted by the agents of the expatriate exporters who induce the contractors to sell the logs felled with the indigenous contractors money to them at higher prices and the logs are thus diverted to the expatriate exporters.

Like all trading ventures people run into losses and eventually when these contractors lose money it is the indigenous exporters who suffer. Some indigenous exporters have lost up to £10,000 in this way. I do not say that it is not partly the contractors' fault but I think it is chiefly the fault of the person who promotes this unhealthy practice. It may well be said that the timber contractors can recover their money by taking the defaulting contractors to court. The fact is that so many cases have been taken to court and so many judgment debts outstanding that the people are losing faith in the effectiveness of this remedy.

This matter has been brought to the notice of the Nigerian Timber Association which comprises indigenous and expatriate exporters but this was turned down as being outside their scope. The indigenous people engaged in this trade are being forced out of the business. The names of the expatriate firms who indulge in this practice are known and I appeal to the Government to do what it can in this awful situation. We would not like things to get to a stage where the people's resentment may take a physical form.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Hon. Z. B. Dipcharima): Mr Speaker, I have very recently become aware of the practices to which the hon. Member has referred. There is, however, one difference between the account given by the hon. Member and the complaints by the Nigerian timber exporters as they have been reported to me. According to my information the expatriate shippers are securing their logs by offering

higher prices for them and paying out money in advance. The hon. Mr Akwivu, however, has said that the expatriate firms do not pay money in advance. Which of these accounts is correct, I am unable to say, but there is not, in my view, anything contrary to normal trade morality in one exporter offering higher prices for produce than his competitors if he can afford to do so in order to secure business for himself. This is in accordance with the accepted principles of the law of supply and demand. It also benefits the producer.

If a timber exporter has entered into a contract for the supply of logs against which he has advanced money to finance the purchase and the contractor fails to fulfil his obligations, the exporter has his remedy in the Civil Courts, and legal action is the normal method of dealing with breach of contract. I agree, however, that the instances which the hon. Member has cited reflect an unsatisfactory state of affairs, particularly as it appears that, on balance, the interests of Nigerian shippers are being adversely affected. I therefore intend to have the matter investigated with a view to restoring a more healthy atmosphere than apparently prevails at present in the timber business in the Abonnema-Port Harcourt area.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at one minute to six o'clock until 9 a.m. on Friday, the 28th of November, 1958.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NIGERIA

Friday, 28th November, 1958

The House met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Minister of Communications and Aviation (Chief the hon. S. L. Akintola): Mr Speaker, hon. Members may be aware that a dispute exists between the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Engineering Workers Union of Nigeria and the Cameroons. The matters in dispute are:—

(1) The Union claims that under the terms of the Lidbury Report promotion to the grade of Chief Technician should be made exclusively from the cadre of technicians serving within the Department.

(2) The Union demands that a senior Nigerian officer of the Department should be transferred from his present station for alleged subversive activities against a branch of the Union.

Those were the two matters in dispute.

With regard to the first issue the facts are as follows: Of the twenty-one appointments made to the grade of Chief Technician in the past year, thirteen were by promotion of serving Nigerian officers from the technician and technical officer grades within the Department. Eight were by direct appointment from outside the Department. Of the eight persons so appointed one was a Nigerian and seven were expatriates from the British Post Office. The expatriate officers have been appointed on contract to fill vacancies pending the availability of suitable and qualified Nigerians. The appointments were made in accordance with the recognised procedure, with the approval of the Federal Public Service Commission and after full consultation with the Nigerianisation Officer. This is in strict accordance with the policy of the Government which has been endorsed by this honourable House.

May I say this, too, regarding that. The experts in the Department examined all the claims of the existing Nigerian officers we had and in their opinion they felt that only these thirteen measured up to the standard of

promotion to this particular grade. Then there were eight vacancies left. They went outside the Department and found a suitable African who also had the requisite knowledge and experience; he too was appointed, making fourteen Nigerians appointed. They employed seven expatriates from the British Post Office on contract and the contracts of six out of these seven were only for one tour of 18 to 24 months in each case. We thought that by giving these short contracts, within these two years, among the Africans available in the Department, there would be others who would rise up to the required standard and those people would be promoted to take the place of those contract expatriate officers whose contracts shall have expired within the period.

With regard to the second issue, the Union's allegation, couched in general terms originally, were carefully examined, that is, the allegations against a Nigerian officer stationed somewhere in the North, by name, Carrena. These allegations were examined and they were found to be groundless. The original one was couched in general terms. All the offence that was alleged to have been committed by this officer was that he was guilty of subversive activities against a branch of the Union. Well we could not act on such a general allegation. So the Department stated that they could not do anything to this officer on this ground.

It was only two days ago that specific allegations were brought up. One was that this officer transferred some two junior officers to some other place. On enquiry, we were satisfied that this officer was not in a position to transfer anybody. It was the Chief Engineer, his own boss on top, who was responsible for the transfer of these officers. The second allegation against him was that a junior officer under him queried another employee of the Department and the Union alleged that this officer stopped the query which a subordinate under him put to another; and they said for these two reasons he should be transferred from that station elsewhere. Well, this second allegation was inquired into fully by the Director and he found that there was no proof in this allegation. Of course when all these allegations were found to be untrue and groundless and the officer is capable and is doing his very best as far as his own job is concerned, the Department found no reason to transfer him. It was on these two grounds that the Union decided to go on strike.

Now, I feel that I should let the House know the present position. In the circumstances, the transfer of this loyal and efficient officer cannot be contemplated. There have been rumours that Posts and Telegraphs technicians are on strike. The position is that with the exception of Enugu where some technicians were going slow and in the Cameroons where they were striking, all technicians throughout the country have continued to work loyally and efficiently as in the past. That was the picture yesterday with the exception of those two places. Some rather ingenious members of the Union felt that the best way to encourage their men is to go to the Press and to go to the N.B.C. to say that all officers were on strike so that those who were far away may decide to fall in line with their colleagues. At the time you received the news both in the Press and in the N.B.C. that there was a go-slow strike there was no truth whatsoever in it. Now, the position has improved considerably this morning and the latest report I have is that the work is returning to normal.

Everything possible has and is being done to bring about a settlement. I have myself held discussions with representatives of the Union and it proved impossible to reach agreement. The Commissioner of Labour has invited the Department and the Union to attend further talks under a chairman appointed by him. While I am always willing to keep open the door of rational negotiation, I cannot accept strikes or threats of strike designed to hold this country to ransom and as a means of forcing a decision on any issue. *(Cheers.)*

Mr A. Adeyinka (Ibadan Central): Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank the Minister of Communications for informing this House about this proposed strike as published in the daily papers. I think the Press are equally to be blamed in this matter. I am not holding brief for any side, but according to the explanation of the Minister I think the Minister is trying to see that the dispute is settled. I know more about this Department, and as I read this morning that the Minister is referring the decision to Lidbury it is better that he refers this matter to Lidbury so that he can have a final say.

It is most irresponsible for any Trade Union leader to call out his men on strike while negotiation is still going on. We should educate these people that when they go on

strike like this they are not doing it for themselves but they are trying to hold this country to ransom.

Mr D. N. Abii (Owerri): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to support the last speaker and to tell the Minister, and for that matter the whole Council of Ministers of this Government, to start now and prepare against these unwarranted strikes in this country. Many of the workers have taken it (since many Members come into this House to talk about senior service for everybody) that they are rising to that summit of achievement in every place whether they merit it or not. Just examine the case that you have about twenty or twenty-two posts and after interviewing people you find about thirty or forty of them qualified and you go ahead outside and include six. Members want to go on strike. In other words, whether they are qualified or not they must be given the posts. Is that how this country is going to run? I wish to say it to the Minister now. This is only an example. Many of the workers are aiming that way. The Government must be prepared now so that if workers are going on strike without reason the Government should find a way to check it up.

Mr Speaker: I just want to sound a note of caution about procedure after a Ministerial statement. It is open to Members to put questions asking him to amplify, asking him whether he is aware of certain factors that may exist, but it is not a time for debate because there is no question before the House. But questions to a Minister to elicit further points are perfectly in order, if Chief Onyia also wants to do that.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Then, Mr Speaker, I will have to put it in the form of a question. Is the Minister making all preparations as far as possible to put an end to irresponsibility on the part of our growing generation to realise that strikes do us no good? Would he do everything possible to let them understand clearly that they are jeopardising the progress of this country by strikes upon strikes and by claiming to be put in a post for which they have not the qualification? And does the Minister understand that one of the reasons why most of the people are clamouring for more wages is because of the flagrant life they live outside, flagrant life, irresponsible life of indulging in intoxicating liquor, in the consumption of beer, their irresponsible thirst for

money to use for this and to use for that, for chasing women here and there, taking beer and intoxicating liquor here and there; and that that is why they cannot make the ends meet and must go on asking for more and more money?

EXEMPTION FROM STAMP DUTIES—WAAC
(NIGERIA) LTD.

The Minister of Finance: (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to move the resolution standing in my name as follows: That, in accordance with section 114 of the Stamp Duties Ordinance, the duty chargeable under the heads "Capital Duties" and "Conveyance or Transfer on Sale" in the Schedule to that Ordinance in respect of the formation of a company known as the West African Airways Company (Nigeria) Limited and the transfer of assets to that Company from the West African Airways Corporation be reduced to a total sum of £10,000.

The main point of this resolution is to reduce the burden of the stamp duties which our new Airline would have borne on the transfer of the assets of the dissolved West African Airways Corporation from the Liquidator to the new company and on its nominal capital of about £6 million in accordance with the "Capital Duty" and the "Conveyance or Transfer on Sale" heads on the schedule to the Stamp Duties Ordinance.

We consider, Sir, that such a reduction will be in the best interests of the new company and therefore in the public interest. If the young company were to meet its full liability of about £50,000 under the Ordinance, then it would either have to hold up some essential capital development or call up more of its capital than is necessary before 1960-61. Either course seems undesirable.

It is proposed, therefore to retain the principle of liability to duty without exacting too onerous a burden on the company by reducing the amount of stamp duty to be paid to £10,000.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That, in accordance with section 114 of the Stamp Duties Ordinance, the duty chargeable under the heads "Capital Duties"

and "Conveyance or Transfer on Sale" in the Schedule to that Ordinance in respect of the formation of a company known as the West African Airways Company (Nigeria) Ltd., and the transfer of assets to that Company from the West African Airways Corporation be reduced to a total sum of £10,000.

DOCKS (SANITARY ACCOMMODATION)

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move a resolution standing in the name of my Colleague, the Minister of Labour and Welfare, That the Docks (Sanitary Accommodation) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice No. 187 of 1958), a copy of which was laid before this House on 21st November, 1958, be approved.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Docks (Sanitary Accommodation) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice No. 187 of 1958), a copy of which was laid before this House on 21st November, 1958, be approved.

FACTORIES (WOODWORKING MACHINERY)

The Minister of Finance: Mr Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Minister of Labour and Welfare, I beg to move, That the Factories (Woodworking Machinery) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice No. 189 of 1958), a copy of which was laid before this House on 21st November, 1958, be approved.

The Minister of Education: Sir, I rise to second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Factories (Woodworking Machinery) Regulations, 1958 (Legal Notice No. 189 of 1958), a copy of which was laid before this House on 21st November, 1958, be approved.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL

Adjourned Debate on Second Reading (27th November).

Question again proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second Time.

M. Maitama Sule (Kano City): Sir, I think I made my point clear yesterday and so

the people to know that it is an evil thing to indulge in drinking. That is the only way, Mr Speaker, Sir, that we can cure this social evil.

Sir, I beg to support this Bill.

Mr E. A. O. Dada (Egbado South): Mr Speaker, in supporting the Second Reading of this Bill, I only want to speak on the import duties on drinks. Though I am not a drunkard, I think that, as many hon. Members have already said, it will not be a good thing at all to say that all these drinks should be excessively taxed. After all, what is poison to one may be food to another. So I would only appeal to the Minister to see that all these drinks are moderately taxed.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Minister about the import duties on bicycles. It is true that we have many means of transport now. We have lorries, motor cars and all the rest of them, but in the rural areas people who travel in the forest do not have the facilities of using motor cars. They have not even got the money to buy cars, and they use their cycles to travel, and any reduction in this import duty on bicycles would be a good thing for the country.

Mr Speaker, I support.

Mr J. L. Nsima (Eket): Mr Speaker, Sir, in supporting this Bill I have to congratulate the Minister for having brought this Bill up now because it satisfies a long-felt need of this Department. We have been complaining often enough in this House that something should be done in the Customs and Excise Department to make sure that certain classes of goods are not duty free, because it has been known that there are certain classes of goods that were usually removed from the Customs without their being taxed, and that went a long way to encourage fraud. So I hope, now that the classes of goods to be taxed are specified, that nobody will have the impudence to try to by-pass this Bill to import goods into this country indirectly and carry them away from the Customs without paying the necessary duties.

That is why I say that I welcome this Bill seriously, and I hope that, as I have said, it will go a long way to clarify affairs in the Customs Department.

Dr Udoma (Opobo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of this Bill, and what I propose to say will only be by way of advice to the Minister when the new schedule and the new tariff will be prepared, as he said to the House yesterday that a new one will have to be prepared.

Sir, I would like to point out that we have often said in this House that building materials ought not to be taxed because one of the things that make this country look primitive is the type of building that we find along the road and it is necessary that we should make building materials very cheap so that the people in the rural areas can afford to put up some permanent designed houses. Although it is true that these things make money for the Exchequer by imposition of tax, I think we can well afford to exempt building materials altogether from taxation. I notice that even cement is taxed, and that is not good enough at all, and I hope that when the Minister prepares the right schedule, all these will disappear.

Of course, the only point of reason one would have about a matter of this kind is that here we have a new Bill on the Customs and Excise Management, which we passed yesterday, and we are fitting an old schedule on to a new Bill which we said was excellent yesterday. I cannot understand why it was not possible for a new tariff to be prepared also to fit into the new Bill which was passed. However, as the Minister has given an undertaking that a new tariff will be prepared, we hope by the next time we meet at the Budget Session, that we will have an improvement on this old tariff which is before us now.

There is one other matter I would like to point out. So many Members seem to think that people who drink, who take a bit of alcohol for the sake of the 'tummy' are doing a wrong thing and, therefore, everybody in this country must live on that. They must be taxed and taxed to the lowest limit, or the highest limit, as the case may be. I think that is wrong, and I am going to make a suggestion that, since most of the people from the North drink mineral waters, mineral waters ought also to be taxed. I do not see any reason why mineral waters should not be taxed. Most of them drink orange juice and they do not pay tax on these orange juices. I don't see why these orange juices should not be taxed. I think they should be extra taxed!

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to

beer brewed in Nigeria is 2s-9d per gallon whereas on beer imported the duty is 4s. The difference is absolutely negligible. I should have thought that beer brewed in Nigeria

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[Customs Tariff Bill]

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So I am suggesting, Sir, that if mineral waters cannot be taxed elsewhere, mineral waters served in this House to Members of the House ought to be taxed!

Sir, there is one other point about bicycles. I come from an area where people use bicycles as possibly the greatest means of transport. . . . (An hon. Member: What area do you come from?) The C.O.R. Area. The area which specialises in carrying heavy loads on bicycles, and I am appealing specially to the Minister that our traders in the rural areas depend on bicycles for their means of transport. You can tax cars because to a certain extent cars may be regarded as luxuries, but surely for people in the rural areas bicycles are the only means of their moving around and I suggest this particularly in view of the fact that in the rural areas you have all the District Councils imposing very heavy licence fees on bicycles in order to be able to build up their revenues.

But the Federation can well afford to exempt bicycles from taxation and bicycles are suffering from double taxation. It is taxed by the Federal Government; it is also taxed by the Rural Areas or District Councils as the case may be, and since the Federal Government is wealthier, I think the Federal Government can well afford to remove taxation on bicycles.

Finally, Sir, I am happy to see that newsprint is exempt from taxation. I think that is welcome and we hope that the Ministry will continue to exempt a good many of these items. Even here I notice that printing and writing papers have to be taxed and we know that our school children make use of these writing papers, and why we should not do everything to encourage education, by removing tax on anything which is for the purpose of education, I cannot understand. I hope that the Ministry will examine these, item by item, and see to it that the burden of taxation is removed from some of these materials which are necessary either for educational purposes or to assist the people in the rural areas.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju (South Ilorin): Mr Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with other Members who have spoken on this Bill and I support the last speaker. Articles like ciga-

rettes and tobacco which are very dangerous to the health would have been heavily taxed, whereas all building materials like iron sheets, wire, nails and cardboard have to be exempt from duty. In many parts of the country there are people who cannot meet up with the prices of iron sheets and cement which are essential for building. To help this type of people, take away import duties on these materials and make them cheaper. But discourage people of Nigeria from purchasing secondhand clothes and rags. Heavy duties should be imposed on secondhand clothes and rags. It is very disgraceful for Nigerians to continue to wear rags and secondhand clothes. Import duty on motor lorries should be tax free to encourage transporters (An hon. Member: We do not want money in this country? Everything tax free?) I have no quarrel with any amount that may be imposed on cars and motor-cycles but motor lorries should be free.

Sir, I beg to support.

Mr D. D. U. Okay (Port Harcourt): Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak on this Bill. I wish to make a brief comment on the exemptions from import duties. Under this you get flour and sugar. These goods are duty free. You get them soaring very high in the United Kingdom. I do not know whether our Government has any consultation with the United Kingdom in regard to the exporters trying to control prices in the United Kingdom. The exporters in the United Kingdom find out that these goods are imported into this country duty free and for that reason they keep on increasing the prices in the United Kingdom.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether it will not be reasonable for our Government of the Federation to make such a consultation in order to see that the prices of goods that are imported duty free into this country are made reasonable.

Another thing, Sir, I wish to speak about is the customs tariff itself. The importers in this country grumble a lot that they have to pay heavy customs duties. I wish the Minister to take this into faith and consider whether the lowering of this country's customs tariff will not be to the greatest advantage of the importers of this country.

Chief T. T. Solaru (Ijebu East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I understand that the bone of contention is the fact that local beer has almost the same amount of duty as imported beer. Imported beer is 4s and other one is 2s-9d. Personally, Sir, I would say that all beers are luxury goods; the people who can afford to buy them should pay tax on them. The only good we get from these things is the tax we get. So I do not agree.

Mr H. M. Adaji (North Igala): Mr Chairman, Sir, the question of duty on beer is as hon. Solaru has put it. One thing is certain: we want to encourage industries, and beer brewing is an industry. I should like the Council of Ministers to put it this way, to prevent other liquor from overseas competing with the locally brewed beer in this country. But on the question of duty, if the one manufactured here should bear the same import duty as the one imported, we are really giving imperialists every advantage to gain more from Nigeria. (*Cheers.*) If we are consumers of beer, let us drink our own brewed beer and not depend on foreign beer by trying to give them more room in our market.

Mr J. S. Tarka (Jemgbar, Tiv Division): Mr Chairman, Sir, I personally do not believe in drinking alcohol. I find here that the amount of taxation on locally brewed beer is not the same as on imported beer. Actually, I feel that this is very nice because it will encourage the local industries as far as beer is concerned to grow up and stand competition with the imported beer.

There is one more thing which I notice here which I do not think is very wise. I see that the Minister has introduced in this Bill a point whereby taxation is being levied on native liquor. In my own part of the country native beer serves a large number of people, especially in places like Wukari and the southern part of the Plateau Province. I beg the Minister humbly to see that this taxation on native beer is removed.

Mr J. L. Nsima (Eket): Mr Chairman, no matter how much we reduce the excise tax on local liquor Nigerians are more interested in this imported beer. The reduction is not going to encourage the drinking of native liquor. The people want Bergedorf, Heinekens and any other beer that is imported. They do not believe in Star. No matter how much you

reduce this the imported beer is the one to be consumed by Dr Udoma! This Bill intends to bring revenue into the country. I feel the tariff should be raised. There should be equal tariff on all forms of beer. If anyone feels unable to buy beer any longer let him leave it and start drinking water.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh): The hon. Mr Tarka perhaps read the schedule upside down. He said that we are taxing native drinks. That is not true. The Bill says 'beer brewed in Nigeria other than native liquor.'

Mr Tarka: Remove the words completely.

The Minister of Finance: I do not belong to your school of thought.

Mr M. A. Sanni (Oshun Central): Although I do not advocate the drinking of alcohol I support the principle of the Government that our own industries should be protected. They should be protected not only by anti-dumping legislation but also by subsidies and the reduction of excise. One of these has taken place in this Bill.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair).

Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third Time and passed.

GOLD TRADING (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. M. Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, that a Bill for an Ordinance to amend the Gold Trading Ordinance, be now read a Second Time.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in moving the Second Reading of this Bill, I consider that it would be pertinent to outline the background of the amendment. Imports of gold into Nigeria for industrial purposes have hitherto been based on allocations issued in the United Kingdom. This was to ensure that gold could only be exported from the United Kingdom to meet essential purposes. It was considered by the Secretary of State that this administrative arrangement could be simplified by introducing a scheme whereby once the Nigerian Government has issued an import licence for gold, licences to export gold would be granted freely in the United Kingdom on the evidence of this import licence. But he requested the assurance

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of the Nigerian Government that in granting import licences it should first satisfy itself that gold being imported was solely to be used in satisfying essential and established local demand and not for private hoarding or speculative purposes. The Nigerian Government has given this assurance.

It was felt that the best means of implementing this assurance was by channelling the import of gold through gold dealers who are the legitimate traders in gold in Nigeria. The Gold Trading Ordinance which guides gold dealers in this trade requires them to keep records of "raw gold", but the definition of "raw gold" in the Ordinance does not include gold bars, gold sheets, gold wires and grains and gold bullion which are exactly the types of gold being exported from the United Kingdom. If meaning is to be given to the undertaking given to the Secretary of State, it is necessary that these types of gold be brought within the Ordinance. It is this that has now called for the present amendment.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this Bill is straightforward and self-explanatory and I do not feel that I need further dilate on it.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Inuwa Wada): Sir, I beg to second.

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 to 3 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.)

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the Third Time and passed.

Sitting suspended: 10.30 a.m.

Sitting resumed: 10.50 a.m.

LAGOS LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Mr Speaker: Before I call on the Minister may I make one remark to the House, not on

the subject of the Orders of the Day but on the Building Committee, regarding the building of the new Chamber on Victoria Island. Members have, I believe, been asked to attend a meeting tomorrow at 12 o'clock and it seems quite possible that it may be harder to get a quorum tomorrow than it would be to-day. I have sent a message to the Clerk of the Building Committee, and if Members of the Building Committee would be kind enough to try and meet after the House adjourns to-day, I think we could probably obtain a quorum and deal with the business in hand, which may be more difficult tomorrow.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an Ordinance further to amend the Lagos Local Government Law, 1953, be now read a Second Time. Mr Speaker, Sir, as the House will observe, this Bill seeks to introduce two Amendments. Under section 29, subsections 1A and 2A of the Lagos Local Government Law, Members of the Lagos Town Council are precluded from retaining any remuneration paid to them for serving on any Board or Authority apart from reasonable allowances. At present there are members of the Lagos Town Council who are also members of the Lagos Executive Development Board who have been appointed by the Minister. At the same time there are members of the Lagos Town Council having been nominated by the Council as their representative on the Board. Of these two categories, the former, namely those appointed by the Minister, are entitled to retain their remuneration whereas the latter cannot do so. This means normally that Members of the same Council serving on the same Board are subject to varying restrictions in the matter of remuneration payable for membership of the Board.

Sir, in addition, it has to be borne in mind that the Lagos Executive Development Board has outgrown its former conception and now acts largely as an agent of the Government in executing functions and spending vast sums of money on public schemes. Membership of such a Board is a very responsible undertaking and it is only right that all members serving on it should be remunerated. This section is being amended so as to enable those appointed

purely to Town Planning spends large sums of public money and accordingly it is desirable to control its membership. This will enable the Minister responsible to be answerable to this House on all questions about the Board's membership, and as the Members are now remunerated it will ensure economy in that direction.

With regard to (b) under the existing law all monies payable to the Board are to be received by the Chairman and cheques and orders by the Board are to be signed by the Chairman of the Board and countersigned by the Town Clerk. This arrangement has become out of date and is now unworkable.

The Chairman is now a political appointee who is frequently absent from Nigeria and the amount of money now being handled by the Board is not confined to the fees for town planning purposes. It runs into millions of pounds for specialised services and substantial schemes for the Federal Government and the counter-signature of the Town Clerk is now irrelevant.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Sir, I rise to second.

Question proposed.

Mr L. J. Dosunmu (Lagos East): Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a welcome Bill and I rise to support it. I agree with the hon. Minister that the provision that the Board can co-opt additional members is out of date. It is not of any use because the Minister has endeavoured to make the Board as representative as anybody can make it, and we now have members of the L.E.D.B. who, to all intents and purposes, represent the cross section of the community of Lagos.

Again, the other Amendment which deals with the facility of signing cheques by the L.E.D.B. is another satisfactory amendment to the law. The Minister has given the House reasons which have led to this proposed Amendment and I rise to associate myself wholeheartedly with these Amendments.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I 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 1-3 agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

Bill reported without Amendment, read the Third Time and passed.

PUBLIC LANDS ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill for an ordinance to amend the Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance No. 185 be now read a Second Time. Mr Speaker, as the House is aware, Government has power under the law to acquire land anywhere in Nigeria for Departments of Government or for the Public Corporations established under the Federal law. Recently however, that power has been extended to include the acquisition of land for building Schools for voluntary agencies. Now it has been found expedient to extend it further to include other private companies who render essential services to the public. The House will agree with me that this provision is a wide one which would enable private companies to assist in the development of Nigeria. Services such as the development of telecommunications, housing estates, economic, industrial and agricultural development are essential services and those who perform them deserve every encouragement by Government.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Sir, I rise to second.

Question proposed.

Chief J. I. G. Onyia (Asaba): Mr Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Bill, but I want to add a remark. In giving the usual notice to the landlords this notice should be timely. I have in mind a recent notice issued to me in Asaba in connection with the acquisition of a piece of land for V.H.F. installation purposes.

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The notice came asking what claim I or my family have, but the time the notice would expire in which we could put up a claim had expired.

However, we are putting up our claim but we do not know how it is going to affect the land or the owners in connection with this matter.

Reverend E. S. Bens (Brass) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in speaking on this Bill, I have to state clearly my mind here, and that is that I personally oppose it. I do not ask others to oppose this Bill, but I am making my stand very clear. I have my reasons Mr Speaker.

The Public Lands Acquisition Ordinance as we have it to-day was first formulated in 1945 by the then Governor of Nigeria, and, Mr Speaker, it provoked the living politicians of that time, and when the law was passed in the then Legislative Council, because of their vehement opposition they had to leave Nigerian shores and then present their case to the Colonial Office, opposing this very Ordinance.

I know Mr Speaker, Sir, the reason for the enactment of the Ordinance of the Public Lands Acquisition. We know that after that law was passed in 1945 companies prospecting for mineral oil had to acquire land from the people by force.

Well, Mr Speaker, I think anything relating to acquisition of land should be very, very courteously taken by any responsible Minister and responsible Members of the Government. Land as we know it in Nigeria is the valuable, inalienable and untransferable property of the people of Nigeria. Land is not transferable. It is only inherited and this Bill, Mr Speaker, seeks to make it possible for land to be acquired by force because of our industrial projects, economic projects, even when owners are not willing. Just recently the property of one of our eminent politicians was about to be acquired by force. (*An hon. Member : But we have compensation*). The compensation is out of the way.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have in mind the Ordinance of 1945 as it relates to me. Nobody knew where the mineral oil could be located. It might be in the North, it might be in the East, West or even the Southern Cameroons. So they had to face the risk of gambling and later, Sir, it has fallen in our own land and I can say

that petitions have flowed endlessly into my own house protesting against the way land is being acquired.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have taken some time of the House but I wish to ask the Government to be very careful and try to define in this law what is meant by economic, industrial projects and who are going to take the projects into their own hands. I should like to know this before signifying that I support this Bill. If not I oppose it as it stands, Sir.

Mr R. A. Fani-Kayode (Ife) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill. The power sought by the Minister is commendable because I believe that the interest of the State is paramount. On the other hand I must ask the Minister to see to it that these powers are very courteously employed because when it comes to the appropriation of private land not only in the interest of the public, for public purposes, when we acquire land in order possibly to further private enterprise, there might be danger. But I am certain that in 1958 we can be very sure that the Council of Ministers will exercise this power courteously. If this Bill had been moved in 1945, or even three or four years ago, I am sure that Members of this House would have opposed it vehemently. But now that this power will be exercised by Nigerians, for Nigerians and not by imperialists or their agents in this country, I am sure that nobody here will have any fear. I am sure that this power will be appropriately used.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill.

M. Abubakar Garba (North Bauchi) : Mr Speaker, Sir, it is unquestionable for any Government to have powers by legislation to acquire land compulsorily, especially for the public purposes as defined in the amended Bill. But we appeal to the hon. Minister to see to it that any piece of land so acquired should be used for the very purpose it is acquired.

Mr R. T. Alege (Kabba) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I have nothing against the Bill but I just want to advise the Minister to advise those who are in need of land to seek for land in the interior where it may be cheaper or even free.

I beg to support the Bill.

Mallam Maitama Sule (Kano City) : The very good examples of the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power as regards policy for

Lagos are still fresh in our minds and I have no fear that the way he has always discharged his responsibilities in so far as Lagos is concerned is such that it will not give me any cause to regret this particular Bill. Certainly it is necessary at this stage of our development to make it possible for Government to acquire land compulsorily. But I have this observation to make. At one time we warned in this House that if land is acquired or has been compulsorily acquired by Government and it is going to be given out, care should be taken to see the sort of persons to whom that land is passing. It is all right to have industrial projects established, but my fear is that if those people setting up the industries are not the indigenous natives of the country and if those industrial projects, the indigenous interest is not predominant, then it is another way of dominating the land by some people that are not natives of Nigeria. This is my only warning, Mr Speaker.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Ribadu): Mr Speaker, Sir, the question of delay in sending notices to land owners as alleged by my hon. Friend, Chief Onyia, will be looked into. I will see to it that in future notices are served to land owners in time.

The question of protection is also well taken care of, but in connection with that I would like to inform the House of the present procedure. Before any land is acquired by Government compulsorily a notice to that effect is published in the *Gazette*, calling for objections, not only from the landowners themselves, but from anybody who would like to object; and when these objections are received they are very carefully studied and considered by Government before a decision is taken.

Mr N. A. Ezonbodor (Western Ijaw): Mr Speaker, Sir, as much as I do not quarrel with the Bill, I would like to make some few observations.

I am entirely in support of the Bill simply because it is an indigenous son of Nigeria who is now responsible in the region of land acquisition in this time. But in those days when land acquisition was compulsory many of our people were very much affected and this land was taken from the people and there was no specific reference or record as to from whom the Government took the land, so that there should

be some safeguards in case at a future date perhaps you are returning this land to the people. The Government must know the owners of this land, they must know the right owners. It is not good acquiring land from the people compulsorily and then later handing over this land to somebody else. This has brought much litigation in this country. When the people are handing over this land to the Government, the people have the idea that that land is safe because it is with the Government.

Now when they come back to claim their land and they go to Government to say, "Please, we are claiming back this land, give us all the relevant facts about it", the Government says, "Oh, all the facts are not here with us, the documents are not here with us".

Now how do you place the owners of that land? You acquire the land from the people compulsorily, and then the people enter into some sort of agreement with Government; then it happens that the people want to reclaim the land, then the Government tells the people the relevant documents are not there.

Mr Speaker, Sir, what I was trying to say is that certain people are embarrassed. They do not know which way to turn. They do not know the proper way to redeem their land and particularly at this time when influence is being used in that Department. So what we are trying to say is that when we acquire land from the people the owners of the land should be made specifically known to the Government.

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.

Bill to be reported.

(Mr Speaker resumed the Chair)

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Lagos Affairs Mines and Power: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn *sine die*.

House of Representatives Debates

2827

[*Riots in the*

28 NOVEMBER 1958

Southern Cameroons]

2828

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Muhammadu Inuwa Wada): Sir, I beg to second.

Question proposed:

Mr Speaker: Before I call upon the first Member to speak, may I just refer to the Building Committee again. There are eight Members present, possibly nine. If they will very kindly stay behind I will meet them wherever they will, in the Committee room upstairs or down here when the Galleries are cleared.

Mr L. A. Ning (Wum): Mr Speaker, Sir, in rising to speak on the Motion for the adjournment I have to make known to the honourable House what riots are taking place in the Cameroons. I do not know whether reports, I mean correct reports, have reached this Federal Government, but I have to make the facts known.

Last August, we heard over the Broadcast service before the House adjourned, of women rioting in Wum Division. Women were worked up by a political party who were timid to put forth their own views but thought they could use ignorant women by telling them, "There is a party which is going to sell you to Nigeria." Now this group of women have caused a lot of damage in the Cameroons. They have victimised certain members of the K.N.C., they have damaged their properties, and they have caused not only damage to the individuals, they have caused the whole Division of Wum to suffer.

Schools were closed. Children of Standard VI who were to sit their Entrance Examination to Secondary Schools could not sit their examinations last month because for many months they could not go to school. This group of women refused children going to school. They made it impossible for the Voluntary Agencies to go on. They compelled these Voluntary Agencies to transfer teachers, to close the schools, in fact, they went as far as to say they should not go to Church.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a time when we think this country should look for peace and should pray for peace, for these riots have not only done a lot of damage. Farmwork has been stopped. It is an area of coffee. Coffee was not planted. They did not plant their late maize, and markets which go far to develop this country were disturbed. Nigerians who are in that

Division, for instance Hausas and Fulanis, were made to suffer a great deal. They were refused sale of food. They could not buy food because they knew these were the very people that the K.N.C. is going to associate with them.

Mr Speaker, it is not safe in that Division now for anybody to exercise his rights: human rights are not observed, and to my surprise, Mr Speaker, I noticed that even the Police, in whom we should have confidence, failed to maintain order. Several groups of policemen were sent—about 30—and a Superintendent—and they said the women were too many for them to maintain peace.

Mr Speaker, these things had not stopped before I left Wum. It is continuing slowly and it is going through the whole Division, and many schools and even, I say, Mr Speaker, that the Administrative Officer, finds it difficult to work and unless the Federal Government does something about these riots things will be very bad.

Now, Mr Speaker, this is not the only complaint. Members must have seen in the "Pilot" of Wednesday, what it was said about the Fon of Kom, that he has been sent into exile. Now these women forced the Fon to sign things which he could not refuse. Now this Fon—I would say—they have excommunicated him. This party has worked up the people of the town not to go to this Fon so that the poor man, when the Visiting Mission came, said that he would like to go and stay with the Commissioner because he had nobody in his town to support him. Now, Sir, the Commissioner tried to say, "Here is the Administrative Officer, I will consider your complaint with him", but the Fon refused and said "This Administrative Officer is no good. I have complained of this matter to him and he does nothing, and if you are not prepared to do anything you had better let me know". Well, Sir, this goes far to prove that the Police and some of the Administrative Officers, perhaps, are not pulling their weight, and I pray, Sir, that any riots taking place in Nigeria, whether in the Cameroons or in any part of Nigeria, the local Police there should not be allowed to investigate the matter because they have their own politics and inclinations and they have their own ways. Police should be brought from the Federal Headquarters here, or somewhere else, to do the work.

Now, Sir, yesterday it was reported that the U.P.C. travelling gang is causing a lot of harm. They are shooting people. Well, Sir, you can tell what is happening, they must have been taking advantage of what happened at Kom, and nothing was done. Nothing; even the few men who were arrested refused to go to Court and said they should be tried in their own homes. That is a refusal of Law. They had to give in to these criminals. They were tried in their own homes and were bound over. That is nothing; there was no prison; there was no example set, and that is why riots go on in the Cameroons.

I pray, Sir, that the Federal Government will do something in the Cameroons. If nothing is done it will be very serious, and our elections will not be successful. If nothing is done there will be bad things happening and people will not be safe to move and will not be safe to go and vote.

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion for adjournment.

Mr T. O. S. Benson (Lagos West): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like the House to take note that there was peace in the Cameroons until the Action Group carried their troubles there!

The Prime Minister (Alhaji the hon. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa): Mr Speaker, when the hon. Mr Ning asked to raise these two matters on the Adjournment, I gave him permission without knowing he would try to speak on the political activities of certain parties or certain individuals in the Southern Cameroons. For that part of what the hon. Member said, Sir, I think that the House would agree that were we to hear from the other side it could really be quite a different story. Sir, it is true that there has been agitation in the Ikom area, but the agitation was against, I think, contour farming. In the schools they were teaching contour farming. Now, hon. Members will agree that contour farming is always something which is hardly understood from the beginning, but the experience has been that once it is understood people do not seem to offer any more objection.

Now last July, Sir, and not August, as the hon. Member said, some women, about 400 of them, decided to demonstrate against the

arrival of an Agricultural Officer in the Ikom area. They put all sorts of obstacles on the road; blocking the road to their place. It was their intention to stop the Agricultural Officer from visiting the area. Now the District Officer, Wum, heard of the demonstration. He visited the place and the women made complaints against the teaching of contour farming in the schools, and against certain conservancy regulations. They also demanded that four teachers from the Roman Catholic Mission School should be removed. The District Officer, Sir, told them that the teaching of contour farming should be suspended but that he had no power to remove the four teachers from the school—that was the responsibility of the principal.

The other point, Sir, which was made by the hon. Member—the U.P.C. riots. I am not aware, Sir, of any U.P.C. riots in the Southern Cameroons but possibly the Member is referring to the recent incident which happened in the French Cameroons; that was on the 21st of this month. Now it happened this way. The French Security Forces, I think, were ambushed and they suffered certain casualties which were very serious, but we had no indication that the riots were caused by the U.P.C. or any organised political party or something of that kind. Now, hon. Members know communications with Nigeria and the Southern Cameroons are a bit difficult, but the Inspector-General of Police has gone to the Southern Cameroons to see to these things and I would like, Sir, to assure the hon. Mr Ning that the Administrative Officers in the Southern Cameroons and the Police of the Southern Cameroons are doing their best, and to say, Sir, that the demonstrations in Ikom were not beyond the control of the Police; and not beyond the control of the Administrative Officer; and when we have the elections in the Southern Cameroons next year, I want to assure him that they will be fair as far as the Administrative Officers and the Police are concerned.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That this House do now adjourn sine die.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes to twelve o'clock noon, sine die.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

APPENDIX

Written Answers to Questions received after the Adjournment of the House on 9th August, 1958 up to and including 20th November, 1958.

W.122. Mr A. Adeyinka asked the Minister of Internal Affairs, if he will entrust the printing of ballot papers for the Federal Elections to a reputable firm of printers in England in order to ensure that there will be no illicit traffic in ballot papers.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : In so far as the question relates to the General Election of the new House of Representatives, this will be a matter for consideration by the Electoral Commission, and I have brought the hon. Member's suggestion to the notice of the Chief Electoral Commissioner. In so far as it relates to bye-elections to the present House, I do not consider it necessary to alter the present arrangements for the printing of ballot papers.

W.123. Mr J. A. O. Akande asked the Prime Minister, if he will cause the Army Authorities to restore the supply of food to Units of the Army instead of the allowance now paid to soldiers in view of the fact that many soldiers fall sick as a result of poor diet.

The Prime Minister : The suggestion that soldiers are falling sick as a result of the issue of ration allowance instead of rations in kind is unfounded. A recent examination shows that no soldiers have been admitted to hospital since 1st April, 1958, suffering from malnutrition.

Ration allowance has been issued to soldiers living in married quarters for many years. On 1st April, 1958, it was extended to single soldiers, and has proved to be a popular measure, as it enables them to buy the type of food to which they are accustomed. The allowance will provide a balanced ration equivalent to what was previously issued in kind, and advice is given to the single soldier on how to obtain the best value from it.

In the case of recruits under training at the Depot, The Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment, and of boys under training in the Boys' Company, rations continue to be issued in kind, and messing is organised centrally.

The extension of ration allowance to single soldiers has enabled the Military Forces to disband the two Supply Depots from which the bulk issue of rations was previously made. This has led to a reduction in the cost of the administration of the Forces.

W.125. Mr J. A. O. Akande asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when Lafenwa Bridge will be completed.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : It is expected that Lafenwa Bridge will be completed during the first half of 1959.

W.128. Mr R. N. Takon asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, whether he is aware of the existence of a waterfall at British Abokum in Ikom Division, and whether, in view of the need to supply electricity to small towns in Nigeria, he will consider the advisability of harnessing that potential source of power.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : The existence of falls in the area concerned is known but since these are remote from any appreciable load centre and since there is no potential load in the immediate vicinity which would justify the capital outlay which might be involved, no attempt has yet been made to carry out a survey of the area.

W.129. Mr G. I. Ayim asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether, in view of the increased traffic on the suspension bridge at Abakpa, Ogoja, he will consider replacing the bridge with a new concrete bridge capable of sustaining heavy vehicles.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : It is not clear to which bridge the question refers. If the hon. Member is referring to the Cross River suspension bridge, it is capable of carrying vehicles up to 18 tons weight and the increased traffic now using it.

W.132. Mr G. I. Ayim asked the Prime Minister what efforts he is making to ensure that a proper balance is maintained between the tribes of the Federation in connection with Senior appointments in the Federal Public Service.

The Prime Minister : Appointments and promotions to posts in the Federal Public Service are not based on tribal considerations. Any Nigerian, no matter his tribe, is eligible for appointment or promotion to any post for which his experience, seniority, academic attainment and merit qualify him.

W.133. Mr G. I. Ayim asked the Prime Minister how many officers in the senior grades in the Federal Legal Department are of Yoruba, Urhobo, Northern and Eastern origin, respectively.

The Prime Minister : No official notice is taken of the different tribal origins of Nigerian officers.

W.134. Mallam Ibrahim Gusau asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, when it is proposed to replace with wider and more concrete ones the seventy narrow wooden culverts on Trunk Road A 15 between Jega and Kontagora in order to obviate :—

(a) the hardship suffered by road users who have to seek alternative routes for seven months each year ; and

(b) the risk involved in going over those culverts during the remaining five months of the year.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Work on the general improvement, including the replacement of the wooden culverts, of Trunk Road A 15 from Sokoto to Kontagora is being planned at present, and it is proposed to replace as many of the wooden culverts as possible from the funds at present available for this work.

W.135. Mallam Ibrahim Gusau asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when he will undertake the construction of the Jega bridge which appears to be deliberately neglected and whether he will give the work out to contract in order to speed it up.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Funds are not available for the construction of this bridge under the present Economic Programme, but it is hoped that it will prove possible to include it in a future programme.

W.136. Mallam Ibrahim Gusau asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when he will undertake the reconstruction of the Takware bridge which was built over eleven years ago and which now causes much hardship to travellers as every vehicle has to discharge all passengers and loads before using it.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Consideration is now being given to the reconstruction of the Takware bridge, and it is hoped that work will begin before the year ends.

W.137. Mallam Ibrahim Gusau asked the Minister of Works and Surveys whether he is aware that the bridges now being reconstructed on the trunk road A between Sokoto and Gusau are as narrow as the ones being replaced, and whether he will recommend such specifications as will ensure the construction of wider bridges.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The bridges on the trunk road 'A' between Sokoto and Gusau are being reconstructed to double carriageway width where the traffic density justifies this and funds are available.

W.139. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Education why the senior African Staff of the Yaba Technical Institute are not allocated quarters.

The Minister of Education : Members of the Senior African Teaching Staff of the Yaba Technical Institute are allocated Government Quarters, if they so desired.

W.140. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Education if he is aware that African members of staff are not allowed to enter the staff club house of the Yaba Technical Institute ; and if he will make a statement.

The Minister of Education : I am not aware of this, Sir. African members of the Staff are allowed to enter the Technical

Education Recreation Club and are encouraged to join it by the Expatriate Staff. In fact, one Nigerian member of the Staff applied to join and was admitted to the Club.

W.141. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Education, whether he is aware that about 75 per cent of the expatriate staff at the Yaba Technical Institute are employed to teach subjects in which they are not qualified, and if he will stop that unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The Minister of Education : This statement is not true, Sir. The Yaba Technical Institute is staffed by qualified men. It is only during periods of grave shortage of skilled staff that teachers have been called upon and have often volunteered to take a few classes for which they had no special teaching qualification, but had themselves passed through such courses.

I am sure the hon. Member will agree that this course is preferable to closing down any courses.

W.142. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Education, what arrangements have been made to convert the Yaba Technical Institute into a Polytechnic as announced this year.

The Minister of Education : It is not proposed to convert the Yaba Technical Institute into a Polytechnic in the near future nor has this Government expressed its intention of doing so. The Institute and Trade Centre are in process of expansion under the Government's Technical Education Development Programme and it is felt that it is to this expansion which the hon. Member refers.

W.143. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Education, why there was an exodus of members of the teaching staff at the Zaria Branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology at the end of the year 1956-57.

The Minister of Education : I am not aware of any abnormal exodus of members of the teaching staff at the Zaria Branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology at the end of the year 1956-57. Some members of the staff at Zaria Branch of Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology who left the College in 1957 resigned to take up higher appointments elsewhere and some for personal reasons. This is a natural state of

affairs in an institution of higher education where there is a tendency for there to be a normal turnover of staff owing to a number of reasons.

W.144. Mr R. T. Alege asked the Minister of Education, why the Zaria branch of the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology has only two Africans on its academic staff.

The Minister of Education : It has not been possible to recruit other suitably qualified and experienced Nigerians, Sir. There is a great reluctance on the part of suitable Nigerians who are qualified professionally, *e.g.*, Engineers and Architects—to take up higher education when they can do so much better on their own professionally. Moreover, those professionally qualified are usually already employed in Government Departments who are reluctant to release them.

M. Umaru Abba Karim asked the Minister of Works and Surveys when the Yola—Takum Trunk Road 'A' will be completed, whether he is aware of the temporary nature of the Ngurore Bridge at Mile 18 of that road, and when he proposes to construct a permanent bridge there.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : It is hoped that the Yola-Takum road will be completed by the end of 1959. It is intended to carry out a thorough investigation into the problems connected with the Ngurore river before the question of a suitable permanent bridge across it, is finalised.

W.153. Alhaji Muhammadu Ubangari asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he is aware that the wooden bridges on the Lafia-Akwanga road are dangerous to lorry drivers during the rains every year, and when he intends to have permanent bridges constructed on that road.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : The bridges on the Lafia-Akwanga Road lying within the Plateau Province have already been reconstructed in concrete, and it is proposed to reconstruct those in the Benue Province when funds are available.

W.158. Mr G. I. Ayim asked the Prime Minister, how many Nigerians hold posts as Commissioners in the Nigeria Police Force.

The Prime Minister : None, Sir.

W.163. Mr G. I. Ayim asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, whether Government contemplates establishing any industries in Ogoja Province; and if not, whether he would give an explanation.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: The Federal Government does not at present contemplate the establishment of any new industrial undertaking in the Ogoja Province.

The Federal Government has contributed by far the largest share of the capital cost of the cement factory at Nkalagu. In partnership with the Eastern Region Government and Development Corporation and overseas financial and technical partners, this enterprise, which is the biggest of its kind in West Africa, started production in 1957.

The Federal Government has already spent considerable effort and money in attempting to promote development of the lead-zinc industry in the Abakaliki area of Ogoja Province. That it has proved impossible to do so has been due to circumstances beyond the control of this Government, namely, the uneconomic prices at present obtained in the world markets for these metals.

W.164. Mr G. I. Ayim asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether there are immediate or future plans for developing the pottery industry in Ogoja.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: I am not aware that the clays in the Ogoja Province have previously been investigated with a view to determining their suitability for making pottery, but I am informed that the Government of the Eastern Region is to examine the possibilities. This is primarily a matter for the Regional Government, which accepted responsibility for the development of the pottery industry in the Region when the 1954 Constitution came into force.

W.165. Mr G. I. Ayim asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry what assistance by way of technical advice or loans has been given to benniseed and cotton farmers in Ogoja.

Minister of Commerce and Industry: The giving of technical advice to benniseed and cotton farmers in Ogoja is a matter for the

Eastern Regional Department of Agriculture which has, I understand, given much useful advice to benniseed farmers in the Region hitherto.

The Federal Government has not granted any loans for agriculture in Ogoja and has no funds specifically earmarked for such a purpose, which is primarily a matter for the Regional authorities.

W.169. M. Haruna W. Daji asked the Minister of Works and Surveys why the tarring of Trunk Road A1 from Daura to Kano has been stopped, and whether he will consider continuing the work this year.

The Minister of Works and Surveys: The tarring of Trunk Road A1 from Daura to Kano has not been stopped. A firm of consultants engaged to survey and prepare contract documents for the reconstruction and bituminous surfacing of this section of the road has almost finished its work, and it is hoped to invite tenders for the work later in the year.

W.172. Mr A. E. Ukattah asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation how soon it is proposed to introduce savings bank facilities in the postal agencies at Oloko and Oboro in Bende Division.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation: No direct request has so far been received from the local communities at Oloko and Oboro for the establishment of Savings Bank facilities at their respective postal agencies. But in view of the hon. Member's question, I have instructed the Department to approach the communities on this matter and to investigate the possibility of providing Savings Bank facilities. It should be emphasised however that the Department does not normally provide these facilities unless there is an indication that sufficient demand exists for them.

W.173. Mr A. E. Ukattah asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation how much has been paid by the Federal Government as allowance in respect of the Postal Agency at Oloko in Bende Division for each of the months within the period January 1956 to October 1958.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : The allowance paid in respect of the Oloko Postal Agency for each of the months within the period January 1956 to October 1958 were as follows :—

	£	s	d	
1st January, 1956 to 31st July, 1957 inclusive ..	2	16	8	per month
1st August, 1957 to 31st October, 1958 ..	5	14	0	per month
Arrears of allowance for period 1st April, 1956 to 31st December, 1956	17	14	5	total
Arrears of allowance for period 1st January, 1957 to 31st July, 1957	17	6	8	total

O.258. Mr S. J. Una asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, how many towns in Calabar Province have been supplied with electricity; when these towns had the supply; and when Uyo Township will be supplied with electricity in view of its size and the needs of its population.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : The only town in the Calabar Province at present with a supply of electricity is

Calabar itself, which first received electricity in 1939.

The Electricity Corporation is about to commence a New Towns Development Programme and is prepared to include in that programme any selected larger towns in the Eastern Region, such as Uyo, if the Regional Government can provide the necessary capital. Furthermore, subject to the approval of its Board, the Corporation may be prepared to bear the losses which will probably be incurred in the initial stages of development of such townships.

***O.259. Mr S. J. Una** asked the Minister of Education if there is any proposal to establish Emergency Science Schools in the Western, Northern and Eastern Regions and the Southern Cameroons in view of the popularity of the existing one in Lagos and its inadequacy to serve the whole country.

The Minister of Education : I am not aware of any proposal to establish Emergency Science Schools in the Regions or the Southern Cameroons. The Federal Government has established the School in Lagos to serve the Federation. The establishment of further schools outside Lagos would be the responsibility of the Governments of the Regions and the Southern Cameroons.

24th November, 1958

W.131. Mr G. I. Ayim asked the Minister of Communications and Aviation whether there is any proposal to build an aerodrome in Ogoja Province in the near future, and when it is proposed to build one.

The Minister of Communications and Aviation : There are no plans at present for the construction of an aerodrome in Ogoja Province. The bulk of the funds allocated, under Sessional Paper No. 2 of 1956, for the

development of civil aviation facilities are committed to the provision and the development of international airports in Nigeria. The resources at our disposal were limited. It was therefore not possible for us to provide aerodromes in all the places where people wanted them.

Consideration may be given, however, to the provision of funds for this project and for others when the period of the present Economic Programme expires.

25th November, 1958

O.260. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju asked the Minister of Transport if he is aware of the hardship suffered through lack of food by the passengers travelling in trains from Iddo to Kano and Port Harcourt and if he will arrange for trains concerned to have more restaurant cars.

The Minister of Transport : Each Limited Train operating between Lagos Terminus and Kano, and Lagos Terminus and Port Harcourt, is provided with a Restaurant Car for 1st and 2nd class passengers and a Canteen Car for 3rd class passengers. Ample supplies of foodstuff and drinks are carried which are sold at reasonable prices.

O.261. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju asked the Minister of Transport if he is aware of the hardship suffered by 3rd class passengers through lack of sufficient drinking water in Iddo-Kano passenger trains and whether he will take steps to remedy the situation.

The Minister of Transport : Nigerian Hotels provide drinking water on Lagos Terminus—Kano passenger trains for all classes of passengers. 8 cases each containing 4 dozen bottles of water are carried by each train and supplies are made on request. Drinking water is also obtainable at the

following stations :—Lagos Terminus, Ibadan, Minna, Kaduna Junction, Zaria and Kano, the train stops at these intermediate stations for sufficient time to enable passengers to obtain water.

There is a supply of tank water in each coach for use of passengers for washing purposes but it is not potable and notices are printed to this effect.

O.262. Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju asked the Minister of Transport if he is aware of the lack of water supply and conveniences at Offa Station, and whether he will take steps to provide these facilities.

The Minister of Transport : Offa Station is provided with waterborne sanitation consisting of four seats and a urinal for males and four seats for females. There is also washing accommodation off the Waiting Room, the water being drawn from the locomotive supply which is derived from Afelele lake and is not potable.

A railway scheme to provide a drinking water supply has been deferred, pending P.W.D.'s arrangements being completed for Offa township supply with connection to Railway premises.

28th November, 1958

W.126. Mr C. C. E. Onoh asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, when it is proposed to send mining experts from the U.K. to investigate and report on the mining subsidence in and around Ngwo.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : I am informed that no case of subsidence, due to mining, has been proved and therefore the question of inviting mining experts from the United Kingdom to investigate and report on mining subsidence does not arise.

The Coal Corporation is continually taking precautionary measures in accordance with good mining practice, to prevent subsidence.

W.130. Mr G. I. Ayim asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, what mineral deposits exist in Ogoja Province

excluding Abakaliki Division and whether they are being exploited.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : No workable mineral deposits, apart from the lead-zinc deposits near Abakaliki, are shown at present.

W.148. Mallam Umaru Abba Karin asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, if he is aware of the discovery of tin in Muri Division in Adamawa Province; whether he will state the place where the discovery has been made, and what steps Government is taking to exploit the ore.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : So far as I am aware, no tin deposits are known in Muri Division of Adamawa Province.

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W.154. Mallam Usman Angulu Ahmed asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, when it is proposed to supply electricity at Lokoja in view of the increasing importance of that town.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : Lokoja is included in E.C.N.s New Towns Development Programme. Practical construction is scheduled to commence by the middle of 1959, and the target date for commissioning these new Undertakings, including Lokoja, is the end of 1960.

W.159. Mr G. I. Ayim asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power, when it is proposed to undertake a geological survey of Ogoja Province.

The Minister of Lagos Affairs, Mines and Power : Parts of Ogoja Province have been examined by Geologists of Shell-BP and by Geologists of mining companies searching for oil, lead, zinc and other minerals. Lead-zinc deposits have been examined at Abakaliki, but the proposals to work them have been shelved for the present.

Aerial photographs are not yet available over most of Ogoja Province owing to the difficulties caused by clouds for most of this year, and systematic geological mapping can only be started when aerial photographs have been made. One Geologist is already working in the area.

W.171. Mr D. D. U. Okay asked the Prime Minister, why five Government Nurses from the South, who rejected the offer of

appointment to the Civil Service of the Northern Region and who retired on the 30th September, 1956, were denied their retiring benefits.

The Prime Minister : The five nurses could not be awarded retiring benefits because they did not retire in circumstance under which such benefits are awarded. Although by declining to accept transfer they could retire from the service under Section 186 of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council 1954, sub-section 2 of that section lays down that an officer shall not by reason of so retiring be entitled to any pension or gratuity other than such as may be granted to him under the provisions of the pensions law; the existing pensions law does not provide for the payment of retiring benefits to an indigenous officer who retires before attaining the age of 45 years, and none of the 5 nurses attained that age at the time of leaving the service.

Resulting from representations made by one of them the eligibility of all of them for retirement with benefits under Legal Notice No. 80 of 1955 was carefully examined, but it could not be accepted that the provisions of the Nigeria (Constitution) Order in Council 1954, had prejudiced their career, or that because of those provisions, they had reasonable cause for anxiety about their career in the Public Service. The petitioner was so informed. The nurses concerned were made aware of the consequences of their non-acceptance of transfer, and were clearly informed at the outset that they would not be entitled to any benefits if they retired as a result of such non-acceptance.

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